Unlocking OPSF Grant Funding for Your BIG Ideas

Olathe Public Schools Foundation

www.OlathePublicSchoolsFoundation.org

foundation@olatheschools.org – 780-8222

Classroom Grants

- 2 cycles per school year
- Certified educators
- $130,000 budget, plus additional donor-directed funds
- Awarded over $150,000 in the 2023-24 school year
- Fully online process



Grant Types

Innovative – up to $2,500

A new strategy, approach or method that will improve learning

Need – up to $2,500

Address a student need that will overcome an obstacle to or improve learning

Building-wide, district-wide or multi-classroom – up to $5,000

Must be innovative

Women's Giving Circle

Fall – Need - $10,000

Spring – Innovation - $15,000

Special Grant Funding

- Visual Arts
  Hidden Glen Art Grant, up to $2,000
- Kindergarten Classrooms
  Susan Spears Memorial Kindergarten Grant
- Title I Elementary Schools

Women's Giving Circle Grants

- Fall – Student Needs - $10,000
- Spring – Innovation - $15,000

Sustainable Programs

- Focus on sustainable ideas
- OPSF grant funds are not intended for on-going program support
- Food/snacks, one time field trips tend to score low



Grant Approvals

Building Administrator

Required for all grants

Technology

Required for any grant that will utilize hardware, software, online access or access to building WiFi (typically not allowed)

Facilities and Operations

Required for any grant that will make modifications to the building (inside or out) or need district installation

Reading Materials

Required for any requested student reading materials (print or electronic)

District-Level or Content Area

Required for grants that would be implemented across multiple buildings

Grant Writing Tips

Match School District Curriculum Standards and Priorities

Be Brief

Avoid Jargon

Many of the people on the Grant Committee are not educators.

Strong Budget

Does your budget match the amount you asked for? Did you include shipping? Be specific. Miscellaneous should not make up the bulk of your budget.

Clearly Defined Outcomes

What are you trying to accomplish? Better reading scores? Improved sense of belonging?

Proofread/Spell Check

Grant Writing Tips

Paint a Picture

Show the students as humans. Generate compassion. How will the students be impacted?

Measure Success

How will you know if you were successful? Test scores, attendance, grades?

Why Are Building Funds Not an Option

This is often the first question the Grant Committee asks.

