



**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 # 32**

### **Project Title:** Student Voices Through Film

**Project Description:** This project will expand our Audio/Video Production program by providing professional filmmaking equipment that enables students to create competition-ready films and high-quality campus media. Students will produce narrative short films for UIL Young Filmmakers while also developing promotional videos, PSAs, and community-focused content. Students will use film as a platform to express their perspectives, experiences, and creativity while contributing meaningful content to the campus community. Through authentic, hands-on production experiences, students will strengthen storytelling, critical thinking, collaboration, and technical skills aligned to college and career pathways in digital media. The equipment enhances existing curriculum and ensures students have access to industry-relevant tools that elevate both creative expression and campus engagement.

1. **Rationale:** This project aligns directly with the Waco Education Foundation's focus on creative classroom projects by integrating artistic expression, technical skill development, and measurable student achievement. Filmmaking blends the arts with STEM principles, requiring students to apply technology, engineering concepts, problem-solving, and design thinking within a creative framework. Students engage in authentic, project-based learning by developing narrative films and media that reflect their perspectives and lived experiences.

The project supports District and Campus Improvement Plans by strengthening student engagement, expanding CTE opportunities, and promoting positive school culture through student-created media. Our campus seeks to increase community connection and showcase student success; this program provides a structured way for students to share their voices while achieving those goals.

While our program has foundational equipment, students currently lack the advanced tools necessary to produce competition-level films and fully develop industry-aligned technical skills. This grant bridges that gap, allowing students to reach higher levels of creative and academic achievement while building portfolios that support college and career readiness.

2. **Goals:** The goal of this project is to elevate the quality and scope of student filmmaking while expanding student participation in competitive and district film opportunities. We intend to increase the number of students actively involved in narrative production, produce higher-quality cinematic content using professional tools, and expand submissions to the UIL Young Filmmakers competition and Waco ISD's Bill Taverner Film Festival. Specific expectations include increased student film submissions, improved technical proficiency, stronger storytelling, expanded documentary production, and increased opportunities for students to share their voices through film. Greater visibility through festival participation and district showcases will further highlight student achievement.

- 3. Plan of Operation:** This project will expand student participation in filmmaking through structured production cycles conducted before and after school, with editing and planning integrated during class time. Advanced Audio/Video students will lead narrative productions, while additional students campus-wide will be invited to participate in filming and production roles to broaden access and inclusion. Students will follow a structured process including scriptwriting centered on student-developed ideas, storyboarding, collaborative production, editing, and submission.

The project's objectives include producing at least three narrative short films annually, expanding into documentary production, increasing participation beyond enrolled AV students, and expanding submissions to UIL Young Filmmakers, the district's Bill Taverner Film Festival, and additional regional festivals. Equipment will arrive before Fall 2026, with immediate training provided. Production will take place in October and November, allowing for UIL submissions before winter break and Bill Taverner submissions in February. Promotional media projects will continue throughout the year, supporting school organizations and community partners.

Parent and community involvement will occur through attendance and support of the Bill Taverner Film Festival, which serves as the primary public showcase of student work. Families may assist with filming locations, props, and production logistics as needed. The local independent film community frequently engages with the district festival and may provide screening opportunities or guest speakers, strengthening authentic connections between students and the broader creative community.

- 4. Communication & Dissemination:** The Waco Education Foundation will be formally recognized in the closing credits of student films produced with grant-funded equipment and acknowledged in YouTube descriptions and festival programs when permitted. Foundation representatives will be invited to observe a production day, providing authentic photo opportunities, and to attend a private screening of completed films.

Project progress and results will be shared through campus newsletters, district media platforms such as WISD-TV, and CTE social media channels. Behind-the-scenes documentation, scripts, storyboards, and final productions may be highlighted to demonstrate impact and amplify student voices. The teacher is willing to present the project at district professional development sessions, Foundation meetings, or board meetings. An impact video may also be produced to document outcomes and student growth. A year-end summary including festival submissions, program participation, and student reflection data will be shared with the Foundation.

