



**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

#84 - The Vertical Advantage

Project description: The Tennyson Art Department is currently operating at maximum student capacity, serving over 600 students across three educators. While our physical space is adequate, our **storage infrastructure is failing to meet the demands of our curriculum**. We are requesting a one-time investment in raw materials and heavy-duty shelving to reclaim "dead space" and prevent the ongoing loss of student artwork and expensive supplies.

Rationale: Lost Space and Damaged Work

Currently, our primary storage units contain 3-foot vertical gaps. This "dead air" forces us to stack delicate supplies (paper, canvases, clay tools) in unstable piles, leading to an estimated **10-15% annual loss in materials** due to crushing or spills.

Furthermore, our kiln room lacks any dedicated drying surfaces. Ceramics are currently stored on floors or makeshift surfaces, which:

- **Impairs Safety:** Creates tripping hazards in a high-heat environment.
- **Damaged Greenware:** Improper airflow leads to uneven drying and cracking before the first firing.
- **Wastes Time:** Students and teachers lose significant instructional time "digging" for projects.

Goals: Our mission is simple: **Great space for great art**. By transforming our storage from a chaotic bottleneck into a streamlined resource center, we are telling our 600+ students that their hard work is worth protecting. Organized shelves lead to organized minds and elevated creativity.

The Solution: Custom Vertical & Horizontal Retrofitting

We propose a two-phase infrastructure upgrade:

1. **Supply Room Optimization:** Utilizing 3/4" plywood and framing lumber to build custom inserts for our 5 existing large units. This will triple our horizontal surface area for paper and flat-tool storage.

Here is an example of how we can transform the lost space into functioning space.

This layout maximizes the 36" opening by dividing it into three 12" tiers (or variations thereof) to accommodate the most common art room "culprits."

Shelf Level	Clearance	Best Use Case
Bottom Tier	14 inches	Heavy & Bulky: 50 lb clay bags, gallon paint jugs, or storage bins for 3D scraps.
Middle Tier	12 inches	Standard Access: 18" x 24" paper reams (stacked flat), drawing boards, or spray bottles.
Top Tier	10 inches	Small Items: Pencil boxes, watercolor sets, glue bottles, and jars of glaze.

2. **Kiln Room Stabilization:** Installation of 4 industrial-grade wire racking units. These allow for 360° airflow, essential for the structural integrity of drying clay (greenware).

Communication & Dissemination: Waco ISD has a Facebook fine arts page as well as our school. Waco ISD has their own television station. Our student work is photographed and put on display for the public to view. I love sharing the talent of our students with the community. Students and especially parents love seeing their work displayed. Many art contests like Heart O’ Texas Fair have the students' artwork displayed for all of the public to see in person. Partnership with the Waco Education Foundation would be more attainable for student artwork to be displayed.

Evaluation: Our students are evaluated using the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Investing in proper storage to protect our art supplies and student work is a tangible way to support the TEKS, elevate the quality of students' artwork, and maximize their potential for recognition in competitions. It's a fundamental element in fostering a thriving and successful visual arts program within Waco ISD.

Long Term Implications: Students learn valuable habits of care, respect for their own work and the work of others, and attention to detail. These habits can translate to other areas of their academic and personal lives. By consistently storing supplies properly,

students see the positive impact on the final outcome. This reinforces the importance of each step in the artistic process and encourages higher standards of craftsmanship. When students' artwork is well-preserved and presented, they feel a greater sense of accomplishment and pride in their creations. This can fuel their passion for art and encourage further exploration.

Key Personnel: I have a Graphic Arts degree from Baylor University and have been teaching for 20 years. There are currently 2 other art teachers at our school. The three of us would teach/monitor our students how to correctly take care, store supplies and artwork.

Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification: Adequate storage for art materials, supplies, and artwork is a must. In order for our students to create artwork for our regular art lessons and competitions, the art teachers need an adequate space to store supplies and artwork.

(Long term Supplies/Equipment) The storage added and metal shelves will last for many years and will be an asset to the school. The kiln room storage will keep the floor clear for school **Safety/Fire Code** compliance. The materials are listed below and are approximately \$1,200.00.

Project Impact & Budget

Category	Item	Est. Cost
Lumber	3/4" Particle Board (10 sheets) & 2x4 Studs (15 units)	\$500.00
Hardware	L-Brackets	\$250.00
Racking	6 5 Tier Heavy Duty Silver Metal Utility Shelves	\$500.00
Labor	Our plan is to have the construction of the new shelving units undertaken by students in the Waco ISD High School Workshop. This project will provide valuable hands-on	

	experience by having them build the shelves that will integrate with our current shelving system.	
TOTAL		\$1,200.00

Conclusion:

By investing in these foundational materials, we move from a state of "damage control" to a state of "creative efficiency." We will protect hundreds of hours of student labor and ensure that every dollar spent on art supplies is utilized, not wasted.

Thank you for considering the gift of the much needed storage.

Reference Photos:



