



WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
COVER SHEET – PART II  
Application for Grant:  
2026-2027 Funding Cycle

Assigned Grant Proposal #: 67

Project Title: Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab

Grade Level(s): Pre-K, Kinder # of Students DIRECTLY involved: 100

Subject Area(s): Science, Art, Math, Engineering

Amount Requested: \$ 1,402

**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)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Development     | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Education for Staff    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on Student Performance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STEM                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrichment           |

# Proposal #67

## Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab

### Project Description:

This project transforms Pre-K and Kindergarten sensory stations into a structured inquiry lab that bridges tactile art with STEM literacy. Over 20 weeks, students will shift from open play to guided exploration, using the scientific method to predict, observe, and evaluate tools. These stations reinforce classroom themes through foundational math—sorting, measuring, and comparing—while fostering peer collaboration. By turning sensory play into a platform for critical thinking, this initiative builds early academic confidence and ensures that tactile experiences directly support core numeracy and analytical reasoning standards.

### #1

This project drives the district's one-year growth goal by using sensory art to bridge the "experience gap" often found in Title 1 settings. By physically manipulating materials, students master Math TEKS like partitioning and measurement, while building the rich background knowledge and academic vocabulary (e.g., *viscosity*, *symmetry*, *attributes*) essential for Reading comprehension. This inquiry-based approach ensures our youngest learners develop the analytical confidence and "STEM identity" needed to meet rigorous academic targets. Not to mention, students LOVE anything tactile and sensory.

## Proposal #67

### **Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab**

They are guaranteed to be engaged and doors will be open to make endless connections and growth in their background knowledge.

### **#2**

My goal is to integrate these terms into the art room to ensure students are not just "playing," but are actively practicing the high-level vocabulary required for **1-year's growth** in Reading and Math in their future years. I also aim for students to build on their background knowledge in Non-Fiction text and sciences by having hands-on experience with real-world materials and engage in scientific conversations with their peers.

Here are the top 5 academic terms students will master through my 20-week sensory inquiry:

1. **Attribute (Math/Science):** Students will identify specific characteristics (color, shape, texture) to categorize objects, directly supporting **classification and data literacy** [K.8B].
2. **Capacity (Math):** Through "scoop and fill" tasks, students develop a physical understanding of **volume and measurement**, moving from "full" to "more than/less than" [K.7B].
3. **Ferromagnetic (Science):** By using magnetic wands in the rice stations, students learn to predict and test which metals (iron, nickel, cobalt) react to **magnetic forces** [K.6B].

## Proposal #67

### Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab

- 4. Partition (Math):** Using cutters to divide kinetic sand into equal parts introduces the foundational concept of **fractions and fair sharing** [K.6F].
- 5. Viscosity (Science):** By comparing how materials like water-based ink, kinetic sand, and Play-Doh flow or hold shape, students investigate the **physical properties of matter** [K.5A].

### #3

**Below I have listed my 20 week plan for the sensory station. I plan to involve the parents and school community by creating a mini art newsletter every month with a student spotlight that shows a picture and explanation of what we are learning about that month/week. This newsletter will be posted on Parent Square so that the school community can read and engage with what we are learning.**

#### **Sand Sensory**

**Week 1** Tools : Scoop with measuring spoons to fill a larger container. Which scoop is best for the job? Why?

**Week 2** Seek and Find: How many mini items can you find using tweezers? Sort them by color using the plastic cupcake liners. How else can you sort them. How can knowing how to sort items by their physical appearance help us in real life?

**Week 3** Tools: Use the strainers to find the minis. How many can you find? How can the minis be sorted? What other tool might be better for us to find minis? How can we use strainers in real life? How can we use strainers for a real life job?

**Week 4** Seek and Find: Use brushes and beach claws to find seashells. How many can you find of each shape? Can you sort them by texture or shape? How might the texture of these seashells be useful in real life?

#### **Kinetic Sand Sensory**

# Proposal #67

## Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab

**Week 5** Tools: Use a melon baller to make round balls of kinetic sand. Can you do this with regular sand? Why not? How many can you make? Can you stack them or pick them up? Why/Why not?

**Week 6** Tools: Use the stamper tools and wooden loose parts to make different shapes in the sand. Which loose parts can you use to make smooth curved lines? Which loose parts can you use to make straight lines? Can you layer them to make designs? What jobs can we use these tools in in real life?