Focus on the Solution, Not the Problem

Plan Ahead – Grants Can't Reimburse

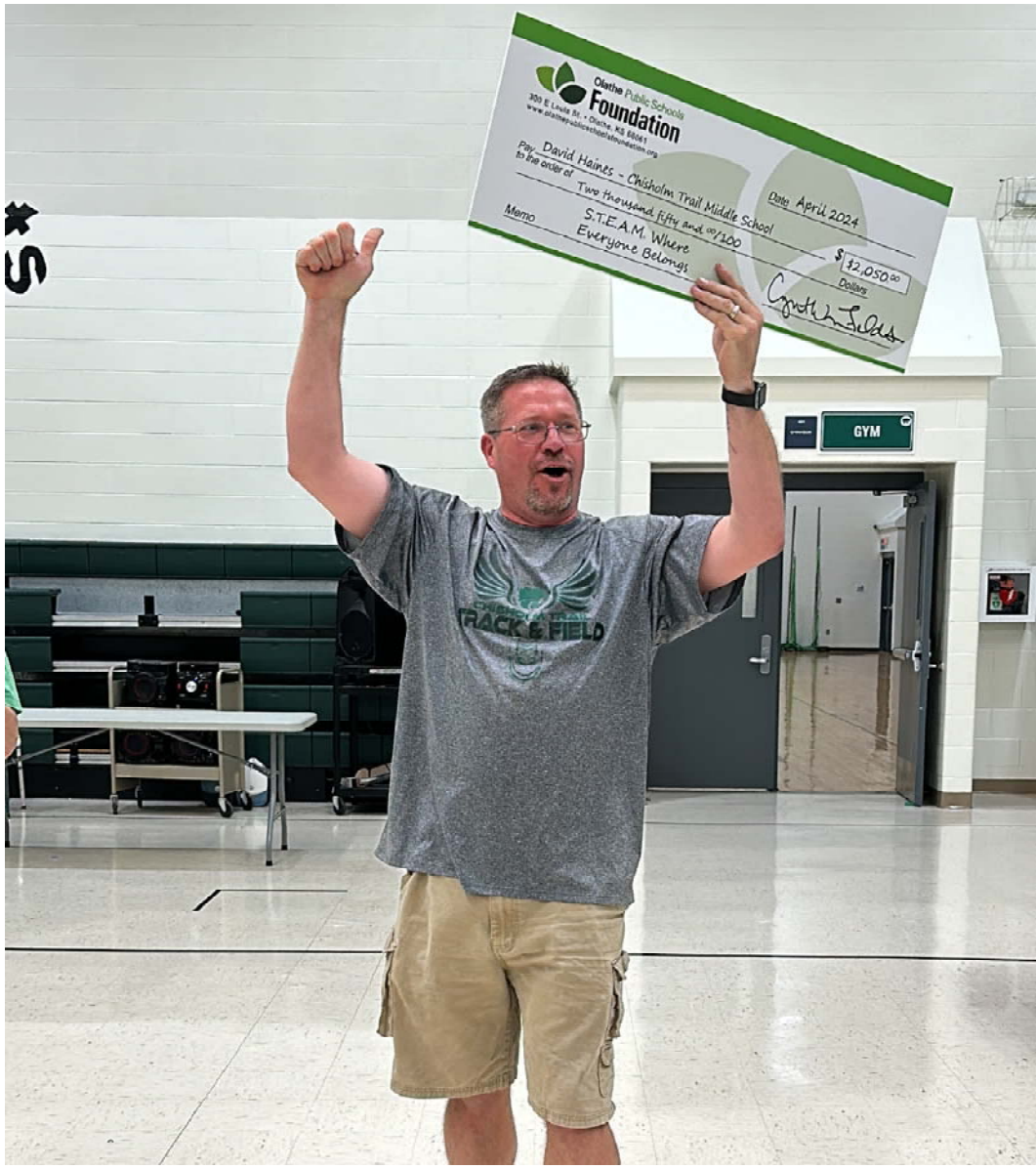
The fall grant cycle is intended for spring implementation. The spring grant cycle is intended for fall implementation.

Choose the Right Grant Type

The questions you are asked to answer will be determined by the grant type. Pick the category that best fits to make it easier to answer the questions.

Items Not OPSF Grant Eligible

- Therapy dogs or associated items
- Live animals
- Field trips
- Flexible seating for general classroom use
- Professional development fees
- To replenish regular “office supplies” like copy paper or pencils
- Replace existing equipment
- Hardscapes like concrete
- PBIS consumables

