



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

Assigned Grant Proposal #: 81

Project Title: Pequeños Creadores: A Bilingual STEM & SEL Initiative

Grade Level(s): PreK - 5th # of Students DIRECTLY involved: 400

Subject Area(s): Reading

Amount Requested: \$ 1,300.00

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 type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STEM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literacy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrichment |

Grant Proposal #81 Provident Heights Elementary

Pequeños Creadores: A Bilingual STEM & SEL Initiative

Project Description



Pequeños Creadores: A Bilingual STEM & SEL Initiative will introduce students to hands-on STEM learning and social-emotional development through the use of a classroom 3D printer. This grant will fund the purchase and integration of the FLASHFORGE Adventurer 5M Pro 3D Printer to support bilingual learners as they explore creativity, engineering concepts, and collaborative problem-solving.

Through guided activities, students will observe how digital ideas become physical objects using 3D printing technology. Students will brainstorm ideas, draw designs, and work together to transform their ideas into printed models. These activities encourage early problem-solving, creativity, and communication while strengthening language development in both English and students' home languages.

The printer's enclosed design, child-safe features, and one-click printing system allow teachers to safely demonstrate advanced technology while engaging students in developmentally appropriate STEM learning experiences.

The project intentionally integrates **STEM learning with social-emotional learning (SEL)** by encouraging collaboration, discussion, reflection, and peer support throughout the design and creation process. Students will learn that innovation begins with imagination and teamwork.

1. Rationale

The **Pequeños Creadores** initiative aligns closely with the **Creative Classroom Project** focus area supported by the Waco Education Foundation. This project brings innovative technology into the classroom and transforms traditional learning into an interactive, student-centered experience.

The project also supports district and campus improvement plans by strengthening:

- Early STEM exposure
- Language development for bilingual learners
- Student engagement through hands-on learning
- Social-emotional growth and collaborative learning

Many bilingual students benefit from learning experiences that allow them to communicate ideas through multiple modalities, including visual design, discussion, and hands-on creation. 3D printing provides a powerful platform for bridging language development and STEM exploration.

By integrating technology with creativity and collaboration, students develop critical thinking skills while building confidence as problem-solvers and innovators.

2. Goals

The **Pequeños Creadores** project aims to achieve the following goals:

1. Develop Early STEM Skills

Students will explore foundational STEM concepts such as design, structure, and cause-and-effect through 3D printing activities.

2. Support Bilingual Language Development

Students will engage in discussions, storytelling, and design explanations in both English and their home language.

3. Foster Creativity and Innovation

Students will design original models based on stories, drawings, and classroom learning themes.

4. Strengthen Social-Emotional Learning

Students will practice collaboration, communication, and teamwork while working together on design and printing projects.

5. Increase Student Engagement

Hands-on technology will motivate students to participate actively in classroom learning.

Expected outcomes include increased student participation in STEM activities, improved collaboration skills, and stronger confidence in expressing ideas.

3. Plan of Operation

Program Implementation

Teachers will introduce students to the 3D printing process through demonstrations and guided discussions. Students will learn that ideas can be transformed into physical objects through design and technology.

Activities will include:

- Teacher demonstrations of the 3D printing process
- Student brainstorming sessions in English and home languages
- Drawing and planning simple design ideas
- Collaborative group discussions about problem-solving
- Printing classroom-created designs connected to curriculum topics
- Reflection discussions about what worked and what could be improved

These activities integrate **critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and collaboration** while supporting early STEM learning.

Timeline

August–September 2026

- Purchase and set up the 3D printer
- Teacher training and safety procedures
- Introduction to STEM concepts and design thinking

October–December 2026

- Student brainstorming and drawing activities
- Teacher-led 3D printing demonstrations
- First classroom print projects

January–March 2027

- Collaborative design challenges
- Bilingual storytelling connected to printed models
- Student reflections on the design process

April–May 2027

- Culminating STEM showcase
- Students present their printed creations
- Program reflection and evaluation

Parent and Community Involvement

Family engagement is an important part of the **Pequeños Creadores** initiative.

Parents will be invited to participate through:

- Classroom newsletters explaining student projects
- Invitations to a **STEM Family Night** where students showcase their creations
- Opportunities for families to share cultural stories or ideas that inspire student designs

Community partners may also be invited to discuss real-world STEM applications and encourage student interest in technology and innovation.

4. Communication & Dissemination

The success of the **Pequeños Creadores** project will be shared with the Waco Education Foundation and the broader school community.

Plans include:

- Inviting Foundation representatives to visit classrooms and observe 3D printing activities
- Sharing student projects through photos and classroom displays
- Providing updates through school newsletters and digital platforms
- Presenting the project during campus meetings or district professional development sessions
- Sharing highlights through district media platforms such as WISD-TV

These efforts will celebrate student learning while recognizing the Foundation's support.

5. Evaluation

The effectiveness of the project will be evaluated through several measures:

- **Teacher observations** of student engagement and collaboration
- **Student reflections and discussions** about their design experiences
- **Documentation of student projects** and completed prints
- **Participation levels** during STEM activities
- **Feedback from students and teachers** about the learning process

These evaluation tools will help determine how well the project supports STEM learning, language development, and social-emotional growth.

6. Long-Term Implications

The 3D printer will remain a valuable instructional tool beyond the 2026–2027 school year. Teachers will continue integrating 3D printing into STEM lessons, design challenges, and creative classroom projects.

Long-term impacts include:

- Increased student interest in STEM careers
- Continued support for bilingual learners through hands-on learning
- Expanded technology integration across classrooms
- Opportunities for additional collaborative STEM initiatives

The project will also provide a model for other teachers interested in incorporating creative technology into their classrooms.

7. Key Personnel

Project Lead Teacher

- Oversees implementation of the 3D printing program
- Facilitates STEM and bilingual learning activities
- Collects evaluation data and documents student progress

Participating Teachers

- Integrate 3D printing activities into classroom instruction
- Support collaborative student learning
- Guide reflection and discussion activities

Campus Administration

- Provide oversight and support for project implementation
- Assist with communication and program visibility

All staff involved are experienced educators committed to integrating innovative strategies that support bilingual learning, creativity, and student engagement.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	81
Project Title:	Pequeños Creadores
Number of Students Served by Grant:	400

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						
2	Flash Forge AD5M 3D	y	\$ 1,100.00			\$ 1,100.00
	Shipping and Handling	y	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 1,300.00		\$ -	\$ 1,300.00
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						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Other			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals			Total Requested from the WISD Foundation	Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project
			\$ 1,300.00	3.25	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00