



**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)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> STEM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment |

Assigned Proposal # 80

Project Title: Marching Forward: Investing in Percussion For Our School and Community

Project Description

"Marching Forward" aims to replace our current marching percussion equipment, which is over 20 years old and reaching a point of total failure. Currently, our 7th and 8th-grade students are forced to use gear that is heavy, breaking, and difficult to maintain. This project will provide modern, lightweight drums and ergonomic carriers, allowing our students to perform safely and professionally. By upgrading this equipment, we are giving our percussionists the chance to represent our school at the Waco ISD Band Fest and local community events with a sound and look that matches their hard work.

1. Rationale

This project directly addresses a Creative Classroom need and a District Initiative for community engagement. Our school is frequently called upon by local organizations and neighborhood associations to provide a drumline for grand openings, parades, and spirit events. Currently, we must decline these invitations because our students lack age-appropriate gear. "Marching Forward" bridges this gap, allowing our students to fulfill their roles as student-ambassadors. By answering the school community's call for a drumline, we increase the visibility of WISD's fine arts excellence and foster a sense of civic pride.

2. Goals

- Skill Mastery: 100% of enrolled 7th/8th-grade percussionists will demonstrate proficiency in "marching and playing" fundamentals by the end of the fall semester.
- Retention: Increase the transition rate of middle school percussionists to the high school marching program by 30%.
- Community Presence: Establish a "Mobile Drumline" capable of performing at community-wide events annually.

3. Plan of Operation

Project Description:

"Marching Forward" is a comprehensive performance and pedagogy initiative designed to integrate 7th and 8th-grade percussionists into the physical and musical world of the marching arts. By acquiring industry-standard marching drums and ergonomic carriers, we shift from a stationary concert-only curriculum to a dynamic, mobile ensemble. This investment ensures that the feeder program for our high school remains strong, as students will no longer be discouraged by outdated, breaking gear, but rather inspired by professional-grade tools.

Objectives & Strategies:

Objective 1 (Technical): Students will master the "matched grip" and "moving-while-playing" techniques specific to marching percussion.

Strategy: Weekly "Masterclass Mondays" focusing on rhythmic precision and "Movement Clinics" for safe instrument carriage.

- Objective 2 (Community): Provide a high-energy "Drumline-on-Demand" for campus and local events.
- Strategy: Establish a leadership team to perform at school-wide and community-requested functions.
- Objective 3 (Vertical Alignment): Bridge the gap between middle school and high school percussion standards.
- Strategy: Joint rehearsals and "Mass Band" performances with local high school programs.
- Detailed Timeline/Calendar (2026-2027):
- August 2026: Equipment Fitting & Safety. Inventory arrival and custom fitting of ergonomic harnesses. Students will learn proper spine alignment and instrument care.
- September 2026: Campus Integration. The drumline begins performing for morning arrival and pep rallies, providing the "heartbeat" of school spirit.
- October 2026: Waco ISD Band Fest. Students prepare and perform marching band tunes as part of a Mass Band. They will stand and perform alongside high school percussionists, experiencing the scale and sound of a full district-wide ensemble.
- November – December 2026: Community Outreach. The drumline fulfills community requests, serving as mobile ambassadors for the district.
- January – March 2027: Advanced Technique. Focus shifts to high-level rudimental solos and ensemble pieces in preparation for spring showcases.
- April 2027: Night of Percussion. A capstone spring concert featuring a dedicated "Marching Showcase." This event highlights the year-long growth of the 7th and 8th-grade sections for parents and the community.
- May 2027: Transition & Recruitment. 8th graders participate in "HS Shadow Days," while the drumline visits elementary schools to recruit the next generation of WISD musicians.
- School-Community Partners:
- Waco ISD High School Band Programs: Providing mentorship and "Mass Band" coordination.
- District Fine Arts Department: Support for the WISD Band Fest logistics

4. Communication & Dissemination

Foundation Recognition & Promotion:

Our grant proposal offers a unique, high-visibility opportunity to promote the Waco Education Foundation. We are eager to feature the drumline at district events, such as board meetings, annual fundraisers. The ensemble provides a high-energy, mobile "soundtrack" that can lead processions or provide fanfare, during which we will publicly announce the Foundation's role in providing this equipment. We will also include the Foundation's logo on our "Night of Percussion" programs and social media posts, reaching hundreds of local families.

