

The  
**FOUNDATION**  
Grants for Great Ideas

**2023-2024**

# **Program Guidelines & Overview**



# What is Grants for Great Ideas?

- Grants for Great Ideas (GFGI) is a program of The Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools.
- Each year teachers can put their great ideas into action for their students by applying for funding through this program.
- Since 1989, the Foundation has awarded over \$1.895 million to support the great ideas of our Seminole County teachers.
- These projects go beyond normal classroom instruction and allow teachers to provide memorable learning experiences for their students.

# 2023-2024 Grant Application Deadlines and General Information



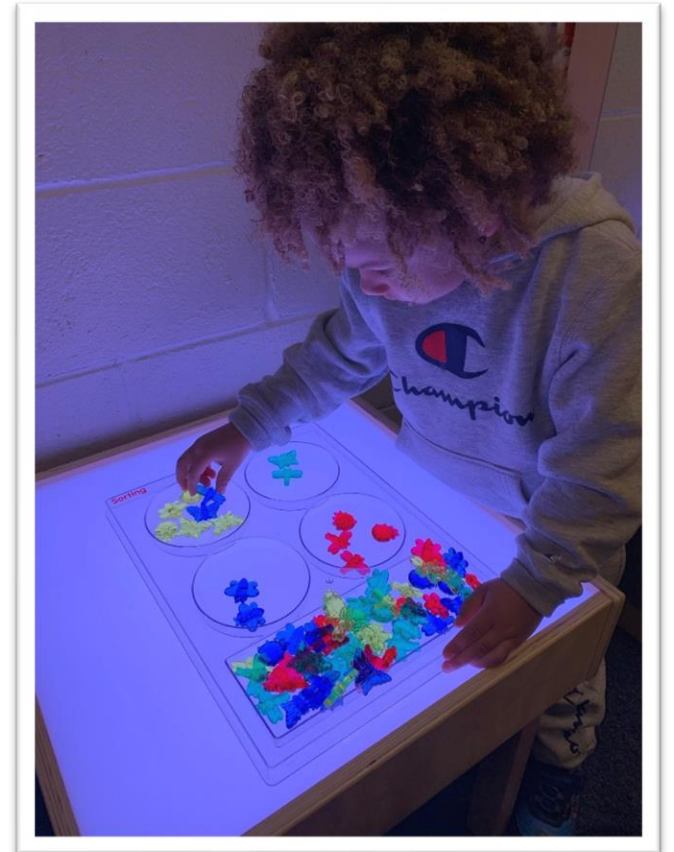
- Awards are funded up to \$1,000 for classroom grants or \$2,500 for grade level/school-wide projects.
  - Subject areas are English Language Arts (ELA); Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM); and the Arts.
  - Deadlines to Submit Your Applications are:
    - Grant Cycle I – Deadline: Sunday, September 17, 2023
    - Grant Cycle II – Deadline: Sunday, October 22, 2023
    - Grant Cycle III\* – Deadline: Sunday, November 19, 2023
- \*Cycle III will only open if funding is available

# Educator Eligibility

- All SCPS educators, Assistant Principals, and Principals are eligible to apply for grant funding through Grants for Great Ideas.
- Educator's current assignment (Seminole Virtual or Face-to-face) does not impact eligibility for funding.
- If you are applying for funds as a teacher in a virtual option, please see the following project ideas for a sense of what is possible:
  - Virtual Field Trips
  - ELA projects using ebooks or other technology accessible online like magazine subscriptions
  - STEM projects in which the teacher could record their experiment using equipment purchased through GFGI
  - Digital Art projects facilitated through purchasing software/apps

# Grant Project Requirements: What does the Grants Committee need to see?

- Projects should address school and district goals
- Projects should meet Florida standards
- Projects must have measurable outcomes
- Projects should be hands-on and creative
- Projects should provide changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, and/or behavior







# Making Your Project Stand Out: What does Grants Committee like to see?

- **Thorough Plans** – A detailed, thought through plan gives the committee more confidence you will be able to complete the project you're proposing. Not everyone on the committee is from an education background so please explain any educational acronyms or jargon.
- **Detailed Budgets** – Try to specify your purchase plans as much as possible to show you've done your research and justify you need the amount requested. You may also want to provide links to unique, subject specific, or technological purchases.
- **Collaboration and Sharing of Resources** – The committee loves to see if you're able to collaborate with other teachers or share the resources/lessons learned when possible. This can be during your project or after.
- **Lasting Impact** – If possible, they like to see if a project can be repeated or if technology and/or materials can be used the following year(s).

# Mandatory Reporting of Outcomes



- All projects in ELA, STEM, or the Arts must have measurable outcomes and the ability to track those outcomes.
- All projects must track the number of students who participate.
- Include the learning goals for your students and a standardized measurement tool. What do you want them to learn? How will you determine if they met the goal?