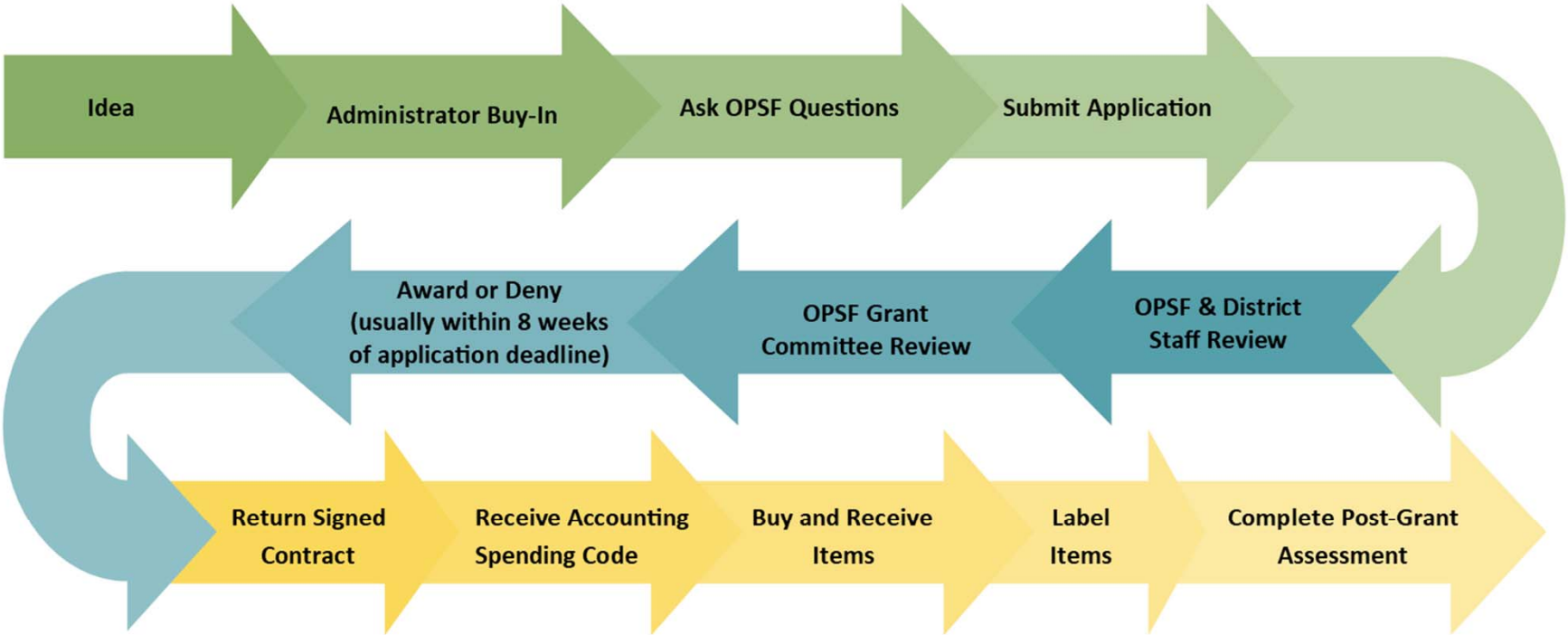


After A Grant is Awarded

- Sign and return your contract
- Receive spending code from Accounting
- Purchase item(s)
- Label item(s)
- Invite OPSF to see idea in action
- Complete a Post-Grant Assessment



OPSF Classroom Grant Process



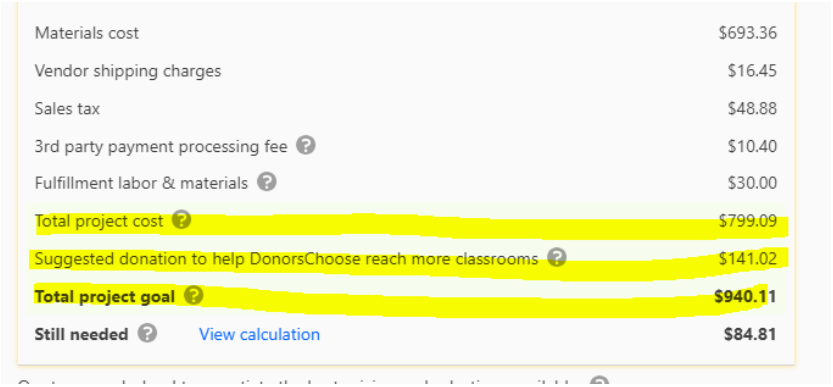
DonorsChoose.org

DonorsChoose.org

- www.OlathePublicSchoolsFoundation.org>>> **Teachers & Staff>>>DonorsChoose Program**
- Certified educator teaching at an USD 233 school
- Total Project **Goal:** $1,000 or less (Different than Total Project Cost)
- $1,000 in matching funds available per educator per school year while funds last
- Building administrator approval
- Anything that can be found in a DC vendor
- Fast!

DonorsChoose Exclusions

- Instructional Technology
  Teacher Pay Teachers gift cards, music players, CDs, headphones, printers, printer ink, scanners, document cameras, projectors, cameras, calculators, robotics, software
- Computers and Tablets
  laptops, tablets, monitors, computer and table accessories
- Professional development



Other Funding Options

Community/Business/Faith Partners

Donor Directed Gifts

- Administrator approval
- Greater than $100

Special Projects

Need-Based Funds

- A.L.L. Fund
- Dr. B's Musical Instrument Fund
- Cindy Jones Families in Need Meals Fund
- Student Health Emergency Fund
- Wimmer Student Care Fund
- Braden Robertson Student Mental Health Fund
- Homeless Outreach Fund
- Isaiah Campbell Student Athlete Assistance Fund
- Backpacks and School Supplies
- Harold and Elizabeth Lockyear Student Assistance Fund
- Campbell Family Student Assistance Fund