**Week 7** Tools: Use the cutters to cut the sand into as many equal parts as you can. How do you know all of the parts are equal? Are there some shapes that are more difficult to cut into equal parts? Why/why not?

**Week 8** Explore: Use animal track stamps to make tracks in the sand. What animal do you think these tracks belong to? How are the different tracks alike? Can you tell which animals walk on land and which animals fly or climb?

## Rainbow Rice

**Week 9** Tools: Use mini shovels to scoop rice into pitchers. Use pitchers to pour rice into mini jars and seal them. How many can you fill? Which containers do you think hold more rice?

**Week 10** Tools: Use scoops and funnels to fill and close jars. Predict which will be heavier and use scales to find an answer.

**Week 11** Seek and Find: Use mini spoons and magnifying glasses to try and find different insect specimens in the rice. What insects did you find? Did you notice what was alike and different between these insects? What features do they have? Why do you think they have that?

**Week 12** Seek and Find: Use magnetic wands to find items that are ferromagnetic. What is the same and different about items that stick to the magnetic wand and those that don't? (iron, nickel, cobalt)

## Play Doh

## Proposal #67

### Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab

**Week 13** Tools: Use rolling pins to flatten play doh and cutters to cut into different shapes. How can we use these tools to create the shapes we want? How can these tools be useful for real life?

**Week 14** Tools: Use rolling pins to flatten dough and then use loose parts and texture roller balls to create different textures. Where have you seen these textures before? How are these textures useful in real life?

**Week 15** Explore: Making impressions of different animals and footprints just like fossils. How do you think fossils are made? What can fossils tell us about different animals and living things? How are fossils like photographs?

**Week 16** Explore: Using ravioli tools to make pasta or clay tools to create your own creatures or jewelry. How do people use these skills in real life jobs?

### Beads

**Week 17** Tools: Use shoelaces to practice making patterns of shape, color, and texture necklaces.

**Week 18** Seek and Find: Use different pincers, tools, magnifying glasses, and tongs to look for objects that do not belong. Which items do not belong? How do you know? What other items might not belong?

**Week 19** Tools: Use scoops and funnels to find and sort the small and large sized objects.

**Week 20** Seek and Find: Use color lens paddles and pincers to find objects by color. Does using the same color paddle or the opposite color paddle help you find the objects you need? Why or why not?

### Extra: Rocks

**Week 21** Seek and Find: Go on a rock hunt and search your bin for various rocks such as Amethyst, Rose Quartz, Jasper, Pyrite, Etc.

**Week 22** Investigate: Sort rocks by texture using magnifying glasses. What do you think happens to these rocks to change their texture? What would be practical uses for these rocks in real life? How else can these rocks be sorted?

## Proposal #67

### **Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab**

**Week 23** Tools: Select 2 rocks/crystals that look about the same size. Which do you think is heavier? Use the weight balance to find out if your prediction was correct. Why do you think it was/wasn't? Do you think bumpy rocks weigh more than smooth rocks? Do colorful rocks weigh less than dark color rocks? Why do you think this is so?

#### **#4**

I plan to invite the Foundation to come in to observe and engage with the students openly and share photos as we finish up each 4 week section. I would love to share CLI growth results for our campus in the areas of math and science from our early learners for the year that my grant is put into the works.

#### **#5**

Effectiveness will be determined based on student growth on CLI testing in the areas of math and science and student engagement as each 4 week section is introduced.

#### **#6**

The majority of materials I am asking for (apart from play doh as it dries out) are long term supplies meant to be used each year for the same TEKS and lessons as students grow and move into higher grades. I plan to make adjustments in my questions and tasks using the same tools each year as new gaps and needs arise in student learning. I intend to keep my same exploration and inquiry-based framework.

#### **#7**

I will take full responsibility for maintaining and organizing all materials as well as executing lessons and introducing the Sensory Lab each month. My qualifications are that I am the full time art teacher and each week I have time cut out to introduce new stations, manage expectations and utilize recorded voice buttons to keep students on-task with their assigned questions and objectives.

#### **#8**

## Proposal #67

### Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientists Lab

**Consumable Supplies are listed under line item 7.** The only consumable item that I will have to replace is play-doh as it tends to dry out after long-term use especially when it is being used daily. Play-doh will be used as one of my month-long sensory fillers.

