



**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 # 71



Beyond the Classroom: Minds in Motion

Project Description:

Beyond the Classroom: Minds in Motion will provide students with a hands-on learning experience at the Mayborn Museum in Waco. This project brings science, history, and critical-thinking concepts to life through interactive exhibits and guided learning activities. By extending learning beyond the school walls, students will deepen their understanding of classroom content, strengthen curiosity, and build background knowledge that supports academic success. This experience aims to inspire a love of learning while expanding access to enrichment opportunities for all students.

1. Rationale:

This project aligns with the Waco Education Foundation's focus on creative classroom experiences, as it provides students with an engaging, real-world learning opportunity that cannot be replicated inside the classroom. It supports both District and Campus Improvement Plans by promoting student engagement, strengthening core academic knowledge, and expanding enrichment opportunities that foster critical thinking.

Many of our students have limited access to museums or hands-on educational experiences outside of school. This trip helps bridge that gap by providing meaningful exposure to science, history, and cultural exhibits. Although the need does not determine funding, this project addresses barriers to enrichment and supports equitable learning experiences for all students.

2. **Goals:**

Strengthen students' understanding of science and social studies TEKS through direct interaction with museum exhibits.

Foster curiosity, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills through experiential learning.

Expand background knowledge to support reading comprehension and classroom success.

Promote collaboration, communication, and real-world application of academic concepts.

Provide equitable access to enriching learning experiences for all students.

3. **Plan of Operation:**

The project centers around a full-day educational visit to the Mayborn Museum. Prior to the trip, teachers will introduce key concepts that students will encounter during the visit. During the visit, each class will rotate through interactive exhibits, participate in hands-on STEM activities, and engage in guided learning opportunities connected to grade-level TEKS.

Timeline

- **August–September:** Introduce units connected to the museum exhibits; communicate plans with families.
- **October:** Trip to the Mayborn Museum; parent volunteers assist with supervision.
- **November:** Follow-up lessons, reflection activities, writing assignments, and classroom projects.
- **December:** Share outcomes with administration and district colleagues.

Community/Parent Involvement

Parents will be invited to serve as chaperones, giving them the opportunity to share in this learning experience alongside the students. After the trip, students will share what they learned with parents and community members through a classroom showcase where they can present their discoveries and reflections.

4. Communication & Dissemination:

We will invite the Waco Education Foundation to join us on the field trip. We will share photos and updates (with appropriate permissions) via any social-media, and highlight the Foundation's support. Additionally, we are willing to present the project results at a Foundation meeting, staff development session, or through district platforms such as WISD-TV, newsletters, or campus professional learning communities. This ensures the project's impact is shared widely across the district.

5. Evaluation:

Success will be measured through:

- Student reflections and writing samples connecting museum experiences to classroom learning.
- Teacher observation of increased engagement and understanding during follow-up lessons.
- Standards-aligned assessments showing improvement or mastery of related TEKS.
- Surveys or exit tickets capturing student interest, curiosity, and knowledge gained from the trip.

6. Long Term Implications:

The experiences gained from this trip will have lasting academic benefits by strengthening background knowledge, vocabulary, and real-world connections that support future learning. Teachers will retain all lesson plans, extension activities, and resources to continue integrating museum-based learning in future years. The project also builds a model for continued partnerships with

local museums and community organizations to sustain beyond the 2026–2027 school year.

7. Key Personnel:

Classroom Teachers: Plan and deliver pre- and post-museum lessons, coordinate schedules, supervise students, and lead academic integration.

Campus Administration: Approve trip logistics, support communication with families, and assist with scheduling and transportation.

Parent Volunteers: Provide supervision, assist students during activities, and support transitions throughout the day.

Museum Education Staff: Facilitate hands-on learning activities and provide guided instruction that supports academic curriculum.

8. Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification:

The requested funds will support transportation, admission, and educational materials for all 3rd-grade students participating in *Beyond the Classroom: Minds in Motion*. These expenses ensure that every student—regardless of financial circumstances—can take part in this hands-on learning experience.

Projected Costs

- **Line #40-Student Admission to the Mayborn Museum** – \$7 per student × \$80 = \$560
This covers full access to the museum
- **Chaperone/Teacher Admission** – Free entry for teachers/staff (1:10 ratio)
Required to provide adequate supervision and ensure a safe, structured visit.
- **Line #41-Transportation (School Bus Rental)** – \$300 per bus × 2 buses = \$600
Transportation is necessary to safely travel to and from the museum.
- **Line #7-Educational Materials/Pre- and Post-Lesson Supplies** – \$83.97
Includes journals, reflection materials, and hands-on extensions used

before and after the museum visit to deepen learning and connect the experience to grade-level TEKS.

- **Line #8- First Aid Kit-** \$69.93 Basic first aid supplies are essential to ensure student safety during the field trip.

Every line item directly supports equitable participation and enhances the educational impact of this project. Admission and transportation are essential for ensuring all students can attend, including those who would otherwise be unable to access enrichment opportunities. The museum is a key instructional partner whose exhibits align with our science and social studies curriculum, making the cost of admission an investment in academic growth.

Educational materials allow teachers to extend the museum learning into the classroom through writing, reflection, STEM challenges, and follow-up lessons. These items help students process their experience, demonstrate learning, and build meaningful connections to the curriculum.

The requested funds ensure that this opportunity is accessible, instructionally purposeful, and aligned with both district and campus academic goals.

Waco Education Foundation				Assigned Proposal #	71	
Grant Budget Form				Project Title:	Beyond the Classroom: Minds in Motion	
				Number of Students Served by Grant:		75
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						
3	Mlni Journal	Y	\$ 83.97			\$ 83.97
7	First Aid Kit	Y	\$ 69.93			\$ 69.93
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 153.90		\$ -	\$ 153.90
Technology						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Technology			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Long-Term Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Contracted Services						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Contracted Services			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Personnel						
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Personnel			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other						
75	Mayborn Museum-entrance students	N	\$ 560.00			\$ 560.00

2	Bus	Y	\$ 600.00			\$ 600.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ 1,160.00		\$ -	\$ 1,160.00
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation		Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
		\$ 1,313.90		\$17.52	\$ -	\$ 1,313.90