



**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

## **Proposal # 33**

### **Multi-sensory Word Building Board**

#### **Project Description:**

The Countdown Student Kit is a multisensory learning tool designed to complement Countdown lessons. It engages students through auditory, visual, and tactile methods to enhance learning effectiveness. The kit includes a color-printed Countdown board, 26 black magnetic letter tiles, 5 red vowel magnetic tiles, 4 magnetic color tiles, two syllaboards, a half board, a dry-erase marker, and a mini eraser. These hands-on components help students develop foundational literacy skills in an interactive way, making learning more engaging and effective. Perfect for reinforcing phonics, spelling, and word-building activities in a structured and enjoyable format.

1. The Countdown Student Kit aligns with the Waco Education Foundation's focus on creative classroom projects by providing an innovative, multisensory approach to literacy instruction. By integrating auditory, visual, and tactile learning methods, this kit enhances student engagement and supports diverse learning styles, fostering a more inclusive and effective classroom environment.

Additionally, this project supports the District and Campus Improvement Plans by addressing early literacy development—a critical foundation for academic success. Strong phonics instruction improves reading proficiency, a key goal in district-wide literacy initiatives. Equipping students with these hands-on learning tools will help accelerate skill mastery, ultimately leading to stronger student outcomes and increased literacy achievement across the school.

2. The goal of the Countdown Student Kit project is to enhance early literacy instruction by providing students with engaging, hands-on learning tools that reinforce foundational reading skills. Specifically, we aim to:
  - Improve Phonemic Awareness & Phonics Skills – Students will develop a stronger understanding of letter-sound relationships, blending, segmenting, and syllable patterns.
  - Increase Student Engagement & Retention – The multisensory approach will help students stay actively involved in their learning, leading to better retention of literacy concepts.
  - Support Differentiated Instruction – The kit allows for individualized and small-group instruction, meeting the diverse needs of all learners.
  - Boost Reading Readiness & Confidence – By mastering essential literacy skills, students will gain the confidence needed to become independent, proficient readers.
3. Success will be measured through student participation, teacher observations, and improved phonics assessment scores, ensuring the kit effectively supports literacy growth.

#### **Activities & Strategies**

- Daily Phonics Lessons – Teachers will incorporate the Countdown Student Kit into structured phonics instruction, allowing students to manipulate letter tiles, syllaboards, and color-coded components to build words and reinforce phonemic awareness.
- Small-Group & Intervention Sessions – The kit will be used in small-group settings to support students who need additional practice or intervention.
- Interactive Literacy Centers – Students will use the materials in literacy stations, promoting independent and peer-led learning.
- Family Literacy Nights & Take-Home Kits – Parents will be invited to participate in literacy workshops where they will learn how to support phonics development at home. Select kits may be available for check-out to encourage at-home practice.

## Objectives

1. Strengthen phonics and phonemic awareness skills through hands-on, interactive learning.
2. Increase student engagement and participation in literacy activities.
3. Support early reading success by providing resources that align with research-based instructional strategies.
4. Promote family and community involvement in literacy development through workshops and at-home practice opportunities.

## School & Community Partners

- Teachers & Interventionists – Implement daily lessons and small-group instruction using the kits.
- Parents & Families – Participate in literacy nights and use take-home kits to reinforce learning at home.
- Waco Education Foundation – Support funding and awareness for the project.
- Local Businesses & Community Volunteers – Provide potential sponsorships for additional kits and volunteer at literacy events.

## Timeline & Calendar

Date	Activity
August – September	Order and distribute Countdown Student Kits to classrooms. Conduct teacher training on implementation.

October – November	Begin using kits in daily phonics lessons and small-group instruction. Launch family literacy night.
December	Mid-year assessment to evaluate student progress and adjust instruction as needed.
January – March	Continue structured lessons, small-group activities, and at-home practice opportunities.
April – May	End-of-year assessments and evaluation of student growth. Gather feedback from teachers and families for future planning.

Through this project, we aim to foster stronger literacy skills, deeper student engagement, and meaningful family involvement, ensuring a solid foundation for future academic success.

#### 4. Communication & Dissemination

We will actively involve the Waco Education Foundation in the implementation and success of the Countdown Student Kit project by:

- Inviting Foundation Representatives – We will extend an invitation for members of the Foundation to visit classrooms, observe the kits in action, and see firsthand how they are enhancing student learning.
- Providing Photo & Media Opportunities – We will capture photos and videos of students engaging with the kits and share them with the Foundation for promotional use.
- Presenting at a Foundation Meeting – We are willing to present an overview of the grant's impact, including student progress and teacher feedback, at a Foundation meeting.