**Long-Term Supplies are detailed in Line items 16-74 .** Line items 16-19 detail the other 4 sensory fillers that will be used monthly for students to explore. Line items 20-21 account for storage containers to maintain a neat and orderly classroom as well as to manage materials and keep them usable for the longest amount of time possible. Line items 22-52 detail a wide variety of tools for students to filter, measure, sort, inspect, investigate, scoop, and pour with. The more hands-on experience students have using these tools, the better problem-solving skills and connections students will have to build on in the future. Line items 53-61 are a variety of different sized containers and jars that students will be able to sort and measure various items and sensory fillers with. These different sized containers help students practice fine motor coordination by opening/closing different containers, justifying how they sort items and estimating weight and volume of containers made of different materials. Items 62-74 include a variety of rock and crystal specimens, insect and animal specimens encased in resin, miniature figures and beads, and seashells. All of these items will be in rotation for students to observe, investigate, make predictions and connections with, sort, touch, and have academic discussions with their peers about.

# Waco Education Foundation Grant Budget Form

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Assigned Proposal #                 | 67   |
| Project Title:                      | Seek, Sort, and Solve: Sensory Scientist Lab |
| Number of Students Served by Grant: | 100  |

| Qty  | Budget Item                | Verify Vendor<br>(Y or N) | \$ Requested<br>from the WISD<br>Foundation | Other Secured<br>Source | \$ from Other<br>Source (if<br>applicable) | Total Amount |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Consumable Supplies</b>   |                            |                           |   |                         |  |              |
| 2  | Play-Doh Class Pack        | Y                         | \$ 87.70                                    |                         |  | \$ 87.70     |
| total Consumable Supplies  |                            |                           | \$ 87.70                                    |                         | \$ -                                       | \$ 87.70     |
| <b>Technology</b>  |                            |                           |   |                         |  |              |
|  |                            |                           |   |                         |  | \$ -         |
|  |                            |                           |   |                         |  | \$ -         |
| total Technology   |                            |                           | \$ -  |                         | \$ -                                       | \$ -         |
| <b>Long-Term Supplies / Equipment</b> (items that will last beyond the grant year) |                            |                           |   |                         |  |              |
| 1  | Colored Sand               | Y                         | \$ 67.99                                    |                         |  | \$ 67.99     |
| 8  | Kinetic Sand               | Y                         | \$ 135.92                                   |                         |  | \$ 135.92    |
| 6  | Rainbow Rice               | Y                         | \$ 131.94                                   |                         |  | \$ 131.94    |
| 1  | Beads                      | Y                         | \$ 24.99                                    |                         |  | \$ 24.99     |
| 2  | Storage Containers         | Y                         | \$ 60.98                                    |                         |  | \$ 60.98     |
| 3  | Medium Storage Containers  | Y                         | \$ 70.00                                    |                         |  | \$ 70.00     |
| 1  | Regular Wooden Spoons      | Y                         | \$ 16.99                                    |                         |  | \$ 16.99     |
| 1  | Mini Shovels               | Y                         | \$ 13.99                                    |                         |  | \$ 13.99     |
| 4  | Measuring Spoons (8 Piece) | Y                         | \$ 40.00                                    |                         |  | \$ 40.00     |
| 1  | Tweezers                   | Y                         | \$ 9.99                                     |                         |  | \$ 9.99      |
| 2  | Silicone Mini Tongs        | Y                         | \$ 17.98                                    |                         |  | \$ 17.98     |
| 1  | Hand Held Strainers        | Y                         | \$ 17.59                                    |                         |  | \$ 17.59     |
| 1  | Paint Brushes              | Y                         | \$ 6.99                                     |                         |  | \$ 6.99      |
| 5  | Mini Beach Claws           | Y                         | \$ 52.00                                    |                         |  | \$ 52.00     |

