



Frequently Asked Questions About the Teacher Innovation Grant Program

2025-2026 Collaborative Grant

1. What types of projects will Georgetown ISD Education Foundation fund through this program?

Georgetown ISD Education Foundation is interested in giving teachers the opportunity to create new and engaging learning experiences that help support and grow the students of GISD. The purpose of this program is to find innovative and creative educational projects that impact student learning.

2. What types of expenses will Georgetown ISD Education Foundation not fund?

Georgetown ISD Education Foundation does not fund stipends, salaries or teacher travel expenses to conferences or training. However, requests for staff development (registration fees for workshops, conference or substitutes) will be considered when these activities represent one component of a well-planned project, integrated with other activities that directly impact students.

3. Will the judges who read my application know where I work?

No. All applications are judged through a blind-review process. The Signature Page is removed before given to the judges to be read. We ask that you **NOT** mention your name or your school name anywhere on your application after the Signature Page. We want every application to be judged on the merit of the proposed project.

4. May I request technology that is not currently approved by our district's Technology Department?

In supporting innovation and creativity, we encourage educators to seek out cutting-edge technology that is proven to impact student achievement. We recognize that if the technology is new, it might not yet be on the district's approved list. Applicants can contact Diedre Madole (madoled@georgetownisd.org) for assistance with technology purchases.

5. What exactly is a work plan?

A work plan lists out all of the steps necessary to complete your project. For example, if your project is to host a student art exhibition at Wolf Ranch Shopping Center, your first step might be to meet with the Wolf Ranch manager to agree on a time period the student work could be on display. Another step would be to purchase the supplies needed for the art. Another step would be to begin a six -week instructional unit on watercolor painting with your fifth grade students. Another step might be to take a field trip to a museum to see some masterpiece watercolor paintings. The important aspect of the work plan is that you are showing the reviewer that you have thought out all of the steps necessary for your project to be successful. This was not a last minute, late night idea you had, but you have developed a well-defined plan.

6. Do I have to list every item that I want to purchase?

Yes, it is important to take the time to list out exactly how you intend to spend the grantor's money. Of course, Georgetown ISD Education Foundation understands that there might be slight changes once the purchase is made, but go through the effort of giving the reviewer the list of what you intend to purchase with the funds requested. For example, if you are requesting books for a classroom library, a list of Titles will be required.

7. Oops, I forgot to include shipping and handling in my application budget and now I need another \$200 to complete my order! Can I go back and ask for additional funds?

Georgetown ISD Education Foundation awards all of the funds allocated for Teacher Innovation Grants; therefore, we often do not have extra to handle situations like this. We remind all applicants to include shipping and handling costs in their budget.

8. How can I measure the success of my project?

We encourage you to find multiple measures of success such as a pre and post project measurement, rubric, student survey, or peer evaluation. If you have questions, please look for announcements on attending a grant coaching session.

9. What are some ways that I can recognize Georgetown ISD Education Foundation as the financial supporter of my project?

We are glad you asked! You can send a letter home to your students' parents announcing your grant award and explaining what wonderful opportunities their children will receive (or future students) because of this grant and Georgetown ISD Education Foundation. You may write an article for your campus newsletter and/or update your teacher website throughout the school year on the progress of your grant project; submit a press release to your local newspaper; tell your friends and neighbors; or put stickers that say "Purchased by Georgetown ISD Education Foundation" on any non-consumable supplies purchased with grant funds. In all communications, we encourage you to include our website www.gisdedfound.org. The more you can get our name out there, the easier it will be to raise money, then the more money we can give out in grants to teachers like you!