



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2026-2027 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 | Extended Education for Staff |
| Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students | Emphasis on Student Performance |
| Fine Arts | STEM |
| Literacy | Enrichment |

Assigned Proposal # 1

Title: T.I.D.E: Trauma-Informed District Excellence

Description:

Our district desperately needs a Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) framework to support our students' highly variable backgrounds. By shifting from punitive measures to a culture of wisdom, wonder, and confidence, we empower students to lead with resilience. Our highly skilled professionals foster meaningful relationships, while accessible campus administrators model encouragement and understanding. This approach directly benefits the district by reducing disciplinary incidents, increasing attendance, and closing achievement gaps. When we quiet the "survival brain," we unlock the "learning brain," transforming our schools into safe harbors where every student is equipped to achieve their absolute best.

1. Rationale

Our district stands at a critical juncture where the traditional educational model no longer suffices for the diverse and variable backgrounds of our student body. To bridge this gap, we propose a comprehensive Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) initiative designed to transform our schools into environments where every individual—student, staff, and administrator—can thrive.

At the heart of this project is the belief that when students are emotionally secure, they are empowered and equipped to lead with wisdom, wonder, and confidence. We move beyond academic instruction to address the "whole child," recognizing that many of our students carry invisible burdens that impact their ability to engage. By shifting our focus from "What is wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?", we create a culture of empathy that quiets the survival brain and activates the learning brain.

This transformation is driven by our staff—highly skilled professionals who lead with wisdom and foster meaningful relationships. We recognize that a student's success is often predicated on the quality of their connection to an educator. Our staff will be trained in advanced de-escalation and emotional regulation techniques, paired with our current MTSS-B practices. This ensures they have the tools to support every student in achieving their best, regardless of the challenges they face at home.

Central to this cultural shift is the presence of campus administrators. As present and accessible leaders, they serve as the blueprint for our values. By modeling wisdom, encouragement, and understanding, administration sets a standard that trickles down through the hallways. When leaders are visible and approachable, it reinforces a sense of safety and predictability throughout the district.

By integrating trauma-informed principles with our commitment to excellence, we aren't just managing behavior; we are building a foundation for lifelong success. This project ensures that our district is not just a place of testing, but a sanctuary of growth where every student is seen, heard, and empowered to achieve their highest potential.

This project is designed to bridge the gap between our students' variable backgrounds and their academic potential through a comprehensive Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) framework.

2. Goals & Expectation

Our primary goal is to shift the district culture from punitive discipline to relational regulation.

- Equip Students: Empower them to lead with wisdom, wonder, and confidence.
- Empower Staff: Transform educators into highly skilled professionals who lead with wisdom and foster meaningful relationships.
- Administrative Presence: Ensure campus leaders are accessible, present, and model encouragement and understanding.
- Expectation: A 20% reduction in office discipline referrals and a measurable increase in student-reported feelings of safety and belonging.

3. Plan of Operation

We will implement a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) focusing on trauma-informed practices.

Phase	Activity	Objective
Fall 2026	Staff "Wisdom & Wonder" Workshops	Training on brain-based regulation and TIC.
Ongoing	"Open Door" Admin Hours	Increasing visibility and accessibility of leadership and training staff.
Spring 2027	Community "Heal & Lead" Nights	Partnering with local mental health providers.

Timeline/Calendar

- August 2027: Initial Staff Professional Development (PD) on the "Survival vs. Learning Brain."
- October 2027: Launch of "Safe Harbor" classroom corners.
- January 2028: Mid-year data review and "Wisdom" refresher for staff.

Parental & Community Involvement

We will partner with local counseling centers to host inclusive events. Parents will be invited to monthly "Coffee and Connection" sessions to learn the same regulation language used in schools, ensuring a consistent environment for the student.

4. Communication & Dissemination

We invite the Foundation to participate in our "Observation Days" to see TIC in action. We will provide high-quality photo opportunities during our "Wisdom and Wonder" student showcases.

- District Sharing: Results will be shared in segments and presented to the department and Board of Trustees.
- Staff PD: We will lead a "Train the Trainer" session for other campuses to replicate our success.

5. Evaluation

Success will be measured through a mixed-methods approach:

1. Quantitative: Analysis of PEIMS disciplinary data and attendance records.
2. Qualitative: Pre- and post-surveys for students and staff measuring "Campus Connection" and "Leadership Confidence."
3. Benchmark: Completion of TIC certification for 90% of campus staff.

6. Long-Term Implications

This project establishes a sustainable "Culture Handbook" that will be integrated into the standard onboarding for all new hires. By investing in staff expertise now, we create a self-sustaining cycle of mentorship. The long-term impact is a generation of students who graduate not just with diplomas, but with the emotional intelligence to lead their communities.

7. Key Personnel

- Project Leads (BCBA/Special Education Coordinator/Family Support Liaison): Responsible for oversight, staff training on behavioral regulation, and data analysis.
- MTSS-B Team: Responsible for modeling accessible leadership and overseeing the daily integration of TIC values.
- Director of Safety and Security: Responsible for supporting administrators in merging trauma-informed strategies with behavioral interventions.

8. Budget

Please see attached spreadsheet. This includes a flight to Nashville for the next end of Summer conference in July. There is also a personal expenditure listed under transportation. Lodging, flight, food allowance and registration are all added to the budget form.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	1
Project Title:	J.I.D.E: Trauma Informed District Excellenc
Number of Students Served by Grant:	District Wide

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						
	Food Allowance (district current rate)		\$ 712.00			\$ 712.00
	Gas to Airport			personal expense		\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Consumable Supplies		\$ 712.00		\$ -	\$ -
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Technology		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Long-Term Supplies		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Contracted Services						
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Contracted Services		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Personnel						
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Personnel		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other						
	Lodging		\$ 1,699.54			\$ 1,699.54
	Conference Registration		\$ 1,300.00			\$ 1,300.00
	Flights		\$ 581.60			\$ 581.60
						\$ -
	total Other		\$ 3,581.14		\$ -	\$ 3,581.14
Totals			Total Requested from the WISD Foundation	Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
			\$ 4,293.14		\$ -	\$ 3,581.14