



**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

GaGa Glory Zone

Proposal # 52



Project Description:

Our academic institution is continually seeking innovative methods to engage students in organized outdoor physical activities. GaGa Ball is a dynamic and high-energy sport that is played within an octagonal pit. This game serves as a more accessible adaptation of dodgeball. It utilizes a soft foam ball, requiring participants to employ various skills such as dodging, striking, running, and jumping. The activity is enjoyable and straightforward, providing a comprehensive workout for all participants. This form of physical engagement can further inspire students to adopt a more active lifestyle, potentially leading to improved health outcomes. The funding from the grant will be directed towards the procurement of the GaGa pit and associated equipment, which will be installed in our existing campus recreational area.

1. Rationale:

In this engaging and dynamic game, players must run, jump, and dodge their way around the pit as they strive to tag opponents by hitting them below the knees with the ball. Unlike traditional ball games, the ball is not thrown; rather, players use their hands to slap or hit it, allowing it to roll gracefully across the ground without bouncing out of the enclosed area. It is related to the campus improvement plan by allowing students to use critical thinking and encourages strategic planning, as players must devise tactics to outsmart their opponents while navigating the fast-paced environment. Moreover, it aids in the enhancement of fundamental motor skills, including coordination and balance, through activities like running, jumping, and swift lateral movements. One of the most appealing aspects of Gaga ball is its inclusive nature—children of varying skill levels and ages can participate equally. This level playing field fosters teamwork, cooperation, and social interaction among students, promoting a sense of community and camaraderie as they work together in pursuit of a common goal. Overall, Gaga ball is a fantastic addition to any school's physical education program, offering a fun and active way for children to engage with one another while developing important life skills. Gaga ball has gained immense popularity as a recreational activity in schools across the United States, largely due to its myriad benefits for children's physical and social development.

2. Goals:

Gaga Ball will fulfill numerous physical education standards for elementary students, as well as develop essential skills relevant to physical education and sports for secondary students. Engagement in Gaga Ball provides an enriching and challenging experience for participants of nearly all ages. The enjoyment and laughter generated by this game can effectively serve as a stress reliever, which is particularly beneficial as we endeavor to restore a sense of normalcy in

educational settings while navigating the ongoing effects of the recent pandemic. This game promotes skills that include, but are not limited to:

- **Builds teamwork** - TEKS K.6B: Demonstrate the ability to play within boundaries during games and activities. K.5B: Know and apply safety practices associated with physical activity such as not pushing in line and drinking water during activity. 4.7D: Demonstrate effective communication, consideration and respect for the feelings of others during physical activities such as encouraging others, allowing others equal turns, and inviting others to participate.
- **Improves hand-eye coordination** - TEKS 4.1K: Demonstrate key elements in manipulative skills such as volleying, hand dribble, foot dribble, punt, striking with body part, racquet, or bat.
- **Improves flexibility** - TEKS 4.3D: Improve flexibility in shoulders, trunk, and legs. 4.4C: Identify methods for measuring cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility.
- **Develops fast reflexes** - TEKS 4.2B: Identify ways movement concepts such as time, space, effort, and relationships can be used to refine movement skills.
- **Increases agility and balance** - TEKS 4.1A: Demonstrate changes in speed during straight, curved, and zig zag pathways in dynamic situations. 4.1E: Perform sequences that include traveling, showing good body control combined with stationary balances on various body parts.
- **Improves strength training** - TEKS K.3D: Lift and support his/her own weight in selected activities that develop muscular strength and endurance of the arms, shoulders, abdomen, back, and legs such as hanging, hopping, and jumping.
- **Promotes weight loss** - TEKS 4.4E: Describe the relationship between food intake and physical activity such as calories consumed and calories expended. 4.4F: Explain the link between physical activity/inactivity and health such as reducing stress and burning calories.
- **Promote anaerobic exercise** - TEKS K.3B: Participate in moderate to vigorous physical activities on a daily basis that causes increased heart rate, breathing rate, and perspiration.
- **Stress reliever** - TEKS 4.4G: Explain the relationship between physical activity and stress relief and demonstrate stress relief activities such as brisk walking, gentle stretching, and muscle tension and release.

<https://youtu.be/Z4ovZZvVKsc>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/aEYeC5SXdhc?si=GAK94p6VgiXieAWh>



3. Plan of Operation:

The Physical Education instructor will initiate the process of ordering equipment and materials for the Gaga Pit during the summer months. Personnel from the district maintenance team will be contacted to coordinate and arrange the necessary preparations for the installation and setup of the Gaga Pit. The objective is to complete the installation by early Fall. Furthermore, Gaga Ball will be integrated into the campus Parent Involvement activities once game-related activities are introduced. It will also be incorporated into the campus Fall Festival and Field Day events. The Gaga Ball Pits will be used at recess and the inflatable for the physical education (PE) gym activities.

Activities / Strategies:

- Strengthen skills through collaborative peer learning, fostering an environment that encourages mutual teaching and learning among students.
- Integrate the dynamic game of Gaga Ball into parent involvement activities, thereby enhancing family engagement and promoting active participation in the school community.
- Foster positive social behaviors, equipping students with essential interpersonal skills that facilitate meaningful interactions.
- Apply the skills imparted throughout the program in diverse and practical contexts, allowing various student populations to re-engage and achieve success, while building confidence independent of skill reliance.

