



**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

# GRANT PROPOSAL: #27

**Project Title:** Dragon Cooling Kit

## PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

**Project Description** Dragon Cooling Kits are classroom-based calming tool packs filled with hands-on sensory and self-regulation items for students who become dysregulated during the school day. Each classroom will have one kit placed in a designated calming area, giving students immediate access to tools that help them manage anxiety, sadness, frustration, or overwhelm. The kits are designed to support students in independently calming and refocusing themselves so they can return ready to learn. This also allows teachers to continue instruction with minimal disruption while promoting student independence, emotional regulation, and positive classroom behavior.

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## 1. RATIONALE

This project aligns with the Waco Education Foundation's focus on a **creative classroom project** because it provides practical, innovative supports that help students develop emotional regulation skills that directly impact their success in the classroom. By equipping 35 classrooms and approximately 580 students with emotional regulation tools through Dragon Cooling Kits, the project creates supportive learning environments where students can recognize their emotions, communicate their needs appropriately, and use healthy strategies to calm themselves and refocus.

The project supports the goals of the District and Campus Improvement Plans by creating safe, supportive classrooms that improve student readiness to learn, reduce disruptions, and increase meaningful instructional time. This project is especially needed because many students are still developing the emotional and behavioral skills necessary to manage frustration, anxiety, and overstimulation. Providing these regulation kits will help meet a growing need in our school by supporting both student well-being and academic success, building skills students will carry with them far beyond the classroom.

## 2. GOALS

The primary goal of the Dragon Cooling Kits is to help students remain in the classroom, regulate their emotions, and continue learning with minimal disruption.

- **Academic Impact:** Increase student ability to focus, participate, and succeed by meeting emotional and sensory needs.
- **Life Skills:** Teach practical self-regulation strategies, healthy coping skills, and independence.
- **Innovation:** Provide a proactive, student-centered solution that preserves instructional time for both teachers and students.

### 3. PLAN OF OPERATION

The Dragon Cooling Kits will be implemented schoolwide. Each classroom will feature a designated calming area. Teachers will introduce and model appropriate use, while monthly Guidance Lessons (aligned with *Character Strong*) will reinforce these strategies.

#### Parental & Community Involvement:

- **Parents:** Monthly school newsletters will explain the purpose of the kits and share ways families can support emotional regulation at home.
- **Community:** An active service member will be invited each semester to speak with students about the importance of self-discipline and positive decision-making.

#### Timeline/Calendar:

- **Beginning of School Year:** Kits placed in classrooms; teacher-led orientation on procedures.
- **Monthly:** Guidance Lessons reinforce kit use; newsletters distributed to parents.
- **Each Semester:** Guest speaker (active service member) presentation on self-management.
- **Ongoing:** Continuous student access and usage as needed.

### 4. COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

We invite the Waco Education Foundation to visit classrooms to observe the Dragon Cooling Kits in action. We will provide photo opportunities and are available to present the project's impact at Foundation meetings. Results will be shared district-wide through Monthly Counselor and Administrator District Meetings. Additionally, highlights will be shared in school newsletters and at board meetings to communicate the project's impact to the broader community.

### 5. EVALUATION

Success will be measured through:

- **Qualitative Data:** Teacher observations and feedback regarding student readiness to learn.
- **Quantitative Data:** Monitoring the frequency of kit usage and tracking reductions in classroom disruptions and office referrals.
- **Reporting:** A standing line item will be added to monthly staff meetings to document effectiveness and progress by grade level.

### 6. LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS

Following the 2026–2027 school year, the Dragon Cooling Kits will remain permanent fixtures in the classrooms. Because the tools are reusable, the project is inherently sustainable. The long-term impact includes a strengthened campus culture and a student body equipped with lifelong coping skills that reduce the need for intensive behavioral interventions in the future.

## 7. KEY PERSONNEL

- **Administrators:** Responsible for overseeing implementation, providing campus support, and monitoring overall effectiveness.
- **School Counselor:** Responsible for guiding kit usage via monthly lessons and supporting teachers with regulation strategies.
- **Classroom Teachers:** Responsible for daily implementation, teaching student expectations, and maintaining the calming areas.

## 8. BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE

*(Refer to the attached itemized Budget Form for specific costs from district-approved vendors. Figures include shipping and exclude sales tax.)*

**Total Funding Requested: \$7,983.13**

All requested items are classified as Long-Term Supplies/Equipment and will be sourced through district-approved vendors.

### **Sensory & Tactile Regulation Tools (\$2,142.12)**

To help students manage physical symptoms of dysregulation, we have selected various tactile tools:

- **Weighted Lap Pads (\$943.25):** Provides calming deep-pressure input for students.
- **Stretchy Resistance Bands (\$474.75):** Allows for productive physical movement within the calming area.
- **Tactile Fidgets (\$724.12):** Includes Infinity Cubes (\$314.65), Marble Mesh (\$33.98), Stress Cubes (\$67.96), and Stretchy Strings (\$20.97) to help students refocus.

### **Visual & Breathing Supports (\$1,540.68)**

These tools guide students through the physiological process of calming down:

- **Breathing Exercise Cards & Boards (\$715.13):** Provides PK-5 students with visual cues for deep-breathing techniques.
- **Breathing Balls (\$349.65):** A physical tool to model lung expansion and contraction.
- **Calming Liquid Motion Bubbler (\$244.65):** Offers a visual focal point to reduce overstimulation.
- **See My Feelings Mirror (\$200.88):** Allows students to identify their facial expressions and recognize their current emotional state.

### **Literacy & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Resources (\$2,296.30)**

Instructional materials are included to teach students the "why" behind their emotions:

- **Emotions Wheel Puzzles & Pocket Charts (\$1,069.50):** Tools to help students categorize and communicate complex feelings.

- **Calming and Self-Regulation Books (\$1,226.80):** Includes *Listening to My Body* (\$453.25), *I Love You Rituals* (\$194.60), and *My Calming Book* (\$454.65) to build a literacy-based foundation for emotional intelligence.
- **Worry Stone Fidget Kits (\$349.65) & Meditation Cards (\$249.90):** Guided mindfulness activities for independent use.

#### **Operational Supplies & Accessibility (\$2,004.03)**

- **Plastic Storage (\$586.44):** Durable bins to house the kits in each of the 35 classrooms.
- **Noise Canceling Headphones (\$233.97):** Essential for students who become dysregulated due to auditory overstimulation.
- **LCD Writing Tablets (\$80.97) & Calming Coloring Books (\$201.95):** Provides a quiet, creative outlet for students to decompress.
- **Calm Down Kit Manipulatives & Support (\$900.70):** Includes Grade K-5 Manipulatives (\$250.00), Water Beads (\$149.85), Mini Fans (\$72.99), and assorted

Full budget:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vozGVI1zPjO0qw6jUnJ1eRCfbTx3Mr05/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113323429272617297823&rtpof=true&sd=true>

