



**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 #30

Project Title: Mariachi Sombreros

Project Description:

The Mariachi Sombrero Project is a targeted enrichment initiative designed to provide high-quality, professional *sombreros de gala* for the student Mariachi ensemble. While the club provides musical instruction, this project focuses on the visual and cultural integrity of the performance.

Rationale: Fine Arts, Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students, Emphasis on Student Performance and Enrichment

While musical proficiency is developed in the classroom, the **Fine Arts** experience is only complete when students can fully embody the tradition they represent. Currently, our newly formed club lacks the formal headwear essential for authentic Mariachi performance.

- Cultural Authenticity: The sombrero is a symbol of Mexican heritage; performing without it diminishes the visual and historical impact of the art form.
- Student Identity: Providing professional-grade sombreros fosters a sense of belonging and elevates the performance within the community.
- Psychological Readiness: For advanced students, the weight and stature of a traditional sombrero instill a professional stage presence that improves performance confidence.

Goals:

- Enhance Performance Quality: Achieve a professional aesthetic for 100% of public performances.
- Promote Cultural Enrichment: Use the acquisition of the attire as a teaching moment regarding the history and craftsmanship of the *traje de charro*.

Plan of Operation:

We have secured an estimate from Mariachi Connection in San Antonio, Texas. Once we have access to the funds an F-16 will be entered to secure a PO for these funds and place the order.

- Phase 1: Sourcing (Month 1 September): I have already reached out to the owner of Mariachi Connection and met with her personally re: the cost of the sombreros. So all we have to do is enter F-16 and PO.

- Phase 2: Fittings & Care Workshop (Month 2 October): Conduct an educational meeting for students on the proper handling, storage, and history of the sombrero.
- Phase 3: Performance Debut (Month 3,4,5 & 6 November, December, January & February) Integrate the new attire into the school's Fine Arts showcase and local community festivals.
- Phase 4: (Month 7 & 8 Report back how the Sombreros have successfully improved/helped performance presentations.

Communication & Dissemination: Public Performances

We will present our grant at a concert where we will debut the "Sombreros" and report the Waco Education grant's contribution to the Mariachi Program.

- Digital Presence: High-resolution photos of the ensemble in uniform and sombreros will be shared via school newsletters and social media to promote the Fine Arts department.
- Community Outreach: The club will perform at local events, showcasing the investment in student cultural enrichment.

Evaluation:

Once we receive the sombreros and educate the group on proper care and storage we will deem this proposal a success. We would love to hold a special performance time for the Waco Education Foundation members as a thank you for this grant.

This school year we had our very 1st student compete and earn a spot in the Region Level Mariachi Ensemble and will be performing in a concert in April.

We hope to have more students register and compete next year.

Long Term Implications:

This investment is a one-time year cost with a multi-year impact. These sombreros should last many seasons with proper care and storage.

Some have lasted a decade or more ensuring the club's growth doesn't outpace its resources.

This grant includes the cost of sombrero/hat covers to preserve and extend the life of the sombreros.

Key Personnel:

Our Head Band Director/Mariachi Director/Mariachi Sponsor will be the primary personnel to interact and be responsible for these sombreros. The Mariachi Sponsor/Head Band Director/Mariachi Director will work with the Campus Book-Keeper

to facilitate the purchase. We will all work together to insure the proper care and storage of these sombreros.

Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:

This grant is written for the purchase of 30 sombreros and 30 sombrero (hat) covers.

The amount we are asking for this grant is \$1,923.50.

The Mariachi Sponsor has volunteered to drive down to San Antonio, Texas to save on the \$385.00 cost of shipping. This is why shipping is **NOT** included in the budget cost.

Our club is not merely an extracurricular activity; it is a **performance-based enrichment program**. By focusing on advanced students, we create a "trickle-down" mentorship model where younger students strive to earn their place in the ensemble.

The requested funds are not just for "hats"—they are for the **visibility and dignity** of a rising cultural program.

We appreciate the Education Foundation for the time and the opportunity you give teachers to apply for these grants. Our students benefit so much from the financial support these grants provide.

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
		\$ 1,923.50		64.11666667	\$ -		\$ 1,923.50