



**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

Grant Proposal #83 Provident Heights Elementary

“A Better You and A Better Me”

Project Description



The **A Better You and A Better Me** project will implement the **Positive ID Trait Tag Set** in our school to support social-emotional learning (SEL) through interactive, hands-on experiences. The Positive ID system allows students to wear durable nylon pinnies and attach positive character trait tags that represent qualities they recognize in themselves and their peers.

Through structured, fast-paced games and reflection activities, students will identify positive traits, defend their selections, and trade tags with classmates. These activities promote self-awareness, empathy, communication skills, and cooperation. Students practice recognizing strengths in themselves and others while learning how character traits influence teamwork and relationships.

Funds will be used to purchase the Positive ID Trait Tag Set, including nylon pinnies, positive trait tags, and storage bags. Additional funding will support teacher training and classroom resources to ensure effective implementation.

The program emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and collaboration. Students analyze their personal strengths, reflect on peer qualities, communicate their reasoning, and participate in cooperative learning games that strengthen both academic and social skills.

1. Rationale

The **A Better You and A Better Me** project aligns with the funding priorities of the Waco Education Foundation, particularly the Creative Classroom Project focus area. This initiative introduces a unique, interactive approach to social-emotional learning that moves beyond traditional worksheets and discussions.

The project supports district and campus improvement plans by strengthening students' social-emotional competencies, including:

- Self-awareness
- Self-management
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision-making
- Social awareness

These competencies are critical for academic success and positive school culture.

Our school continues to prioritize SEL development to support students' emotional well-being, peer relationships, and classroom engagement. Many students benefit from structured opportunities to practice positive communication, recognize personal strengths, and build empathy toward others. The Positive ID Trait Tag Set provides a highly engaging strategy for reinforcing these skills in a safe and collaborative environment.

By integrating movement, discussion, and reflection, this program supports a positive learning climate where students feel valued and empowered.

2. Goal

The A Better You and A Better Me project seeks to accomplish the following goals:

1. **Increase student self-awareness** by helping students identify and articulate positive personal traits.
2. **Develop empathy and respect** as students recognize strengths in their peers.
3. **Strengthen communication and collaboration skills** through structured group games and discussions.
4. **Promote critical thinking** as students justify and defend their selection of character traits.
5. **Encourage creativity and self-expression** through reflective activities and trait-based challenges.

Expected outcomes include:

- Increased student participation in collaborative learning activities.
- Improved peer interactions and classroom cooperation.
- Enhanced student ability to identify and discuss positive character traits.

3. Plan of Operation

Program Implementation

Teachers will introduce the Positive ID Trait Tag Set during SEL lessons and integrate it into classroom activities throughout the school year.

Core Activities Include:

- Trait identification games
- Trait defense challenges where students explain why a trait represents them
- Trait trading activities to encourage peer recognition
- Reflection discussions about strengths and teamwork
- Group collaboration games focused on empathy and communication

Teachers will facilitate discussions that encourage students to reflect on how their actions demonstrate positive traits in school and in their community.

Timeline

August–September 2026

- Purchase Positive ID Trait Tag Set
- Teacher training and program introduction
- Initial SEL lessons on character traits

October–December 2026

- Weekly or biweekly trait tag games
- Student reflection journals or discussion circles
- Introduction of peer recognition activities

January–March 2027

- Expanded collaborative activities
- Trait-based teamwork challenges
- Integration with classroom leadership opportunities

April–May 2027

- Culminating reflection activities
- Student presentations on personal strengths
- Program evaluation and feedback collection

Parent and Community Involvement

Parents will be informed about the program through newsletters, school websites, and classroom communications. Opportunities for involvement include:

- Family SEL activity suggestions sent home
- Parent invitations to observe classroom activities
- Sharing student reflections and achievements through school communication channels

Community members may also be invited to participate in discussions about positive character traits and leadership.

4. Communication & Dissemination

We will actively share the success of the **A Better You and A Better Me** program with the **Waco Education Foundation** and the broader school community.

Plans include:

- Inviting Foundation representatives to observe classroom activities
- Providing photo opportunities and updates on student participation
- Sharing program highlights through school newsletters and district media
- Presenting program outcomes during campus meetings or professional development sessions
- Collaborating with district media platforms to showcase student engagement

These efforts will ensure transparency, recognition of the Foundation’s support, and the opportunity for other educators to learn from the program.

5. Evaluation

The effectiveness of the program will be measured using several methods:

- **Teacher observations** of student participation, cooperation, and communication
- **Student reflection activities** assessing their understanding of positive traits
- **Pre- and post-SEL surveys** measuring changes in student confidence and empathy
- **Behavioral indicators**, such as improved peer interactions and reduced classroom conflicts

Evaluation results will help determine how effectively the program supports social-emotional learning and guide future improvements.

6. Long-Term Implications

The Positive ID Trait Tag Set is designed for long-term use and can be integrated into SEL instruction for multiple years. After the 2026–2027 school year, the materials will continue to be used in classrooms to reinforce positive character development.

Teachers trained through this project will also be able to mentor other staff members in implementing similar SEL strategies.

Long-term impacts include:

- Sustained improvement in student social-emotional skills
- Stronger peer relationships and classroom cooperation
- A positive school culture that celebrates student strengths

7. Key Personnel

Project Lead Teacher(s)

- Responsible for implementing the Positive ID program in classrooms
- Facilitating SEL activities and reflection discussions

- Monitoring student progress and collecting evaluation data

Campus Administration

- Provide guidance and oversight for program implementation
- Support teacher training and scheduling of activities

Participating Teachers

- Integrate Positive ID activities into SEL instruction
- Encourage student participation and reflection
- Collaborate with colleagues to share strategies and outcomes

These educators are experienced in classroom instruction and committed to supporting student development through innovative learning strategies that foster both academic and social growth.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	83
Project Title:	A Better You and A Better Me!!
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						
1	Positive ID Trait Tag Set	y	\$790			\$ 790.00
	Shipping	y	\$200.00			\$ 200.00
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ 990.00		\$ -	\$ 990.00
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
			\$ 990.00	2.475	\$ -	\$ 990.00