



**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

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

Proposal #18

Project Title: The Hunt for Bigfoot

Project Description:

We are asking for a grant to update our portable sound system that is in disrepair from the heavy use it incurs through the many rehearsals, events, contests, and football games that it has supported us through multiple marching seasons. On top of the expected wear and tear, our previous units were designed with components that were exposed and frankly not made with travel durability in mind. The Bigfoot Series of speakers sold by Anchor have been used to great success by other local band teams and are impressively durable, convenient, and high quality for our use case.

Rationale: Fine Arts, Emphasis on Student Performance, Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Our Marching Band program is easily the most publicly visible performance group on our campus, as well as one of the largest. We currently serve 120 students and are projected to continue growing the program over the next several years.

With our activity involving a large group of students, typically in large and/or outdoor spaces, we require adequate amplification for voice, metronome, and music playback. An upgraded and updated system would empower us to continue upholding the UIL Superior performance standards we've achieved over the past several years.

These systems also teach our advanced students selected to be a part of our "Tech Crew" valuable music and electronic equipment skills that will serve them as musicians and even in their careers outside of music.

Plan of Operation:

We have secured an estimate from Tarpley Music, our local music store and repair shop, for this sound system. Once we are able to access the funds, it should be a simple F-16 to secure a PO for these funds and place the order. This system would be utilized in all rehearsals and most events for the ensemble, including our Parent/Community "Show and Tell" performances at the start of the season and the Annual "Waco ISD Band Fest". We would also utilize it in order to communicate with our performers in the stands at Football games.

Communication & Dissemination:

We would love to present our grant at a meeting, including at our Parent/Community Show and Tell performance, which could theoretically be the debut of this sound system! A photo op shared on any and all social media channels we have access to (facebook, instagram etc.) would be welcome! We would love to get a picture with representatives of the foundation and some of our student leaders showing off the new system!

Evaluation:

Once we receive the system and it is in use for rehearsals and performances we will deem this proposal a success. We hope it will play a role in continuing our streak of Marching Contest advancement to the Area Competition!

Long Term Implications:

This system should realistically last much longer than the one that came before, as it is constructed with portability and durability in mind. We expect the system to remain in use for 10-12 years, only requiring regular charging and a potential battery replacement at some point. This replacement would likely be facilitated by Fine Arts and/or Campus Funds.

Key Personnel:

Our Band Director Team will be the primary personnel to interact with this system. The Head Director would work with our Campus Book-keeper to facilitate the purchase. Once we have the system, our percussion

director/electronics specialist would learn the ins and outs of the system before training our staff and tech crew student teams in proper use, transport, and maintenance.

Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:

This grant is for an equipment purchase, and is fairly straightforward in that regard. Per our current estimate, this system's price is currently estimated at \$10,120 with free shipping and no sales tax. We have received approval to utilize Fine Arts funds to cover the difference in price of \$1620.

We greatly appreciate the support that the Education Foundation provides to all our fine arts programs here in Waco ISD! Our students and programs benefit so much from the assistance you provide!

