



**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 |

Proposal #20

Literacy Leaders Mentor Group

Project Description: The Literacy Leaders Mentor Group empowers high-achieving upperclassmen to serve as literacy ambassadors for struggling peers. Through targeted training, mentors will master evidence-based reading strategies and writing techniques to provide one-on-one support on our campus. This initiative fosters a collaborative culture of academic excellence and seeks to bridge the achievement gap. Mentors will provide individual tutoring times, group classroom visits, and potentially a visit to the middle school campus to host a writer's workshop day. This program cultivates essential leadership skills in mentors while providing vital, relatable academic intervention for at-risk students.

1. Rationale: This initiative goes to support ongoing struggles on our campus with low literacy levels. The Literacy Leaders Mentor Group directly supports District and Campus Improvement Plans by targeting literacy across the curriculum and College and Career Readiness. By training upperclassmen in mentorship, we are building the soft skills and leadership capacities that will serve them as they leave our campus and transition to the next chapter or their professional goals. Freshmen and sophomore students will get more targeted support from mentors that are able to coach students in successful reading and writing moves that the mentors implemented on their own assessments. Oftentimes, teachers need extra support to offer one-on-one or small group mentoring. This initiative would offer a new resource for teachers to provide that support to their students.

2. Goals: This initiative has four main goals:

Goal 1 - Academic Growth and Intervention

To increase the reading comprehension and writing proficiency of at least 30 students with an additional goal of growing that number each year. We will conduct classroom visits and host writing workshops in a common learning space, while also offering tutorial hours for students to get individual help with writing assignments or test-taking strategies.

Goal 2 - Foster Student Leadership

To equip a group of 12 upperclassmen with specialized literacy coaching skills by completing a targeted training session in the weeks leading up to the start of the school year. Mentors can help bridge the gap for freshmen as they transition to high school and higher expectations in the classroom.

Goal 3: Campus-Wide Literacy Engagement

To foster a "culture of reading" through the production of eight monthly digital literacy newsletters. These will feature peer-led book recommendations and writing strategy videos, aiming to reach the entire student body and normalize academic discourse outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Goal 4: Vertical Alignment and Campus Transition

To strengthen the literacy pipeline between middle and high school campuses. By conducting classroom workshops with the freshmen English classes, mentors will help students adapt to the rigorous writing expectations in high school. Our digital newsletters can be shared with the middle school campuses to create a bridge between campuses. The ultimate goal would be to conduct a middle school campus visit in the spring to host a writing workshop with 8th grade students to serve as another transition to the high school campus.

- 3. Plan of Operation:** The initiative would begin at the end of this school year in May to begin recruiting students to serve as mentors. This would continue into early August when the final mentor group would be formed. A guest speaker/trainer would be brought in during this same month to train mentors in literacy coaching skills. Mentors would begin filming their first digital newsletter to introduce themselves to the student body, share book recommendations, and the first writing technique that they are challenging students to use. The Literacy Leaders would communicate with teachers on the campus to create incentives for students to utilize the writing technique or check out the book recommendations from the library. We would schedule our first writing workshop visits with ELAR teachers for September and October. Mentors would come in to work with individual students or small groups on the classroom writing focus. We would offer monthly tutorial times on campus during the fall semester for major writing assignments or upcoming assessments.

The Literacy Leaders would continue to put out monthly digital newsletters sharing book recs, test-taking strategies, and writing tools. We would create a writing celebration wall to highlight successful student writing samples and shoutouts to students that have demonstrated growth in a new skill.

In the spring, we would reach out to middle school campuses to offer a one-day writing workshop for 8th grade students. This is dependent on campus needs and could function either in classrooms, large group common areas, or with targeted individual student needs.

- 4. Communication and Dissemination:** The Foundation will be invited to observe writing workshops and classroom visits. We will also send our digital monthly newsletters to the Foundation. I am willing to send photos of our events and present this grant at any meetings. The digital newsletters will be shared with teachers on the campus to share with all students. We will include success story shoutouts when needed in our morning announcements. Parents will receive communication about tutorial times through social media and Parent Square.

5. **Evaluation:** The success will be measured through assessment scores such as English 1 and 2 STAAR growth and TSI scores. We will additionally communicate with teachers for feedback on classroom performance growth.
6. **Long-term Implications:** We would like to grow this initiative by recruiting more mentors and conducting more classroom visits. Additionally, we would like to eventually host campus literacy nights and celebration ceremonies.
7. **Key Personnel:** This group will be run by the individual teacher submitting the grant proposal with the eventual goal for it to become more student-led as the mentors become more established in their roles.
8. **Budget:** Please see attached form.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	20
Project Title:	Literacy Leaders Mentor Group
Number of Students Served by Grant:	50-100

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						
	Shirts		200	0	0	\$- 0
	Folders, pencils, paper		50	0	0	\$- 0
	Tutoring Snacks		250	0	0	\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
	total Consumable Supplies		\$- 0		\$- 0	\$- 0
Technology						
	Camera		400			\$- 0
						\$- 0
	total Technology		\$- 0		\$- 0	\$- 0
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
	Mentor Professional Development Books		400			\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
	total Long-Term Supplies		\$- 0		\$- 0	\$- 0
Contracted Services						
	Speaker/Trainer for mentor group		1,200			\$- 0
						\$- 0
	total Contracted Services		\$- 0		\$- 0	\$- 0
Personnel						
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
	total Personnel		\$- 0		\$- 0	\$- 0
Travel / Other						
	Middle School Travel		500			\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
						\$- 0
	total Other		\$- 0		\$- 0	\$- 0

Totals	Total Requested from the WISD Foundation	Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
	\$- 0	#VALUE!	\$- 0	\$- 0

