



**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

White Coats, Bid Ideas Grant

For Middle School Science Classes: Sets of Lab Coats per Grade Level

Project Description

The White Coats, Big Idea project aims to equip each grade level (6th, 7th, and 8th) in our middle school with a full set of high-quality white lab coats for use during hands-on science experiments and activities. This initiative will foster a more immersive learning environment, inspire a sense of professionalism, and reinforce the importance of safety in scientific endeavors. By providing these lab coats, we aim to enhance students' engagement with science, promoting a greater sense of responsibility and pride in their learning. The lab coats will also serve as a powerful visual reminder of the importance of science in everyday life and the world around them.

Rationale

Research indicates that students are more likely to engage with and appreciate science when they feel part of the scientific process. Lab coats symbolize the role of a scientist, and when students wear them, they experience a sense of ownership over their work and a stronger connection to the material. The White Coats, Big Idea project will create an environment where students not only learn science concepts but also embrace the mindset and approach of professional scientists. This initiative will also prioritize safety in the classroom, ensuring students understand the protective aspects of lab equipment in addition to their academic value.

Goals

- **Increase Student Engagement:** Provide each student with a lab coat to wear during science activities, enhancing their sense of professionalism and engagement in hands-on science experiments.
 - **Promote Safety:** Instill the importance of safety protocols and personal responsibility in scientific experiments.
 - **Foster a Positive Learning Environment:** Cultivate a classroom atmosphere where students feel like scientists, encouraging them to take pride in their learning and their role in the scientific process.
 - **Create a Sense of Unity:** By having a shared item across all grade levels, students will experience a sense of community and continuity as they progress through their middle school science journey.
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Plan of Operation

- **Procurement of Lab Coats:** We will source high-quality, durable white lab coats suitable for middle school students across three grade levels.
 - **Distribution:** Students in grades 6-8 will have access throughout the school year for labs.
 - **Integration into Curriculum:** Teachers will integrate lab coat use into the curriculum by incorporating activities that require students to wear them, such as experiments, demonstrations, and fieldwork.
 - **Safety Training:** Teachers will lead a brief safety workshop, explaining the purpose of the lab coats and how they are used to maintain safety during scientific work. The workshop will also cover the proper care and maintenance of the lab coats.
 - **Student Reflection:** The students will reflect on their learning experience, sharing how wearing the lab coat has affected their engagement with science.
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Communication & Dissemination

- **Internal Communication:** Information about the lab coats will be shared with students and faculty members.
 - **Student Engagement:** Teachers will foster student enthusiasm by encouraging them to wear lab coats during science experiments.
 - **External Communication:** Student lab coat updates, showcasing enhanced science education, will be shared via the schools' website and social media.
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Evaluation

- **Student Engagement:** Teacher observations and student surveys will be conducted throughout the year to assess how the lab coats are influencing students' attitudes toward science, their participation in activities, and their overall engagement with the curriculum.
 - **Safety Awareness:** The effectiveness of the safety protocols introduced through the lab coat initiative will be evaluated by tracking the number of safety incidents in the science classroom before and after the introduction of the lab coats.
 - **Feedback from Teachers:** Surveys and informal interviews with teachers will help assess the perceived value of the lab coats in terms of engagement, professionalism, and student enthusiasm for science.
 - **Student Reflection:** At the end of the year, students will be asked to reflect on how the lab coats influenced their learning experience, and those reflections will be used to improve the program for future years.
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Long-Term Implications

- **Enhanced Science Identity:** Students will carry the identity of a scientist beyond the classroom, developing a deeper appreciation for science as a field of study and as a

career. This shift in mindset could inspire more students to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields in the future.

- **Continued Engagement with Science:** The White Coats, Big Idea project will establish a foundation of curiosity and engagement in science that will persist throughout students' middle school years and beyond.
 - **School-Wide Impact:** The initiative will set a precedent for integrating professionalism and real-world applications into academic environments, potentially inspiring similar projects in other subject areas.
 - **Community Awareness and Support:** Sharing information about the lab coat grant on social media will strengthen ties between the school and the community, leading to enhanced support for science programs.
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Key Personnel

- **Project Coordinator:** Responsible for overseeing all aspects of the initiative, from procurement of lab coats to coordination with teachers and staff, as well as ensuring that safety protocols are followed.
 - **Lead Science Teachers (Grades 6-8):** Teachers will integrate the lab coats into classroom activities, overseeing the distribution of lab coats, facilitating hands-on experiments, and providing ongoing support for student engagement and learning.
 - **School Administrators:** Support the initiative by allocating necessary funds and promoting the grant to the school community.
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Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification

- **Lab Coats:** A significant portion of the budget will fund the purchase of durable, washable white lab coats for all 78 students in grades 6-8, approximately \$23 per coat, totaling \$1,800.
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Summary

The White Coats Big Idea grant represents an exciting opportunity to enhance middle school science education by providing students with the tools they need to feel like real scientists. By investing in high-quality lab coats for each grade level, we aim to improve student engagement, safety, and enthusiasm for science while fostering a sense of professionalism and pride in their learning. Through continued support from the school community and external stakeholders, this initiative will have lasting impacts on our students' attitudes toward science and their future academic and professional aspirations.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	47
Project Title:	White Coats, Big Ideas
Number of Students Served by Grant:	1,000

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source applicable) (if	Total Amount
Consumable Supplies						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
2	Set of Kids Lab Coats - XS	Y	\$ 60.00			\$ 60.00
2	Set of Kids Lab Coats - S	Y	\$ 60.00			\$ 60.00
2	Set of Kids Lab Coats - M	Y	\$ 60.00			\$ 60.00
2	Set of Kids Lab Coats - L	Y	\$ 60.00			\$ 60.00
3	Adults Lab Coats - XS	Y	\$ 66.00			\$ 66.00
14	Adults Lab Coats - S	Y	\$ 321.00			\$ 321.00
19	Adults Lab Coats - M	Y	\$ 437.00			\$ 437.00
18	Adults Lab Coats - L	Y	\$ 414.00			\$ 414.00
14	Adults Lab Coats - XL to XXL	Y	\$ 322.00			\$ 322.00
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 1,800.00		\$ -	\$ 1,800.00

Contracted Services						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Contracted Services			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Personnel						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation		Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
		\$ 1,800.00				
		1.8			\$ -	\$ 1,800.00