



**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 #7

Transformative Power of Folklórico Dance

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2. Goals
3. Plan of Operation
4. Communication & Dissemination
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6. Long Term Implications
7. Key Personnel
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Project Description

The Transformative Power of Folklórico Dance establishes a vibrant campus folkloric dance club celebrating our diverse Hispanic heritage. This initiative inspires students and the community through traditional dance, fostering cultural pride, and awareness.

Requested funds will secure essential attire—authentic dresses and percussive shoes—vital for rhythmic storytelling. By supporting this club, you create an inclusive platform for events like the Hispanic Heritage Festival and Cinco de Mayo. This investment provides the necessary resources to sustain the club for years, building a lasting cultural bridge that promotes understanding and appreciation across our entire campus community.

Rationale

This project aligns with the Creative Classroom Project focus area by transforming a traditional learning environment into a dynamic space for cultural and physical education. By integrating authentic folkloric dance, we provide a hands-on, creative outlet that fosters artistic expression beyond standard curricula.

The initiative directly supports Campus Improvement Plans by enhancing student engagement and school climate. In a district with a high Hispanic population, this club addresses the critical need for culturally responsive programming. It fosters a sense of belonging and pride, which are proven drivers of improved attendance and academic performance.

This project is essential for our school to bridge cultural gaps and provide students with a tangible connection to their heritage. Without this funding, the cost of specialized attire—dresses and percussive shoes—remains a barrier to participation. Providing these resources ensures equitable access to a high-quality extracurricular experience that celebrates our community's identity and promotes district-wide inclusivity.

Goals

Our goal is to establish a sustainable, campus-based folkloric dance club that provides students with a high-quality platform for cultural expression and artistic development. By the end of the inaugural school year, we expect to accomplish the following:

- **Equip Participants:** Secure professional-grade folkloric dresses and percussive shoes for at least 20 students, ensuring every dancer has the authentic attire necessary for traditional storytelling and rhythmic accuracy.
- **Cultural Performance:** Successfully choreograph and execute high-profile performances for the **Hispanic Heritage Festival** and **Cinco de Mayo**, reaching an audience of over 500 students, staff, and community members.
- **Student Engagement:** Maintain a consistent membership of diverse students, fostering measurable improvements in school belonging and cultural pride as outlined in our Campus Improvement Plan.
- **Long-Term Sustainability:** Utilize the \$8,500 investment to create a permanent wardrobe and resource foundation, allowing the club to

remain accessible to new dancers for years to come without recurring startup costs.

Plan of Operation

The **Folkloric Dance Club** is a cultural enrichment project providing students with instruction and authentic performance opportunities. This initiative blends artistic discipline with heritage celebration to bridge the gap between classroom learning and community engagement.

Objectives and Strategies

- **Skill Mastery:** Students will master traditional footwork (*zapateado*) and choreography through weekly rehearsals led by classroom teachers passionate about folklorico dancing
- **Cultural Preservation:** Using authentic attire (dresses and percussive shoes), students will learn the historical context of various Mexican states.
- **Community Presence:** Partner with local entities to provide high-visibility platforms for student performance.

School and Community Partners

We are proud to collaborate with:

- **Baylor University:** Students and mentors can provide choreographic assistance and student supervision.
- **First Baptist Church of Waco:** Providing supplemental rehearsal space and community outreach support for seasonal performances.

Timeline of Activities (2026-2027)

Month	Key Activity
September	Send recruiting notes out.

October	Start dance practices.
Nov - Jan	Technique workshops focusing on different regional styles. Purchase of authentic attire and shoes; begin rehearsals.
February	Collaborative workshop with Baylor University mentors.
March - April	Intensive rehearsals for spring festival season.
May	Grand Finale: Cinco de Mayo Community Celebration.

Parental and Community Involvement

Parents are integral to this project’s success. We will establish a **Parental Heritage Committee** to assist with costume maintenance, hair/makeup for performances, and organizing post-performance receptions.

Community involvement is further solidified through our partnership with **First Baptist Church of Waco**, which will host a community "Noche de Cultura," allowing students to perform for a diverse local audience. These interactions ensure that the club is not just a school activity, but a cornerstone of Waco’s cultural landscape.

Communication & Dissemination

To ensure the **Waco Education Foundation** receives the recognition it deserves and that the project's success is shared throughout **Waco ISD**, we have developed the following communication and dissemination strategy:

Foundation Recognition & Inclusion

We view the Foundation as a primary partner in this cultural journey. To honor your contribution, we will:

- **Performance Invitations:** Provide VIP seating for Foundation members at our **Hispanic Heritage Festival** and **Cinco de Mayo** showcases.
- **Observation Opportunities:** Invite Foundation representatives to "Open Rehearsal" days to observe the creative process and see the \$8,500 investment in attire and equipment in action.
- **Photo & Media Coordination:** Coordinate specific photo opportunities during dress rehearsals to capture high-resolution imagery of the authentic folkloric attire for Foundation annual reports or social media.
- **Grant Presentations:** Our student leaders and campus coordinators are eager to present project outcomes, student testimonials, and a brief live demonstration at a **Foundation Board Meeting** upon request.

