



**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

#36

“Sew You Like My Threads!”

Project Description:

"Sew You Like My Threads!" is a fiber arts initiative designed to provide students with the materials and specialized tools necessary to explore textile-based mediums. While traditional art curricula often focuses on drawing and painting, this program introduces students to the rich, tactile world of fiber arts—a discipline that bridges the gap between fine art and practical craftsmanship. Through this project, students will master a range of techniques, including foundational hand and machine sewing, embroidery, traditional batik dyeing, and structural weaving. The requested funds will be covering the cost of supplies such as sewing machines, looms, fabric dyes, embroidery hoops, and a variety of fiber arts consumables.

1. Rationale:

As of right now there is a gap in our curriculum and that is fiber arts, a listed art form in the Visual Arts TEKS. The "Sew You Like My Threads!" project fosters critical thinking and innovation by challenging students to transition from conceptual sketches to tangible creations. The fiber arts require spatial reasoning and mathematical precision. When technical challenges arise—such as a tension issue on a sewing machine or a complex embroidery knot—students must engage in problem-solving.

Furthermore, the project drives collaboration; the medium naturally lends itself to peer-to-peer mentorship, where students assist one another in mastering complex techniques. Beyond artistic expression, "Sew You Like My Threads!" builds college and career readiness by equipping students with skills in textile engineering and precision craftsmanship—skills directly transferable to industries like fashion design, interior architecture, and industrial manufacturing. The program also emphasizes professional "soft skills" such as project management, attention to detail, and the ability to curate a high-quality portfolio of original work essential for post-secondary admissions and internships.

2. Goals:

We really want to shake things up by moving beyond the usual drawing and painting to give our students a chance to work with their hands in a totally different way. Our main goal is to fully integrate fiber arts into our curriculum so that it aligns perfectly with the Visual Arts TEKS standards. By the end of this project, we expect our students to be comfortable operating a sewing machine, setting up a loom, embroidery and batik

dyeing. We're aiming for our students to walk away with original textile pieces that they can proudly include in a college or internship portfolio. Ultimately, we want to spark a new passion for craftsmanship and show them the possibilities of what art can be.

### 3. Plan of Operation:

This project is designed as a year-long journey that turns our classroom into a bustling "maker space." In the beginning we'll kick things off with a heavy focus on safety and the basics. Next will be all about surface design through traditional batik dyeing, and later, will shift toward the fine details of hand embroidery and texture. Eventually we will move onto structural weaving on our new looms. By the end of the year, students will have completed artwork for the VASE art competition, Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, Art on Elm Street, the District Art Show and submitted as part AP Portfolios to the College Board.

### 4. Communication and Dissemination:

We want to make sure the Foundation knows exactly how much we appreciate their support. We would love to invite the Waco Education Foundation to view our completed artworks on display at the Annual District Art Show. Fiber arts lends itself to visual display very well whether students are creating wall hangings, sculptures or installations and especially wearable items. I also plan to share our success and "lessons learned" with the rest of the district by leading a hands-on workshop during our next staff development day, ensuring other teachers can feel confident introducing fiber arts in their own schools.

### 5. Evaluation:

To figure out if we've really hit the mark, we're going to look at both the technical skills and the creative growth of our students. We'll start with a "skills check" at the beginning of the year and compare it to a final assessment to see just how much their proficiency with tools like the sewing machine and loom has improved. We will also use a standard rubric to grade their final textile pieces on craftsmanship and original design. On a more personal level, we'll gather student feedback through surveys to measure their engagement and interest in pursuing fiber arts further. If our community showcase is packed and students are asking for more advanced textile projects next year, we'll know "Sew You Like My Threads!" was a total success.

### 6. Long Term Implications:

This isn't just a one-year experiment; we're building a permanent home for fiber arts on our campus. Because the sewing machines and looms we're requesting are durable, high-quality tools, they'll be used by hundreds of students for many years after the 2026-2027 school year ends. This project creates a sustainable pathway for students who might be interested in careers in fashion, interior design, or industrial manufacturing. By establishing this lab now, we're ensuring that fiber arts remains a staple of our fine arts department. The long-term impact is a more diverse, inclusive curriculum that prepares our graduates for specialized design programs and gives them a unique edge in the creative world.

#### 7. Key Personnel:

As the Art Instructor for this grant, I'll be the one steering the ship, in terms of procurement and distribution of supplies. The lessons using the fiber arts will be disseminated by the three art teachers here on our campus. Art teachers will be responsible for teaching students how to safely and effectively use sewing needles/machines, hand stitches, dyeing process and loom usage.

#### 8. Budget Narrative/Justification:

Our budget is a lean, mean, making machine, focused entirely on getting the best tools from our approved district vendors. The bulk of the funds goes toward five reliable sewing machines and several rigid-heddle looms, which are the essential "hardware" needed to meet our curriculum goals. We've also factored in all the "software" like fabric, dyes, and specialized thread, plus a 10% cushion to cover any shipping charges so we stay within our limits. These expenses are justified because quality tools produce quality results and last much longer.

**Waco Education Foundation  
Grant Budget Form**

Assigned Proposal #	36
Project Title:	Sew You Like My Threads!
Number of Students Served by Grant:	525

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>						
6	Cyanotype Sensitizer	Y	\$ 90.00			\$ 90.00
80	Fabric Dye	Y	\$ 320.00			\$ 320.00
1	Beeswax	Y	\$ 190.00			\$ 190.00
10	Paraffin Wax	Y	\$ 160.00			\$ 160.00
60	Yarn	Y	\$ 360.00			\$ 360.00
3	Warp	Y	\$ 60.00			\$ 60.00
9	Embroidery Floss	Y	\$ 90.00			\$ 90.00
9	Muslin Roll	Y	\$ 225.00			\$ 225.00
3	Soda Ash	Y	\$ 25.00			\$ 25.00
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 1,520.00		\$ -	\$ 1,520.00
<b>Technology</b>						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Long-Term Supplies / Equipment</b> (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
6	Sewing Machine	Y	\$ 1,140.00			\$ 1,140.00
90	Embroidery Hoops	Y	\$ 180.00			\$ 180.00
3	Wax Melter	Y	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00
30	Looms	Y	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 1,500.00
9	Sewing Kits	Y	\$ 360.00			\$ 360.00
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 3,480.00		\$ -	\$ 3,480.00

<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>	
		\$ 5,000.00	9.523809524	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	