



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2025-2026 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ **# of Students DIRECTLY involved:** _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

Grant Proposal

#26

It's a Chess Thing

1. Rationale: A school chess program offers students an opportunity to learn how to strategize, practice good sportsmanship, and compete against others in an organized non-aggressive manner.

Currently, there are very few opportunities for students of all grades to gather in an organized, non-athletic, disciplined, fun way. Chess offers friends of all ages a place to learn a skill together and enjoy the social and emotional benefits of being on a team.

Chess allows players the experience of teaching and working with others for the value of the team while practicing and learning skills for their own personal growth. They see the value in learning from losing and how to win gracefully and confidently. These life-skills are beneficial to every student going through the challenges of growing into adulthood.

Our school CIP supports innovative ways to build character skills. Chess encourages self-discipline and quality sportsmanship.

2. Goals: The goals of this program are to:

- Build a program that is organized, systematic, and enjoyable for all involved.
- Students attending regular sessions will learn the game of chess and the rules that apply.
- Students will take the discipline and self-control skills they learn in chess and apply them to their daily lives in the classroom and at home.
- Students will invite friends to join the program.
- Students will get so vested that the program will grow into a competitive organization and attend local competitions.
- Students will gain a sense of belonging to the sport and seek out opportunities to continue playing chess when they leave this school.
- The program will become a model for other campuses, allowing them to start programs so we can have competitions within the district.

3. Plan of operation: Students will meet after school one day a week. The coach or supervisor will provide a snack while the students listen to a mini-lesson or watch a teaching video. After the snack, students set up boards and begin play. Play can involve games, group matches, puzzles, and paired matches.
The coach or supervisor can seek out opportunities for the students who wish to compete outside the school. Parents could bring their students to the tournaments and meet the coach to facilitate participation. Local chess tournaments are available year-round but the school program would only be from September to the end of April. The program would only meet while school is in session.
4. Communication and dissemination: Chess practices and tournaments will be open to all students with parent permission. Visitors will be allowed to join or observe with parent permission. Pictures of those students with media consent will be available and posted on the school website. If in-district play happens, the Waco ISD media will be invited to share coverage.
5. Evaluation: A success is any student that learns and enjoys playing the game of chess. This program will allow students to have success at competing if they chose to, making friends in our school and others, sharpening their strategy and math skills, and learning to use discipline and self-control to their advantage. The success of the program is based on the amount of students that get involved and the experiences it gives those students. The larger the group and the number of students that return to the program each year will demonstrate the success of the program.
6. Long Term implications: The materials being purchased are durable, high quality materials that with proper care and management will last many years. The snacks will have to be replenished yearly as well as a few pieces that will inevitably get lost or broken after a lot of use. The coach should be able to start the practices each year without too much cost. The clocks will need new batteries eventually but the materials should be ready for use. The program start-up is the biggest cost. Once the materials are purchased, any staff member can continue the program each year.

7. Key Personnel: The coach or supervisor will have to determine a practice day and meeting place and possibly get another staff member to volunteer to cover if the coach can not be there. They will have to get administration approval. They will need to have a kick-off of some sort to let students know the program is starting. They will have to create an explanation form and parent permission slip with rules and boundaries for the participants. They may want to have a parent information session to talk to parents about what to expect and what is expected of them and their students. Expectations about behavior, pick-up times, and consequences for issues that will arise like late pick-ups and inappropriate behaviors. The coach will have to store the materials and make sure they are being used and put away properly. They will have to know how to use the teaching materials and the rules of the game. They may have to contact other coaches about local tournaments and let parents know if students want to participate. If there are available chess masters in the area, the coach may contact them to visit a practice session.
8. Optional information: I started a chess program at a school in another district. I took the club to local tournaments. It wasn't long before I had other schools in the district building teams and joining me at the tournaments. Eventually, the superintendent was so intrigued, he hired an outside company to create a program throughout the district. All schools were given start-up materials and coaches were trained in the game of chess. At the end of the year, we had a tournament with all 13 elementary, 3 middle, and 2 high schools participating. After that year, we continued the program without the outside company (no need for the cost), competing at local tournaments and holding the district competition at the end of the school year. When I left that district, the chess coaches were getting a small stipend twice a year and many of the schools had 30+ players. There was money in the budget and a facilitator that made sure schools had the replenishing supplies they needed to grow their programs.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	21
Project Title:	It's a Che
Number of Students Served by Grant:	

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)
Consumable Supplies					
2	Cheez It Baked snacks	y	\$ 30.00		
2	Motts Fruit Flavored snacks	y	\$ 24.00		
2	Pepperidge Farm Goldfish snacks	y	\$ 27.00		
2	Snyders Pretzels	y	\$ 30.00		
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 111.00		\$ -
Technology					
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)					
2	chess teaching boards	y	\$ 90.00		
24	chess boards and pieces	y	\$ 525.00		
10	chess clocks	y	\$ 225.00		
4	chess books	y	\$ 50.00		
2	chess for beginners set	y	\$ 50.00		
1	Sunnydaze storage bin	y	\$ 180.00		
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 1,120.00		\$ -
Contracted Services					
total Contracted Services			\$ -		\$ -
Personnel					
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -
Travel / Other					
	shipping		\$ 200.00		

total Other			\$ 200.00		\$ -
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation		Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources
		\$ 1,431.00		28.62	\$ -

6
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50
Total Amount
\$ 30.00
\$ 24.00
\$ 27.00
\$ 30.00
\$ -
\$ -
\$ 111.00
\$ -
\$ -
\$ -
\$ 90.00
\$ 525.00
\$ 225.00
\$ 50.00
\$ 50.00
\$ 180.00
\$ 1,120.00
\$ -
\$ -
\$ -
\$ -
\$ -
\$ -
\$ 200.00
\$ -
\$ -

\$	-
\$	200.00
Total Cost of Project	
\$	1,431.00

Budget narrative:

Lines 1-4 are snacks to be provided to students attending practice right after school. There are eight boxes total to be distributed as needed.

Line 5 teaching boards- these are large chess boards that hang up in front of a group to discuss moves and strategies.

Line 6 chess boards and pieces- these are tournament weight, solid pieces with vinyl boards for students to use for play

Line 7 chess clocks- these allow students to practice Scholastic rules that have time restraints-if the students go to tournaments, they need to be familiar with using a clock

Line 8 chess books- some students understand better if they read about the rules and strategies. These books are kid-friendly and will be available to check out from the coach.

Line 9 chess sets for beginners- these two sets have the description of the legal moves on the pieces which helps new players memorize what each piece can do.

Line 10- storage bin- This is a sturdy set of drawers that can hold all of the equipment in one place. This prevents wear and tear on the materials and the accidental misplacement of materials.