Observation & Photo Opportunities:

The Foundation is formally invited to observe the drumline in action during the Waco ISD Band Fest and our spring Night of Percussion. These events provide excellent photo and video opportunities to showcase "Creative Classroom" funding in a dynamic, high-impact environment.

District Dissemination & Staff Development:

To ensure the success of this project benefits the entire district, we plan to share our results through the following channels:

WISD-TV & Social Media: We will produce a video feature for WISD-TV, highlighting the growth of the students from their first rehearsal to their final performance.

Staff Development: I am willing to present a session during Waco ISD Fine Arts Professional Development days. This presentation will focus on the "Middle School to High School Transition," sharing our data on student retention and the pedagogical strategies used to implement a marching percussion curriculum at the middle school level.

Director Collaboration: We will host an "Open Rehearsal" for other WISD Middle School Band Directors to observe our teaching methods and equipment integration, fostering a district-wide standard of percussion excellence.

5. Evaluation

Success will be measured through a combination of quantitative and qualitative data:

Growth Rubrics: Students will be evaluated using a proficiency rubric, tracking their progress from the initial August fitting to the final May performance.

Retention Tracking: We will track the percentage of 8th-grade percussionists who enroll in high school marching band for the 2027-2028 school year, with a target increase of 20%.

Community Impact Log: We will maintain a log of all community performances, including event types, estimated audience reach, and feedback from event organizers.

Foundation Exposure: Documentation of all events where the Waco Education Foundation was promoted or featured via the drumline's performance.

6. Long Term Implications

By replacing 20-year-old inventory with this high-quality Pearl and Yamaha equipment, we are setting the stage for the next two decades of percussion excellence. These instruments are built to last, and because we are also requesting specialized Pearl MSS3000 stands, we will be able to keep the drums off the floor and in pristine condition. This investment ensures that the "feeder" program for our high school remains strong, as students will no longer be discouraged by outdated, breaking gear, but rather inspired by professional-grade tools.

7. Key Personnel

Band Director: Oversight of community scheduling and alignment with district safety policies. Track and collect inventory data on equipment.

Percussion Instructor: Technical training and maintenance of the new marching inventory. Teach students how to play instruments.

8. Budget and Budget Narrative

Yamaha MQLS-8023 6300 Series Power-Lite Marching Toms - Small Quad, White Wrap Certified Open Box \$721.99

Dynasty Multi-tenor Drum Stand \$309.99

Dynasty T-Bar Multi-Tenor Drum Carrier \$309.95

Pearl Jr. Marching Bass Drum Stand \$253.99

Pearl MSS3000 Marching Snare Stand with Adjustable Legs \$239.95

Meinl Cymbals Bronze Student Range Crash Cymbals - 16 inch (1-pair), Traditional \$269.99

Vic Firth Corpsmaster Signature Snare Sticks - Mike Jackson \$14.99

Vic Firth Corpsmaster John Mapes Tenor Drumsticks \$15.49

Vic Firth Corpsmaster Bass Drum Mallets - Medium Head - Hard - \$43.97

Budget Narrative & Justification

The equipment selected for our grant is specifically curated to bridge the gap between middle school physical development and high school performance standards.

Right-Sized Instruments: The Yamaha Power-Lite Quads and Dynasty T-Bar Carrier are designed for younger frames. This ensures that students can learn complex marching drill without the risk of injury associated with oversized, heavy professional gear. By sourcing a "Certified Open Box" set of tenors, we are able to maximize the grant funds while still receiving a high-quality instrument.

Infrastructure for Longevity: A significant portion of this budget is dedicated to Pearl and Dynasty specialized stands. In a middle school environment, instruments are most often damaged when set on the ground or handled improperly. These stands allow the drums to be played at the correct height during our "Night of Percussion" and concert rehearsals, significantly extending the life of the instruments. The adjustable legs on the snare stands are essential for outdoor use on uneven surfaces during community events.

Performance Essentials: The Meinl Cymbals and Vic Firth Mallets provide the professional "marching" sound required for the Waco ISD Band Fest. These are not standard concert sticks; they are designed for the high-tension environment of marching percussion.

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