|   |  |   |          |  |          |
|---|--|---|----------|--|----------|
| 5 | Double Melon Ballers                       | Y | \$ 27.00 |  | \$ 27.00 |
| 5 | Kinetic Sand Stampers                      | Y | \$ 36.25 |  | \$ 36.25 |
| 3 | Kinetic Sand Cutter Tools                  | Y | \$ 67.00 |  | \$ 67.00 |
| 1 | Animal Track Stamps                        | Y | \$ 25.99 |  | \$ 25.99 |
| 1 | Tiny Shovel Spoons                         | Y | \$ 7.77  |  | \$ 7.77  |
| 1 | Small Funnels                              | Y | \$ 9.99  |  | \$ 9.99  |
| 1 | Wide Mouth Funnels                         | Y | \$ 22.19 |  | \$ 22.19 |
| 1 | Plastic Mini Spoons                        | Y | \$ 22.99 |  | \$ 22.99 |
| 1 | Magnifying Glasses                         | Y | \$ 7.59  |  | \$ 7.59  |
| 3 | Magnetic Wand Mania                        | Y | \$ 60.00 |  | \$ 60.00 |
| 1 | Rolling Pins                               | Y | \$ 19.99 |  | \$ 19.99 |
| 2 | Texture Rollers                            | Y | \$ 20.00 |  | \$ 20.00 |
| 2 | Texture Balls                              | Y | \$ 20.00 |  | \$ 20.00 |
| 4 | Plah Doh Cutters                           | Y | \$ 28.00 |  | \$ 28.00 |
| 4 | Ravioli Tools                              | Y | \$ 40.00 |  | \$ 40.00 |
| 4 | Clay Tools                                 | Y | \$ 36.00 |  | \$ 36.00 |
| 2 | Lattice Rollers                            | Y | \$ 20.00 |  | \$ 20.00 |
| 3 | Zen Garden Tools                           | Y | \$ 36.00 |  | \$ 36.00 |
| 1 | Sand Molding Tools                         | Y | \$ 14.99 |  | \$ 14.99 |
| 1 | Shoelaces                                  | Y | \$ 11.59 |  | \$ 11.59 |
| 1 | Tongs                                      | Y | \$ 9.99  |  | \$ 9.99  |
| 2 | Color Lense Paddles                        | Y | \$ 20.00 |  | \$ 20.00 |
| 2 | Nestable Balance                           | Y | \$ 27.80 |  | \$ 27.80 |
| 1 | Spherical Plastic Jars (15                 | Y | \$ 19.99 |  | \$ 19.99 |
| 1 | Potion Shaped Jars (30                     | Y | \$ 28.97 |  | \$ 28.97 |
| 1 | Reusable Cupcake Liners<br>Assorted Colors | Y | \$ 9.99  |  | \$ 9.99  |
| 2 | Mini Pitchers                              | Y | \$ 29.98 |  | \$ 29.98 |
| 1 | Mini Jars 2 oz                             | Y | \$ 16.99 |  | \$ 16.99 |
| 1 | Small Jars 4 oz                            | Y | \$ 20.99 |  | \$ 20.99 |
| 2 | Assorted Plastic Bottles                   | Y | \$ 39.98 |  | \$ 39.98 |
| 1 | Black 1 oz Sorting Jars                    | Y | \$ 14.99 |  | \$ 14.99 |
| 1 | Black 2 oz Sorting Jars                    | Y | \$ 17.99 |  | \$ 17.99 |

|                            |                             |   |                                    |                                 |                              |             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 6                          | Assorted Mini Resin Objects | Y   | \$ 59.54                           |                                 |                              | \$ 59.54    |
| 1                          | Assorted Seashells          | Y   | \$ 9.99                            |                                 |                              | \$ 9.99     |
| 1                          | Wooden Loose Parts          | Y   | \$ 45.99                           |                                 |                              | \$ 45.99    |
| 2                          | Alphabet Beads              | Y   | \$ 17.00                           |                                 |                              | \$ 17.00    |
| 1                          | Clear Candy Beads           | Y   | \$ 9.98                            |                                 |                              | \$ 9.98     |
| 1                          | Polymer Clay Beads          | Y   | \$ 7.99                            |                                 |                              | \$ 7.99     |
| 1                          | Butterfly Specimens         | Y   | \$ 21.99                           |                                 |                              | \$ 21.99    |
| 1                          | Octopus Specimen            | Y   | \$ 19.99                           |                                 |                              | \$ 19.99    |
| 1                          | Real Insect Specimen        | Y   | \$ 22.95                           |                                 |                              | \$ 22.95    |
| 1                          | Beetle and Butterfly        | Y   | \$ 26.99                           |                                 |                              | \$ 26.99    |
| 1                          | Bat Specimen                | Y   | \$ 16.99                           |                                 |                              | \$ 16.99    |
| 3                          | Plastic Animals             | Y   | \$ 29.97                           |                                 |                              | \$ 29.97    |
| 1                          | Assorted Rocks and Crystals | Y   | \$ 139.99                          |                                 |                              | \$ 139.99   |
| total Long-Term Supplies   |                             |   | \$ 1,314.92                        |                                 | \$ -                         | \$ 1,314.92 |
| <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> |             |
|                            |                             | \$ 1,402.62                                     | 14.0262                            | \$ -                            | \$ 1,402.62                  |             |