Evaluation

To ensure the **Folkloric Dance Club** meets its objectives and justifies the \$8,500 investment, we will employ a multi-faceted evaluation strategy focusing on participation, artistic growth, and community impact.

1. Quantitative Measures (Data-Driven)

- **Attendance and Retention:** We will track weekly rehearsal attendance and semester-to-semester retention rates. Success is

defined by maintaining at least **90% of the initial 20-student cohort** throughout the academic year.

- **Performance Frequency:** We will document the number of community and campus performances. Our target is a minimum of **two major public showcases** (Hispanic Heritage Month, and Cinco de Mayo).
- **Inventory Sustainability:** A year-end audit of the professional attire and percussive shoes will be conducted to ensure the \$8,500 investment remains a viable, long-term asset for future dancers.

2. Qualitative Measures (Growth and Impact)

- **Skill Proficiency Rubrics:** Instructors will use a standardized rubric to assess students on technical growth, specifically focusing on *zapateado* (footwork) precision, rhythmic timing, and stage presence.
- **Student Surveys:** Pre- and post-project surveys will measure shifts in student **cultural pride** and **sense of belonging** on campus, aligning with our Campus Improvement Plan goals.
- **Community Feedback:** We will collect testimonial data from our partners at **Baylor University** and **First Baptist Church of Waco**, as well as audience evaluations following major performances, to gauge the project's effectiveness as a "cultural bridge."

3. Reporting Results

A final **Impact Report** will be compiled in May. This report will feature a synthesis of the data above, alongside a curated digital portfolio of performance photos and videos, to be shared with the **Waco Education Foundation** and **Waco ISD** leadership.

Long Term Implications

The **Folkloric Dance Club** is designed to move beyond a one-time enrichment activity to become a permanent cultural institution within our campus and the broader Waco community. Our \$8,500 funding request serves as the critical "seed capital" for long-term sustainability.

Project Sustainability (Post-2026-2027)

- **Asset Longevity:** The primary investment in professional-grade folkloric dresses and percussive shoes creates a **permanent costume treasury**. These high-quality items are designed for years of use, eliminating the need for major capital outlays in future budget cycles.
 - **Institutional Integration:** Following the inaugural year, the club will transition into a standard campus extracurricular offering. Maintenance costs (minor repairs or size additions) will be absorbed through campus activity funds and small-scale student-led fundraisers.
 - **Mentor Pipeline:** By partnering with **Baylor University**, we are establishing a recurring leadership pipeline. Former club members who graduate will be encouraged to return as alumni mentors, ensuring the transfer of choreography and traditions to incoming students.
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Long-Term Impact for Constituents

- **Educational Trajectory:** For students, the club serves as a bridge to higher education. Regular interaction with **Baylor University** mentors demystifies the college experience, specifically for first-generation students within our Hispanic community.
- **Community Cohesion:** Our partnership with the **First Baptist Church of Waco** creates a sustainable "cultural corridor." This project transforms the school from an isolated building into a community hub where heritage is celebrated and cross-cultural understanding is practiced annually.
- **District Legacy:** The success of this project will provide **Waco ISD** with a scalable blueprint for culturally responsive extracurricular programming. The long-term impact is a more inclusive district climate where diverse student identities are visible, valued, and woven into the fabric of the school's success.

Key Personnel

To ensure the success and professional execution of the **Folkloric Dance Club**, we have identified a team of key personnel with specialized roles. This team combines administrative oversight, artistic expertise, and community liaison experience.

Key Personnel & Responsibilities

Role	Primary Responsibilities	Qualifications
Project Coordinator (Campus Faculty)	Oversees grant budget (\$8,500), manages equipment inventory (dresses/shoes), coordinates rehearsal schedules, and serves as the primary liaison with the Waco Education Foundation .	experience in student organization oversight.
Lead Choreographer	Develops authentic dance curriculum for various Mexican states, leads weekly technical rehearsals, and manages student artistic growth.	Teachers with passion and extensive background in traditional folkloric dance performance and instruction.
Community Liaison (First	Facilitates off-campus rehearsal space, coordinates community performance logistics, and manages	Experienced community organizer with deep ties to the Waco Hispanic

Baptist Church of Waco)	outreach to the broader Waco neighborhood.	community and local faith-based initiatives.
Costume & Equipment Manager (Parent Volunteer)	Oversees the fitting, minor repair, and preservation of specialized folkloric attire; assists students with traditional hair and makeup for showcases.	Experience in garment care and traditional Mexican aesthetics; active member of the Campus Parent-Teacher Association.