To disseminate results across the district, we will:

- Share Success Stories with WISD and District Newsletters – Highlighting student growth and engagement through media outlets to showcase the grant's impact.
- Host a Staff Development Session – Teachers using the Countdown Student Kits will share best practices with other educators, ensuring the materials benefit a wider audience
- Collaborate with Other Schools – We will offer insights and implementation strategies to other schools in the district that may be interested in adopting similar multisensory literacy tools.

Through these efforts, we aim to amplify the impact of the grant, inspire further innovation in literacy instruction, and strengthen community partnerships in education.

## 5. Evaluation

The success of the Countdown Student Kit project will be measured through a combination of student performance data, teacher observations, and engagement levels.

Key Evaluation Methods:

- Pre- and Post-Assessments – Students' phonemic awareness and phonics skills will be assessed at the beginning and end of the school year to measure growth.
- Teacher Feedback & Observations – Educators will document student engagement and progress in small-group and whole-class activities.
- Student Work Samples – Collection of student work (e.g., word-building activities, syllaboard exercises) to track skill development.
- Parent Feedback – Surveys and discussions during literacy nights will gauge family involvement and at-home learning impact.

By analyzing these data points, we will determine the effectiveness of the kits in strengthening early literacy skills and improving student confidence in reading.

## 6. Long-Term Implications & Sustainability

To ensure ongoing impact beyond the 2025-2026 school year, we plan to:

- Incorporate Kits into Core Literacy Instruction – Once purchased, these durable materials can be reused year after year, making them a lasting resource.
- Create a Model for Future Implementation – If successful, we will seek additional funding or district support to expand the use of these kits in more classrooms.
- Professional Development & Teacher Collaboration – Educators will share strategies and best practices through staff development sessions, ensuring continued effective use of the kits.
- Community & Parental Engagement – Continued involvement through literacy nights and at-home practice kits will reinforce learning beyond the classroom.

Through these efforts, the Countdown Student Kits will serve as a long-term, sustainable tool for literacy development, benefiting current and future students by building a strong foundation in reading.

## 7. Key Personnel

### 1. Classroom Teachers

Responsibilities:

- Implement the Countdown Student Kit in daily phonics lessons.
- Facilitate small-group instruction using the multisensory materials.
- Assess student progress through observations and formal assessments.
- Provide feedback on the effectiveness of the kits and suggest improvements.
- Communicate with parents about ways to reinforce literacy skills at home.

Qualifications:

- Certified educators with expertise in early literacy instruction.
- Training in phonemic awareness and phonics-based teaching methods.
- Experience in differentiated instruction to support diverse learners.

## 2. Literacy Specialists & Interventionists

Responsibilities:

- Support teachers in using the Countdown Student Kits effectively.
- Provide targeted instruction to struggling students using the kits.
- Analyze assessment data to measure student progress and adjust strategies.
- Lead professional development sessions for staff on best practices.

Qualifications:

- Certified specialists with experience in reading intervention.
- Background in multisensory and evidence-based literacy instruction.
- Skilled in data analysis and instructional coaching.

## 3. Campus Administration (Principal & Instructional Coaches)

Responsibilities:

- Oversee project implementation and ensure alignment with campus goals.
- Support teachers with resources, training, and collaboration opportunities.
- Communicate project successes with district leadership and community partners.
- Assist in the evaluation and sustainability planning of the project.

Qualifications:

- Leadership experience in curriculum development and instructional improvement.
- Knowledge of district literacy initiatives and early learning frameworks.
- Ability to coordinate professional development and community engagement.

## 4. Parents & Community Volunteers

Responsibilities:

- Participate in literacy nights to learn about the kits and support at-home learning.
- Provide feedback on student engagement and progress at home.
- Assist in organizing literacy events and outreach efforts.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to supporting early literacy development.
- Willingness to engage in school-community partnerships.

This team will work collaboratively to ensure the successful implementation, evaluation, and long-term impact of the Countdown Student Kit project.

<b>Waco Education Foundation</b>				Assigned Proposal #	33	
<b>Grant Budget Form</b>				Project Title:	Multi-sensory Word Building Board	
				Number of Students Served by Grant:	46	
Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)	Total Amount
<b>Consumable Supplies</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Technology</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Long-Term Supplies / Equipment</b> (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
46	Kindergarten Countdown		\$2530			\$2530
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 2,530.00		\$ -	\$ 2,530.00
<b>Contracted Services</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Contracted Services			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Personnel</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Travel / Other</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>			<b>Total Requested from the WISD Foundation</b>	<b>Foundation Cost Per Student</b>	<b>Total from Other Sources</b>	<b>Total Cost of Project</b>
			\$ 2,530.00	55	\$ -	\$ 2,530.00