- 5. Evaluation:** Project success will be measured through participation growth, production output, and documented student reflection. We will track the number of students involved in film production, with the goal of increasing participation beyond current levels and expanding access to students outside the AV pathway. Output measures include producing at least three narrative short films, expanding into documentary production,

submitting entries to UIL and the Bill Taverner Film Festival, and increasing promotional/PSA content from six to at least ten projects.

Qualitative evaluation will include student reflection surveys documenting growth in storytelling, collaboration, creative confidence, and self-expression. Additional indicators include festival selections, district recognition, and measurable YouTube viewership data. Together, these metrics will provide both quantitative and reflective evidence of program effectiveness and the meaningful impact of student voice through film.

6. **Long Term Implications:** This project is sustainable beyond the 2026–2027 school year, as the professional filmmaking equipment will remain in use for years to come. Students will continue producing narrative, documentary, and promotional films annually, strengthening participation in UIL and the district film festival while expanding student involvement.

Long-term impact includes increased enrollment and interest in the Audio/Video pathway as students outside the program engage in productions. Advanced students will mentor younger and first-time filmmakers, creating a sustainable cycle of leadership and skill development. Graduates will leave with stronger creative portfolios for college and career opportunities. As films reflect student identity and perspective, *Student Voices Through Film* will become an enduring part of campus culture and a source of district pride.

7. **Key Personnel:** The project will be led by the Audio/Video Production instructor, who has professional experience in film and media production. Responsibilities include equipment implementation and management, student training in cinematography and production techniques, mentoring student filmmakers, overseeing project timelines, coordinating festival submissions, and documenting program outcomes.

The instructor has participated in the production of multiple feature-length and short films, including projects that have received industry recognition. This real-world experience informs classroom instruction and ensures students receive authentic, industry-aligned guidance throughout the filmmaking process. The instructor also facilitates mentorship structures, enabling advanced students to support emerging filmmakers.

8. **Budget Narrative:** The district's CTE program has already invested in professional cinema cameras for the Audio/Video pathway. This grant will expand the capabilities of that equipment by providing stabilization systems, cinema lenses, monitoring tools, and accessories necessary for students to fully utilize the camera system for narrative filmmaking, promotional media production, and film festival submissions.

1. DJI RS 4 Pro Gimbal Stabilizer Combo

This stabilization system allows students to capture smooth cinematic camera movement during narrative and documentary productions. Stable camera motion is essential for professional-quality storytelling and is widely used in modern filmmaking.

## 2. DJI Focus Pro All-in-One Combo

This focus control system enables precise manual focus control during filming. Students will learn industry-standard focus pulling techniques and collaborative camera operation commonly used in professional productions.

## 3. DJI LiDAR Range Finder to Transmitter Cable Hub

This accessory enables the LiDAR autofocus system to communicate with the camera control system, allowing students to maintain accurate focus during moving shots and complex camera movement.

## 4. DJI Focus Pro Motor

The focus motor connects the focus system to cinema lenses, enabling precise focus adjustments during filming and allowing students to practice professional focus control techniques.

## 5. SmallRig Dual Handgrip for DJI

The dual handgrip improves stability and ergonomics for students operating the gimbal while also supporting safer and more controlled camera operation during production.

## 6. Rokinon Cine DS 6-Lens Kit (Canon EF Mount)

This cinema lens set provides multiple focal lengths designed specifically for filmmaking. Cinema lenses allow precise manual focus control and consistent image quality, enabling students to explore cinematic composition and storytelling techniques.

## 7. Rokinon Cine Lens Carry Case

The protective case allows safe transport and storage of the cinema lens kit, ensuring long-term durability and accessibility for student productions.

#### 8. SmallRig Universal Stabilizing Camera Top Handle

The top handle allows students to safely operate the camera during handheld filming while enabling additional filming techniques commonly used in documentary and narrative productions.

