



**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

Assigned Proposal #: 58

The Sunrise Series: Building Community Through Sequential Literacy

Project Description

The Sunrise Series is a data-driven literacy initiative designed to eliminate reading dead ends. Analysis of our library catalogue shows that 60% of our high-interest series are incomplete (See Appendix A: Series Gap Analysis), creating a barrier to reading stamina for our students. This project completes these high-interest series while launching a weekly read, listen, and follow morning club. By utilizing multi-modal (audio + print) resources, we provide an equitable entry point for reluctant readers and ELL students. This dual-approach transforms the library into an active intervention hub, ensuring that every student has the resources and community support to move from "stalled" to "fluent" lifelong readers.

Rationale

This project aligns with the District Initiative focus area, specifically targeting the Waco ISD Strategic Plan goal to increase grade-level reading proficiency. Data from our library shows that high-engagement series (70+ circulations/book) are fragmented. This project is needed to bridge the fluency gap for our At-Risk population. By removing the physical barrier of missing books and the cognitive barrier of decoding through audio-scaffolding, we align with our Campus Improvement Plan to foster independent reading stamina and attendance through a high-interest morning club.

Goals

1. Complete Narrative Arcs: We will fill 100% of the identified gaps in the top 10 most circulated series (45+ books).
2. Foster Consistency: We will increase sequential checkouts by 30% through targeted series completion.
3. Targeted Intervention: We will engage At-Risk and ELL students in a weekly morning literacy club to improve reading confidence and library engagement.

Plan of Operation

The Sunrise Series begins with a strategic acquisition phase, where we utilize our data-driven "Gap Analysis" to procure the specific missing volumes that currently stall student reading momentum. Once the collection is restored, we will transform the library into a vibrant morning hub. Every Thursday morning, the "Listen & Follow" club will convene, utilizing a combination of Read-Alouds, MackinVIA audiobooks, and projected text to provide an immersive literacy experience. Innovation lies in the multi-delivery model: while the physical club meets for social discussion, every session will be recorded and uploaded to our Library Google Classroom. This ensures that students facing transportation hurdles or morning academic conflicts still have equitable access to the narrative journey. To bridge school and home, we will invite parents to join as guest readers and collaborate with the local public library to ensure students can continue their reading arcs over school breaks. We will also invite community partners to participate as guest readers in-person or virtually. Our visual Series Map posters will serve as the heart of the project, where students move their characters across a landscape of completed books, culminating in a campus-wide series finisher celebration.

Timeline

June 2026: Finalize book list and, if needed, add them to the School Board Book Approval List.

July 2026: Compare pricing between approved vendors to receive the most for our funding.

August 2026: Process order for approved titles. Promote the club with flyers and posters.

September 2026: Launch Sunrise Series Club and distribute reading tracking bookmarks.

December 2026: Midyear review of circulation data. Request review of club member i-Ready data from Beginning of Year assessment and Middle of Year assessment to determine growth.

May 2027: Final evaluation of circulation data and club member testing data. Series finisher award ceremony and celebration.

Communication and Dissemination

We will invite the Foundation Board to observe a Sunrise Series session and participate in the Series Finisher award ceremony (excellent photo opportunity). Results will be shared with the district via a presentation at the Waco ISD Librarian Meeting and request a feature segment on WISD-TV. We will also tag the Foundation in monthly social media updates highlighting our Readers of the Month.

Evaluation

The evaluation strategy moves beyond simple headcounts to measure true behavioral shifts in our readers. We will first leverage the comparisons of year-over-year circulation data, specifically looking for a 25% increase in the "sequential success rate" of our targeted series. By monitoring whether a student successfully checks out Book 3 after finishing Book 2, we can statistically prove that filling catalog gaps directly leads to increased reading stamina.

Furthermore, we will monitor the digital engagement of our asynchronous learners via Google Classroom view counts and participation in digital discussion boards. To capture the instructional impact, we will partner with ELA teachers to track i-Ready growth and fluency benchmarks for our regular attendees. This multi-layered approach ensures we are measuring not only the volume of books being read but the growth in student confidence and their evolving identity as lifelong readers.

Long Term Implications

The legacy of this grant is found in both the physical and cultural changes it brings to our campus. Long after the 2026-2027 school year, the high-durability, library-bound volumes purchased through this initiative will remain as permanent pillars of our collection, serving hundreds of students for years to come. The digital archive of recorded book talks and student-created series trailers will grow into a perpetual resource that future students can access to find their next favorite story.

Culturally, this project establishes a sustainable framework for literacy incentives. By integrating the series finisher rewards into our annual budget, we ensure that the excitement surrounding these milestones is self-funded for the long term. This initiative doesn't just buy books; it builds a repeatable, scalable model of community-based reading that will continue to narrow the literacy gap for every student who enters our doors.

Key Personnel

Campus Librarian: Responsible for data analysis, book procurement, and club facilitation.

ELA/ELL Department Chair: Responsible for student referrals to the club (if not already attending), alignment with classroom literacy goals, and provides student data that they and the librarian will disseminate.

Budget Narrative/Justification

The budget of \$1,250.00 is itemized to maximize student impact:

- Books (\$832.50): Hardcover library-bound books for durability (cost includes shipping).
- Audio Licenses (\$180.00): Necessary for the "multi-modal" instructional component.
- Incentives (\$175.00): Incentive amount is justified to gamify the series Finisher goal, creating a visible reading culture on campus, while also allowing for personal goal attainment with smaller incentives.
- Progress Tracking Posters (\$62.50): This amount provides for three (one per campus grade level) professionally printed posters, to be displayed in the library, that students will use to track their own progress through each series.

Appendix A: Series Gap Analysis (Priority Funding List)

This table identifies the "Literacy Dead-Ends" within our current collection. The missing volumes listed represent the specific series requested for purchase to fill gaps and restore narrative continuity.

Priority	Series Name	Critical Gaps	Total Historical Circulations
1	The Baby-Sitters Club	2, 4, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16	723
2	Diary of a Wimpy Kid	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10	484
3	Dragon Ball Super	3, 10, 15	436
4	I Survived	8, 12, 14, 21	441
5	Yotsuba&!	4	366
6	Wings of Fire	4, 6, 7, 11, 14	107
7	Tegami Bachi	2	236
8	Dork Diaries	4, 8, 12, 14	726
9	The Crossover	2	95
10	Track Series (Ghost)	3, 4	88

Waco Education Foundation Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	58
Project Title:	The Sunrise Series: Building Community Through Sequential Literacy
Number of Students Served by Grant:	600

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						
100	Custom Enamel "Series Finisher" Brag Tags and other incentives for reaching personal goals	Y	\$ 175.00			\$ 175.00
3	Instructional Progress Tracking Posters	Y	\$ 62.50			\$ 62.50
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 237.50		\$ -	\$ 237.50
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
45	High Interest Series Gap Titles	Y	\$ 832.50			\$ 832.50
4	Multi-User Audiobook/Ebook Licenses	Y	\$ 180.00			\$ 180.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ 1,012.50		\$ -	\$ 1,012.50
Contracted Services						
						\$ -
						\$ -
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
			\$ 1,250.00	2.083333333	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00