

GRANT AWARD SELECTION PROCESS



2026 GRANTS:
 \$87,768 AWARDED
 2,385 STUDENTS SERVED

SINCE 2012:
 \$865,973 AWARDED
 40,670 STUDENTS SERVED



APPLICATION PROCESSING

- **Applications and signatures must be submitted through Dropbox Sign.**
- Upon receipt, each application is recorded on a master list, assigned an ID number and reviewed to verify that it meets submission requirements.

REVIEW PROCESS

- A volunteer committee composed of foundation board members and ESC Region 12 employees conducts a blind review of the grant applications.
- Applications are scored using an [objective matrix](#). Each application can earn up to 100 points. Questions and eligible points are broken down as follows

1. Project Rationale - 10 points	5. Innovation/Creativity - 10 points
2. Addressing Critical Need(s) - 10 points	6. Project Evaluation - 20 points
3. Major Objectives - 20 points	7. Addressing Potential Challenges - 5 points
4. Implementation Plan/Timeline - 10 points	8. Project Sustainability - 5 points
5. Staff Buy-In/Training Strategy - 5 points	9. Budget - 5 points
- There will be two rounds of grant review:
 - During the first round of review, all applications will be reviewed and scored by at least three individuals.
 - During the second round, applications that score in the top 20-30% are reviewed and scored by another team of reviewers.
 - The scores from the second review are used for final award consideration.
 - A school district or charter school may receive a maximum of \$15,000 in grant funding each year. If multiple grant applications from a school district or charter school perform well in review, the Foundation will fund the application(s) that score the highest.
- When making funding decisions, the committee will also take into consideration:
 - The available grant allocation in relation to the total funds needed for the proposals that merit funding. The committee may recommend exceeding the board-approved grant allocation if applications merit this exception. The foundation board has final decision-making authority over all funding.
 - Opportunities to fund grants representing different school sizes, grade levels, student populations, geographic areas of the region, and first-time winners.

APPLICATION FEEDBACK/NOTIFICATION

- To maintain a fair and equitable application process, copies of completed applications are not shared with other current, past, or future applicants.
- Regardless of a grant proposal's score or funding outcome, reviewer feedback is not automatically provided to the applicant. If an applicant requests access to proposal feedback, we will share a copy upon request. Reviewers may or may not choose to provide written feedback in addition to a numeric score.
- Once all winners are notified, all other applicants will receive an email notification that their applications were not chosen for an award. All applicants are encouraged to seek additional resources for their projects.