



**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 |

Project #17

Own Your Own Story

"Own Your Own Story" would empower students to lead their literacy journey through a personalized, goal-driven framework. Utilizing the Accelerated Reader program, students would identify "just-right" reading levels and set attainable goals while maintaining full autonomy to choose library books that spark their interests. This approach transforms reading into a visible, measurable journey, allowing students to track their own comprehension gains and celebrate clear milestones of personal growth.

1. Rationale:

"Own Your Own Story" transforms reading from a standard assignment into a personal mission for every student. By shifting from passive participation to data-driven ownership, this initiative directly supports our Campus Improvement Plan to move students from "Approaches" or "Meets" toward "Masters." When students are motivated by personalized goals and have tangible ways to see their reading improve, they become active stakeholders in their own success, creating the precise momentum needed to reach our highest campus growth targets.

2. Goals:

By earning points through comprehension quizzes, students receive immediate feedback and celebrate milestones with digital and library rewards. This model shifts the focus from passive reading to active mastery, encouraging students to work within their growth zones. Ultimately, this project builds confidence, rewards effort, and turns every student into the author of their own reading success.

3. Plan of Operation:

- Students use AR to find their "just-right" reading level, ensuring they are challenged but not frustrated. They have full autonomy to choose library books that actually interest them.
- After reading, students take a quick comprehension quiz for immediate feedback. This helps them self-correct and track their own progress in real-time.
- To celebrate growth, students earn digital badges and library prizes based on their comprehension points, linking hard work to tangible success.
- This project is a team effort. Teachers will use AR data in small groups to coach students toward mastery, while the Campus Librarian helps students hunt for books that match their goals.
- The school community and parents have access to a "Home Connect" portal, where families can see quiz results instantly. The Campus Librarian will also feature a "Wall of Fame" in the

hallway to celebrate milestones, showing every student that they have the power to own their own reading success.

4. Communication & Dissemination:

To ensure the Foundation never misses a celebration, the Librarian could use these quick channels:

1. A monthly, one-paragraph email featuring one student's growth story and a high-resolution photo of them with their favorite book.
2. Real-time posts on the school's Facebook page, using a dedicated hashtag (e.g., #OwnYourOwnStory) and tagging the Foundation's official accounts.

5. Evaluation:

The Librarian will use the Renaissance dashboard to track three specific data points that correlate most strongly with reading growth:

- Average Percent Correct (APC): This is the single most important metric for comprehension. The Librarian will look for an average of 85% or higher.
- Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD): The Librarian will check if students are selecting books within their recommended "sweet spot."
- Engaged Reading Time: The system estimates how many minutes a student spends reading daily based on quiz volume. This data point will allow the Librarian to see if students are averaging the 15–30 minutes of daily engaged reading for significant growth.

6. Long Term Implications:

Our school administrators consistently pursue high-impact interventions that provide clear data for state standards and "Return on Investment" in the form of student growth. If our campus sees a 10% increase in our Average Percent Correct (APC) across the mid-range earners by January, the Librarian will meet with administrators to advocate for renewing the subscription (using campus funds) for the 2027-2028 school year.

7. Key Personnel:

With three years as the school Librarian and prior district teaching experience, I possess the unique pedagogical perspective to bridge library and classroom goals. I have been trained in implementing the Accelerated Reader program for grades 1–5, specializing in translating complex data into growth. My established collaboration with ELAR teachers would ensure this project directly improves student

comprehension and engagement, transforming a digital tool into a sustainable, school-wide culture of literacy.

8. Budget Justification:

This \$2,996.75 investment would empower 1st–5th graders to "own their story" by tracking their own progress, fostering personal accountability and measurable student growth. While students celebrate their milestones, teachers gain the critical data needed to ensure every child truly understands what they read.

						\$ -
						\$ -
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	
		\$ 2,996.75	9.989166667	\$ -	\$ 2,996.75	