# Mandatory Reporting of Outcomes

- All recipients must be prepared to provide answers to the following questions for the state report using test scores, surveys of students or other tracking:



## **Arts Projects:**

- Use pre- and post-participation surveys to gauge measurable outcomes associated with your project. For example, develop a survey about a student's interest in continued learning about the arts, or their interest in pursuing artistic endeavors, careers, or majors.
- Have students create a project and receive a grade for the project that you report.

## **English Language Arts Projects:**

- Provide the # of students who improved either their overall grade in a related subject or improved their scores on a reading skills test administered by the teacher, such as iReady.
- Provide pre- and post-participation data on changes in students' attitude toward ELA, their interest in pursuing more ELA related activities, and if they have increased how much do they read outside of school; or a similar pre- and post-participation survey

## **STEM Projects:**

- Provide the # of students who improved their grade in a STEM subject area, or improved their scores on a teacher administered skills test, such as iReady.
- Provide pre- and post-participation data on changes in students' interest in STEM Careers, STEM majors/learning, and their participating in STEM-related activities outside of coursework; or a similar pre- and post-participation survey





# Technology Requests



- Must make a strong case for the educational value
- Research lowest price with SCPS computer store and provide backup. Most items must be purchased through them.
  - <https://insider.scps.k12.fl.us/purchasing/computer-store/employee/>
- Items must be supported by SCPS Information Services
- Proper tracking and storage at your school is required
- Items become property of the school, not the teacher

# School, District and State Approval

- Prior to submitting your application, please ensure your school's leadership (Principal or Assistant Principal) approves of this project overall.
- Ensure project and all its activities, materials, and curriculum complies with district and state education standards.

Benchmark	Description	<u>SCPS Library Catalogs (Approved Books)</u>	
MA.K12.MTR.1.1	Actively participate in effortful learning both individually and collectively.	ELA.K12.EE.1.1	Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
MA.K12.MTR.2.1	Demonstrate understanding by representing problems multiple ways.	ELA.K12.EE.2.1	Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.
MA.K12.MTR.3.1	Complete tasks with mathematical fluency.	ELAK12.EE.3.1	Make inferences to support comprehension.
MA.K12.MTR.4.1	Engage in discussions that reflect on the mathematical thinking of self and others.	ELA.K12.EE.4.1	Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills when engaging in discussions in a variety of situations.
MA.K12.MTR.5.1	Use patterns and structure to help understand and connect mathematical concepts.	ELA.K12.EE.5.1	Use the accepted rules governing a specific format to create quality work.
MA.K12.MTR.6.1	Assess the reasonableness of solutions.	ELA.K12.EE.6.1	Use appropriate tone and voice when speaking or writing.
MA.K12.MTR.7.1	Apply mathematics to real-world contexts.		



- [SCPS Library Catalogs \(Approved Books\)](#)
  - SCPS staff can access an individual school's library collection or search all available SCPS libraries to find print or eBooks. Please contact your school for your login and password.
- [SCPS BEST EEMTR Chart.pdf](#)

# Allowable Expenses

The following is a non-exhaustive list of allowable expenses and should be used in conjunction with the unallowable expenses slide to guide your purchases:

- Books or curriculum tied to a specific project and aligned with state standards.
- Classroom books that expand students access to diverse voices and/or diverse experiences in the school curriculum (e.g. Teacher seeks to enhance student's reading skills and interests in independent reading by including more high interest books for boys or STEM books representing women or leaders of color). Books must be tied to a measurable outcome such as iReady or other metric.
- Math manipulatives
- Costuming and other performance materials for school productions
- Software and apps that will enhance student learning
- Equipment such as 3D printers, coding robots, specialized art tools, school garden equipment, etc.
- Consumable ELA, STEM, and Art supplies like wiring, circuit boards, paint, brushes, workbooks, etc.
- Printing expenses for classroom resources and learning at home resources
- Field trips costs including digital, in-house, or external, such as transportation, admission fees, etc.
- Performers/performances that are tied to a structured activity that has measurable outcomes

# Unallowable Expenses

- Tax on purchases will not be reimbursed and cannot be paid for through funds received from The Foundation. This will become the responsibility of the teacher or school.
- Food/Refreshments
- Rewards – trophies, trinkets, gift cards
- Recognition items – certificates, etc.
- Furniture (including but not limited to: bean bag chairs, shelving units, storage bins)
- Uniforms/clothing items (Besides costuming for drama productions)
- Speaking fees with regard to authors, celebrities, and other professionals (Paid performers/facilitators associated with an organization are allowable)
- Books or curriculum that do not comply with state or district standards.



