



**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 |

2026-2027 AVID BOOK STUDY PROPOSAL #91

RATIONALE

This project aligns with the Waco Education Foundation's focus on creative classroom projects by bringing a powerful, real-world narrative into the AVID classroom to inspire critical thinking, literacy development, and a growth mindset. The *Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Young Reader's Edition) tells the true story of William Kamkwamba, a young boy in Malawi who taught himself to build a wind turbine from scrap materials to save his village from famine — a story that directly mirrors the AVID philosophy of determination, self-advocacy, and the power of education.

This project also supports the District and Campus Improvement Plans' goals of increasing student literacy, closing achievement gaps, and building college-going culture among historically underserved students. AVID students are often first-generation college-bound learners who benefit deeply from seeing themselves reflected in the stories of resilient, resourceful young people from around the world. Many of our students face real challenges at home and in their communities, and access to high-quality, motivational literature is not always available outside of school.

GOALS

- Supply a class set of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* (Young Reader's Edition) to support a shared, whole-class reading experience.
- Support WICOR in the AVID classroom
 - Writing: through written reflections on the book
 - Inquiry: through research on the book's subject matter
 - Collaboration: students discuss connections between William Kamkwamba's perseverance and their own academic journeys.
 - Reading: engaging in critical reading of a non-fiction text.
- Strengthen AVID skills including Socratic Seminar discussion, Cornell note-taking, and reflective writing

PLAN

Over the course of approximately six weeks, 7th and 8th grade AVID students will read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* as a class text, while integrating existing AVID instructional strategies. The book will anchor a unit focused on resourcefulness, global citizenship, STEM problem-solving, and perseverance.

Activities & Strategies:

- Cornell Notes completed during independent and shared reading sessions
- Socratic Seminars centered on themes of innovation, education, and self-determination
- Reflective writing assignments asking students to connect William's story to their own goals and obstacles
- STEM connection activity in which students research a scientific invention.
- Community/Parent involvement: Post pictures of student work and Socratic Seminars on the school Social Media page. Parent will also be able to see pictures and updates on an AVID weekly newsletter.

TIMELINE

September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the cornell note process, socratic seminars, and focused notes
October 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribute books and begin reading• Students take focused notes and engage in table group discussions• Students are introduced to Short Constructed Responses and practice writing them, which will be a beneficial connection to their English class.
November 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students finish the book• Students engage in a Socratic Seminar over the book
December 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students complete a STEM research project over an invention of their choice

COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION

The Waco Education Foundation will be recognized throughout this project. We will:

- Invite Foundation representatives to observe a Socratic Seminar
- Share photo documentation of students engaged in reading, discussion, and project activities
- Present project outcomes at a Foundation meeting upon request
- Share results with WISD colleagues through pictures and at staff meetings if possible.

EVALUATION

- Pre- and post-surveys assessing students' attitudes toward reading, their college-going beliefs, and their ability to make real-world connections to literature
- Writing samples scored with a STAAR-aligned rubric
- Participation tracking during Socratic Seminars and class discussions
- Feedback from students and parents collected at the conclusion of the unit

LONG-TERM IMPACT

- For the first year, the books will be used by both 7th and 8th grade AVID students.
- In future years, the book will continue to be part of the 7th grade AVID curriculum. This way the 2026-2027 8th graders do not miss out, but no student will read the book two years in a row.
- It is a one-time investment with multi-year impact
- The unit plan, Socratic Seminar guides, and writing prompts developed for this project will be compiled into a reusable curriculum resource that other AVID teachers in the district may adopt
- The incorporation of elements of WICOR throughout the book study will have a positive impact in their other classes, particularly English and Science.

KEY PERSONELL

- AVID elective teacher who has gone through AVID training and AVID summer Institute

BUDGET RATIONALE

- \$202.50 will cover a class set of 30 books
- A class set is cost-effective and insures that the books can be used multiple years
- The books will be labeled and numbered so that they are easy to keep track of.