Project Leadership Structure

The **Project Coordinator** will meet occasionally with the **Lead Choreographer** and **Community Liaison** to ensure the project remains on schedule and aligned with the **Campus Improvement Plan**. This collaborative structure ensures that the technical, logistical, and cultural aspects of the club are handled by experts in their respective fields.

8. Budget Narrative: The Transformative Power of Folklórico Dance

This narrative provides a detailed justification for the funds requested to establish a Folklórico dance club. Each line item is essential to ensuring cultural authenticity, student safety, and the long-term sustainability of the program.

1. Consumable Supplies (\$2,030.90)

To ensure a professional and uniform appearance during public performances—such as the Hispanic Heritage Festival—students require specific stage makeup and hygiene-compliant application tools.

- **Stage Makeup (Lipstick and Blush) & Disposable Applicators (\$240.86):** Traditional Folklórico requires high-pigment makeup to ensure performers' expressions are visible under stage lighting. The inclusion of 200 disposable brushes ensures strict hygiene and prevents cross-contamination among the 25+ participating students.
- **Miscellaneous Supplies as Needed (\$1,790.04):** These funds are reserved for recurring needs throughout the performance season, including hair styling products (gels, pins, and ties) to secure heavy headpieces, garment repair kits for costume maintenance, safety pins, and specialized cleaning supplies for the authentic fabrics.

2. Technology (\$1,259.90)

- **Radio/Speaker Systems (\$1,259.90):** High-quality, high-volume audio is a technical requirement for Folklórico. The speakers must be powerful enough to be heard over the loud, rhythmic footwork (zapateado) during rehearsals and outdoor community performances where house sound systems may not be available.

3. Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (\$5,209.20)

These items constitute the "wardrobe library" of the club and are designed to be reused by students for several years, providing a high return on investment.

- **Practice Skirts (\$746.10):** These are vital for daily rehearsals, allowing students to learn the complex "faldeo" (skirt-swinging) techniques without causing premature wear and tear on the expensive presentation dresses.

- **Presentation Dresses (Youth & Adult) (\$1,909.20):** These authentic garments are essential for storytelling. We have requested a variety of sizes to ensure inclusivity for our diverse student body.
- **Percussive Shoes (Girls, Boys, Women, Men) (\$1,591.90):** Folklórico shoes are specialized instruments with nails in the toe and heel. Providing these ensures that financial barriers do not prevent students from mastering the rhythmic "zapateado" required for traditional dance.
- **Cultural Accessories (\$962.00):** This includes 25 rose hair accessories and 25 Western-style hats. These items provide the regional authenticity necessary for a respectful and accurate representation of Hispanic heritage.
- **Male Performance Attire (\$1,923.25):** This covers presentation shirts and khaki pants for 35 male dancers (youth and adult sizes). These uniforms ensure the ensemble looks professional and cohesive during community-wide events like Cinco de Mayo.

Total Requested from WISD Foundation: \$8,500.00

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	7
Project Title:	Transformative Power of Floklórico Dance
Number of Students Served by Grant:	25 +

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						
10	Red lipsticks	y	\$ 89.99	0	\$ -	\$ 89.99
100	makeup disposable lipstick	y	\$ 4.99			\$ 4.99
10	Makeup blush	y	\$ 129.90			\$ 129.90
100	makeup disposable blush	y	\$ 15.98			\$ 15.98
1	Miscelanious (supplies as	y	\$ 1,790.04			\$ 1,790.04
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 2,030.90		\$ -	\$ 2,030.90
Technology						
2	Radio/Speaker		\$ 1,259.90			\$ 1,259.90
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ 1,259.90		\$ -	\$ 1,259.90
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
30	Practice skirts	y	\$ 746.10			\$ 746.10
30	Presentation Dresses Youth	y	\$ 1,109.70			\$ 1,109.70
10	Presentation Dresses Adult	y	\$ 799.50			\$ 799.50
25	Grils percussive shoes	y	\$ 572.25			\$ 572.25
25	Boys percussive shoes	y	\$ 674.75			\$ 674.75
5	Womans percussive shoes	y	\$ 179.95			\$ 179.95
5	Mens percussive shoes	y	\$ 164.95			\$ 164.95
25	Rose hair accesory	y	\$ 237.25			\$ 237.25
25	Western Hat boy accessory	y	\$ 724.75			\$ 724.75
30	Boys presentation shirts	y	\$ 599.40			\$ 599.40
5	Mens presentation shirts	y	\$ 149.95			\$ 149.95

30	Boys Khaki pants	y	\$ 1,006.20			\$ 1,006.20
5	Boys Khaki pants	y	\$ 167.70			\$ 167.70
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 5,209.20		\$ -	\$ 5,209.20
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	
		\$ 8,500.00	\$ 340.00	\$ -	\$ 8,500.00	