Timeline/Calendar:

July – September - Submit purchase order for all budgeted items.

August – October – Contact Maintenance and Facilities departments to plan and schedule site preparations, etc.

October - November – Plan and implement lessons to teach the game of Gaga Ball, it's rules of play, respect, responsibility and safety.

November - May - Students will participate in Gaga Ball activities during P.E. classes, recess, Fall Festival, Field Day, and other Parent Involvement outdoor activities.



4. Communication & Dissemination:

An invitation to stakeholders to participate in a significant groundbreaking event that will mark the commencement of preparations for the establishment of our new GaGa Ball Pit. This occasion will also serve as an inaugural celebration, denoting the first day of operation for this facility.

We seek to be featured in a district Foundation Focus interview, which will be accessible on the Waco Education Foundation website. Additionally, photographs from the event will be submitted to The Education Foundation for their promotional purposes.

Moreover, we invite stakeholders to engage in our forthcoming Parent Involvement activities. These include a Parent Night, which will feature a variety of outdoor games aimed at enhancing community engagement, such as our Fall Festival and Field Day, where students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and collaborative efforts. Your involvement in these events will contribute significantly to strengthening our community and enriching the educational experiences of our students. I intend to share the results with physical education teachers in the district by delivering a presentation at a professional development event dedicated to physical education.

5. Evaluation:

Gaga Ball is a highly inclusive activity that fosters individual confidence in participating in physical exercise. Through engagement in this physically demanding game, students can effectively release pent-up energy, which subsequently enhances their focus and attentiveness in the classroom environment. This ability to concentrate more effectively has been demonstrated to lead to improved participation in academic pursuits and encourages better behavioral outcomes in the classroom setting.

In conjunction with our district/campus Emergent Tree MTSS Behavior program, we will systematically monitor students' behavioral patterns and academic improvements, thereby establishing a robust framework for their ongoing development and success. This comprehensive approach not only emphasizes physical well-being but also supports the creation of a conducive learning atmosphere for all students.

6. Long Term Implications:

Gaga ball has become a widely played activity among elementary school students, garnering considerable interest and enthusiasm. This engaging game has evolved into a competitive endeavor, attracting a significant number of participants. Involvement in Gaga ball enhances the development of fundamental motor skills and complex movement patterns. These skills range from basic running and striking to advanced combinations involving jumping, balancing, dribbling, and effectively striking a ball in a dynamic and interactive environment. Gaga ball is an exemplary fit for elementary education, providing both physical engagement and enjoyment for children. According to the Texas Physical Education Standards, the game aligns well with educational objectives aimed at promoting physical literacy. For instance, it fosters an awareness of personal and general space as students navigate various directions and levels, including high, medium, and low. As players participate in the game, they acquire essential performance strategies and tactics, leading to refined movement patterns in both offensive and defensive situations. Engaging in Gaga ball is not only a source of friendly competition but also a means of reliving the nostalgic joys of childhood. Ultimately, the game serves as a dynamic approach to promoting physical health and fitness in children while providing a fun and effective outlet for activity.

7. Key Personnel:

Personnel	Responsibilities
Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• budgeting issues• misc. Administrative responsibilities pertaining to campus construction
P.E. Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• submit purchase orders for equipment and materials• contact the district maintenance department to arrange for the preparation of the area designated for the Gaga Pit.• efficient installation and detailed setup of the Gaga Pit,• Provide instruction to the students regarding the rules and the proper gameplay techniques associated with the game

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:

Budget: Please see attached sheet.

QTY.	Items	Cost
1	Gopher Inflatable Lite GaGa Ball Pits	\$ 2,099.00
1	GaGa Ball Complete Pits	\$ 3,999.00
	Shipping	\$1613.53
	Total	\$ 7,711.53

Gaga Ball is an exciting and easy-to-learn game that creates a welcoming environment for children of all athletic abilities. Unlike traditional sports like basketball or baseball, Gaga Ball requires no specific skills, making it accessible for boys and girls, including those with attention deficit disorders or social skills challenges. The unpredictable and fast-paced nature of the game provides even non-athletic kids with a fair chance to win, generating an exhilarating atmosphere filled with laughter and cheers. We've seen initially hesitant children transform into enthusiastic players, diving into the game with joy. Gaga Ball fosters a sense of belonging and helps boost self-esteem, allowing every child to discover their potential and enjoy the thrill of friendly competition.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	52
Project Title:	GaGa Glory Zone
Number of Students Served by Grant:	602

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)	Total Amount
Consumable Supplies						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
1	Gopher Inflatable Lite GaGa Ball Pits	Y	\$ 2,099.00			\$ 2,099.00
1	GaGa Ball Complete Pits	Y	\$ 3,999.00			\$ 3,999.00
	Shipping	Y	\$ 1,613.53			\$ 1,613.53
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 7,711.53		\$ -	\$ 7,711.53
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
		\$ 7,711.53		12.8098505	\$ -	\$ 7,711.53