#### 9. FeelWorld FW703 On-Camera Monitor

The external monitor provides a larger display for monitoring framing, focus, and exposure during filming. This improves collaboration among student crew members and helps ensure technical accuracy during production.

#### 10. Samsung Portable SSD T7 Shield (1TB)

Portable solid-state drives provide fast and reliable storage for high-resolution video files generated during student film production and editing.

#### 11. Neewer SSD Holder for Samsung T-Series Drives

This mounting system securely attaches the storage drive to the camera rig during filming, protecting the drive while recording video.

#### 12. SmallRig Articulating Arm

The articulating arm allows the external monitor to be mounted to the camera rig and positioned for proper viewing during filming.

#### 13. Wooden Camera Offset Mounting Bracket

This mounting bracket allows existing wireless video transmission equipment to be securely attached to the camera rig. Wireless monitoring enables additional crew

members to view the camera feed during production, improving collaboration and communication among student filmmakers.

#### 14. SmallRig Screw Set for Camera Accessories

The screw set provides essential mounting hardware required to safely attach accessories such as monitors and handles to the camera system.

#### 15. Sigma 24–70mm f/2.8 DG OS HSM Art Lens (Canon EF)

This professional zoom lens provides flexible focal length options for student filmmakers, allowing quick adjustments between wide, medium, and close-up shots without changing lenses. The lens enables students to maintain cinematic image quality while working efficiently during fast-paced productions such as promotional videos and public service announcements.

**Waco Education Foundation  
Grant Budget Form**

Assigned Proposal #	32
Project Title:	Student Voices Through Film
Number of Students Served by Grant:	20

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)	Total Amount
<b>Consumable Supplies</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Consumable Supplies		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Technology</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Technology		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Long-Term Supplies / Equipment</b> (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
1	DJI RS 4 Pro Gimbal Stabilizer Combo	y	\$ 1,099.00			\$ 1,099.00
1	DJI Focus Pro All-in-One Combo	y	\$ 1,849.00			\$ 1,849.00
1	DJI LiDAR Range Finder to Transmitter Cable Hub	y	\$ 78.32			\$ 78.32
1	DJI Focus Pro Motor	y	\$ 149.00			\$ 149.00
1	SmallRig Dual Handgrip for DJI	y	\$ 99.00			\$ 99.00
1	Rokinon Cine DS 6 Lens Kit with Canon EF Mount	y	\$ 2,399.00			\$ 2,399.00
1	Rokinon 6 Lens Carry-On Case for Cine DS	y	\$ 299.00			\$ 299.00
2	SmallRig Universal Stabilizing Camera Top Handle	y	\$ 79.98			\$ 79.98
2	FeelWorld FW703 7" IPS 3G-SDI 4K HDMI On-	y	\$ 399.98			\$ 399.98
3	Samsung Portable SSD T7 Shield, 1TB	y	\$ 413.97			\$ 413.97
2	Neewer SSD Holder for Samsung T5, T7 & T9	y	\$ 39.98			\$ 39.98
2	SmallRig Articulating Arm (9.5")	y	\$ 31.98			\$ 31.98
2	Wooden Camera Offset Mounting Bracket for	y	\$ 110.00			\$ 110.00
1	SmallRig Screw Set for Camera Accessories	y	\$ 11.90			\$ 11.90
1	Sigma 24-70mm f/2.8 DG OS HSM Art Lens for Canon EF	y	\$ 1,429.00			\$ 1,429.00
	total Long-Term Supplies		\$ 8,489.11		\$ -	\$ 8,489.11
<b>Contracted Services</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Contracted Services		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Personnel</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Personnel		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Travel / Other</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
	total Other		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>			<b>Total Requested from the WISD Foundation</b>	<b>Foundation Cost Per Student</b>	<b>Total from Other Sources</b>	<b>Total Cost of Project</b>
			<b>\$ 8,489.11</b>	<b>424.4555</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 8,489.11</b>