# Unallowable Expenses

- Software programs that can be funded by a school's budget;
- Hardware that can be funded by a schools' budget. Items that improve classroom instruction and students understanding with quantifiable results will be considered, but require a strong case for the educational value they offer;
- Equipment that is available and can be purchased through the school/district;
- Projects at charter schools;
- For projects which include the mailing of letters and/or packages by the students, postage costs will not be funded;
- Requests for materials/projects that will later be donated to the community or auctioned off as a fundraiser will not be funded (all materials must remain the property of the school).

# Expenditure Reporting

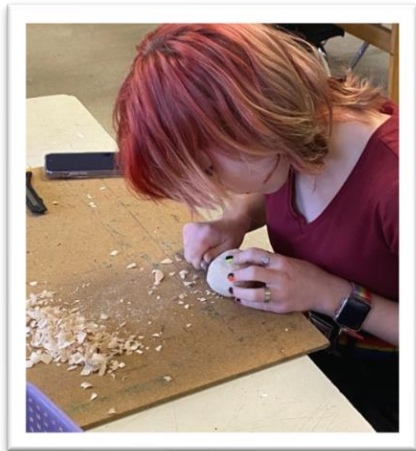
- All funds should be spent by February 29, 2024. An online short survey verifying total funds spent will be required at that time.
- Your Expenditure Reporting will be completed online in the Spring as part of your Final Evaluation Report due Thursday, May 2, 2024.
- Work with your bookkeeper to secure a detailed report of all your expended funds. This report will be uploaded as a part of your Final Evaluation Report.
  - If you're not able to secure a detailed report from your bookkeeper, a detailed purchase summary and copies of all receipts will be required.
- Keep your receipts for every purchase. While you may not be required to submit your receipts with your Final Evaluation Report, please keep these receipts for at least a year in case they are ever needed for an audit.
- Because The Foundation has to report on the impact of all projects to our program funders, failure to submit expenditure report by the required date may disqualify you from funding for at least one year.

# 2023-2024 Timeline Reporting Schedule

- February 29, 2024 – All Cycle I, II, III grant awards must be spent by this date. An online short survey verifying total funds spent will be required at that time.
- March 14, 2024 – Deadline for Bookkeepers to return any unused funds to The Foundation.
- April 19, 2024 - All projects must be implemented by this date in order to gather required data (grades and measurable outcomes) from your students.
- May 2, 2024 - Final evaluation **AND** Expenditure reports due.
- **All reporting this year will be online and done in a similar format to the application.**
- **Failure to submit expenditure report or evaluation report will disqualify future grant awards.**

# Grants for Great Ideas – Making An Impact

- “The Grants for Great Ideas program has been **infinitely helpful in growing our STEM program** over the years. **Students are always so excited** to come to STEM class and learn about all the emerging technologies, and career fields, and explore new concepts. The robotics mats and robots provided this year **will last our STEM lab a long time** and will be **utilized by many grade levels.**”
  - STEM GFGI Recipient Tisha Greek at Red Bug Elementary
- “The students are able to **create, explore and learn at a much deeper level** because of your contributions. It was really easy to work with my bookkeeper to find the resources for the grant. I'm so grateful for the funding for these projects.”
  - Arts GFGI Recipient Heather Denmark at Highlands Elementary
- “The **third graders looked forward to literacy centers** during the ELA block with the benchmark aligned games purchased with the grant money. This provided them **opportunities to practice the benchmarks in a hands on, engaging way.**”
  - ELA GFGI Recipient Jennifer Ellis at Pine Crest Elementary





# Grants for Great Ideas – YOU Can Do It!

- “Grants for Great Ideas is an **excellent way for teachers to get the resources needed** to be dynamic influencers in students' lives. The **process to apply for the grant is simple, yet its reach is complex and lifechanging** for both the teacher and their students.”  
- STEM GFGI Recipient Sandra Moss at Teague Middle
- “The Grants for Great Ideas was a **nice experience for us**. I appreciated the way everyone I spoke to seemed **genuinely interested in the projects our teachers and students were doing**.”  
- ELA GFGI Recipient Kelly Metzler at South Seminole Academy
- “This was my first year in SCPS and **this grant program was amazing!** It was **an easy process** and the **contacts from the foundation were so kind and helpful**.”  
- ELA GFGI Recipient Jennifer Stasko at Partin Elementary
- “This was **my first time applying** for the Grants for Great Ideas and I am so appreciative of the support. The **email communication and google folders to submit photos/video was very easy to manage**.”  
- Arts GFGI Recipient Lo McDermott at Red Bug Elementary





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Good luck and looking forward to seeing your  
Great Ideas put into action!

[GFGI Application and Question Resource](#)  
[GFGI Application Template Form \(Word doc\)](#)  
[GFGI Budget Form](#)



[GFGI 2023-2024 Online Application](#)

Questions along the way? Contact Missy Mercado  
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