



Innovative Teaching Grant Program

# **Applicant Guide**

2026-27 Grant Cycle Year

## Purpose

The Innovative Teaching Grant Program provides financial support to educational programs and activities, herein referred to as “projects,” that either have not been funded or have been under-funded by the district’s normal operating budget.

Projects funded by the Innovative Teaching Grant Program are intended to facilitate student achievement and skill development, to recognize and encourage staff excellence, and expand community involvement from individuals, businesses and civic organizations.

### An innovative project:

- Impacts learning **beyond** the traditional classroom approach.
- Creates memorable, interactive, and enhanced learning experiences that would not exist without additional funding.
- Connects teachers with their students in new and innovative ways, enabling higher levels of learning in the classroom.
- Fosters 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, discipline, leadership, persistence, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

### Grant projects may include:

- Requests for existing district programs and activities, technology, field trips, equipment and/or materials, and professional development, **but only when these activities represent one component of a well-planned project integrated with other activities that relate to district curriculum objectives and directly impact student learning.**

### Grant funds may not be used for:

- Equipment/materials typically acquired through district, state or federal funding.
- Technology, field trips, equipment/materials, staff development activities that are **not requested as part of a well-planned project.**
- Travel costs related to professional development (lodging, mileage, or per diem).
- Monetary incentives or “incentive” field trips.
- Salaries (including substitute pay and speaker fees).

## Responsibilities of Grant Recipients

### Project Implementation

- Document the implementation of the project (i.e., photos, videos, samples of work).
- Completed project by May 1. (Expend funds, implement project, and submit required documentation)
- Submit Appreciation/Evaluation Packet to Foundation office by May 1.

### Receiving and Using Funds

- Funds are deposited into campus activity accounts designated for Foundation grant projects.
- Expend funds (orders submitted) by May 1.
- Use funds for intended purposes as specified in the grant application.
- Work with campus purchasers (Admin. Assistant) for ordering and purchasing.
- Adhere to district purchasing policies.
- All purchased materials and/or equipment to remain the property of Pearland ISD.

### Appreciation/Evaluation Packet

Showing gratitude and sharing the impact of innovative teaching grants is essential to cultivating supporters and raising funds for future giving. All grant winners are **required** to submit the following by May 1st:

- Project Photos (minimum of four high-quality photos): Photos of the donated materials being used and/or the implementation of the project in your classroom, Photos may include you or your classroom. Please note that any students in photos must be FERPA-approved. Send photos electronically to [foundation@pearlandisd.org](mailto:foundation@pearlandisd.org)
- Impact letter (minimum 500 characters): A personalized letter from you to the foundation supporters describing the impact your grant project had on the classroom and students. Describe how your project was implemented and how your students benefited from the experience. Be sure to share your sincere appreciation. Send letter electronically to [foundation@pearlandisd.org](mailto:foundation@pearlandisd.org)

### Grant Transfer Policy

- Requests for grant transfers (i.e., funds, equipment, materials) require approval from Foundation Board of Directors and campus principal / department director.
  - If a grant recipient transfers to another school within the district, the recipient may transfer the grant project with principal/director approval, provided the transfer is to a compatible subject / grade level and is approved accordingly.
  - If project is part of a group project and/or supported by campus funds, the project to remain at the school awarded the grant.
  - If grant recipient leaves the district, project and funds cannot be transferred. At the discretion of principal and the Foundation Board of Directors, the grant award may be transferred to another teacher, on the same campus.
  - Any disputes may be resolved by the Foundation Board of Directors.

Other ways to share your grant project:

- Notify the Foundation office of opportunities to observe/participate in project implementation.
- Post photo(s) description to campus social media page and tag the Foundation's Facebook page: **<https://www.facebook.com/PearlandISDEducationFoundation/>**
- Collaborate with Foundation office to submit a press release to local media outlets.
- Share outcomes with other teachers, district administrators, or Foundation Board of Directors.
- Send a parent letter about your grant, explaining how your project will impact your students.
- Write an article about your project for your campus newsletter.
- Tell your friends, neighbors, and fellow Pearland ISD colleagues.