



Need A Grant?



www.neafoundation.org

Through the unique strength of its partnership with educators, the NEA Foundation advances student achievement by investing in public education that will inspire and enable teachers to prepare every American child to learn and thrive in a rapidly changing world.


At the NEA Foundation, we pursue ideas to strengthen teaching and learning. Our goal is to fund and share successful strategies to educate and prepare children for bright and rewarding futures.

We have learned that the best teaching ideas come from our greatest assets, educators. That is why, since 1999, we have awarded 1,700 individual grants totaling over \$5.3 million to help public school teachers and other educational professionals work smarter and better to improve student achievement.

Throughout the year, the NEA Foundation awards over 150 grants to support educators' efforts to close the achievement gaps, develop creative learning opportunities for students, and enhance their own professional development.

To build our knowledge base and to uncover new, great ideas in public education we invite all eligible educational professionals to apply for these grants. We hope that this brochure will both inspire and provide useful information to encourage educators to realize their own potential and to ensure excellent teaching and learning in public schools.





Granting Educators' Wishes

WISHES AREN'T GRANTED EVERY DAY,
BUT IN CLASSROOMS ACROSS THE
NATION AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR,
THE NEA FOUNDATION'S GRANTS ARE
DOING JUST THAT.



OH | 9-12 GRADE CHEMISTRY
Dexter Regional High School

In rural **OHIO**, high school computer science teacher Ruth Anker and her colleague Charles Blair had a great idea: provide students with important technology and job skills by teaching them how to breathe new life into an old computer. Made possible by a NEA Foundation grant, students learned first-hand the inner workings of a computer by taking one apart, then reassembled it, finding through their own research new components and software to make it smarter, faster, and better for use in their school.



ME | 9-12 GRADE SCIENCE
Cambridge High School



In **MAINE**, a NEA Foundation grant enabled high school science teachers Regina Herrick and Alyson Saunders to collaborate with the University of Southern Maine (USM) to create “wet labs.” Students worked in these research units with graduate fellows to design and implement community-relevant experiments in medical research, biotechnology, water toxicology or fuel cell technology. The high school students led community conferences to present their findings and participated in a USM symposium, increasing their understanding of science and the environment and improving their literacy and presentation skills.



MN | 3-4 GRADE ESL

Jefferson Elementary School

Kelly Ann Frankenfield, Ruth Lillquist, and their colleagues at Jefferson Elementary School in Faribault, **MINNESOTA** received a NEA Foundation grant to form a professional learning community to help students learning English as a second language acquire academic content while developing language skills. As a group, the teachers studied journal articles to create individual research-based professional goals and to identify appropriate action steps to raise students' standardized test scores and district graduation rates. They shared their learning by facilitating discussions with colleagues and by continuing to train additional staff to develop more professional learning communities.



MD | 9-12 GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE

James H. Blake High School

In anticipation of new diploma requirements and to bridge existing academic achievement gaps, James David Heller and his colleagues at James H. Blake High School in Silver Spring, **MARYLAND** believed they could use computer games as a teaching tool. With the help of a NEA Foundation grant and applying knowledge gained at a national computing conference, Mr. Heller and his study group examined whether computer game-based review activities could help students comprehend and retain information necessary to pass the state's standardized assessments. At the conclusion of the study, participants shared their findings with instructional specialists at the state and county level.

Great ideas run the gamut as do the educators and the students they teach. The NEA Foundation believes our grantees have one thing in common: ideas that deserve support and recognition. Through our grants, we are rewarding innovation that creates better teachers, more dynamic classrooms, and engaged students.

To read more stories about past recipients, please visit our web site at www.neafoundation.org.



Grants At a Glance

What grants are offered by the NEA Foundation?

There are two primary grant categories open to public education professionals: Student Achievement Grants and Learning & Leadership Grants.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GRANTS:

What are the Student Achievement Grants?

They:

- Promote classroom innovation and engage students in critical thinking, inquiry, and self-directed learning that deepens knowledge of standards-based subject matter
- Award \$5,000
- Awards about 75 annually

What are the selection criteria for Student Achievement Grants?

Proposed learning should:

- Include specific and measurable goals for student achievement that are rigorous and aligned to state standards

- Include activities that engage students in critical thinking and problem solving
- Align goals, assessment, activities, and budget

LEARNING & LEADERSHIP GRANTS:

What are the Learning & Leadership Grants?

They:

- Support high-quality professional development opportunities, such as summer institutes, action research, collegial study, lesson study, and mentoring
- Award \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups
- Awards about 75 annually

What are the selection criteria for Leadership & Learning Grants?

Proposed professional development should:

- Be directly related to a clear and compelling student need, based on data
- Include collegial sharing that is interactive and sustained over time
- Be likely to improve student achievement
- Include a budget that is appropriate to the project goals

APPLYING FOR GRANTS:

Who is eligible to compete for these grants?

Applicants must be practicing U.S. public school:

- PreK-12 teachers
- Education support professionals
- Higher education faculty and staff

All public school educators are encouraged to apply.

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed three times a year, beginning on February 1, June 1, and October 15.

What periods do the grants cover?

Grants support activities for twelve months from the date of the award.

When are applicants notified?

Awarded grantees are notified within four months of the corresponding review period.

What is my obligation as a grantee?

As a grantee, you are expected to:

- Fully implement your proposed plan
- Complete a final report that includes a narrative of your project's accomplishments and a financial report of expenditures
- Share any materials developed and press clippings collected
- Share your findings with colleagues and others

Where can I find more information on how to apply for a grant award?

The NEA Foundation offers writing tips for grants on its website at www.neafoundation.org. The site also includes brief descriptions of past recipients' work.

BOOKS ACROSS AMERICA LIBRARY BOOKS AWARDS:

What is the NEA's Books Across America Library Books Awards program?

The NEA's Books Across America Library Books Awards program is funded by the NEA Foundation in collaboration with the NEA, corporate sponsors, and individuals who donate to the program. It:

- Enables public school libraries serving economically disadvantaged students to purchase books
- Awards \$1,000 grants
- Awards about 50 grants annually

Who is eligible to compete for the Books Across America Library Books Awards?

Applicants must be:

- Practicing preK-12 school librarian, teacher, or education support professional in a U.S. public school
- Work in public schools in which at least 70 percent of the students are eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program

When are applications accepted?

Applications are accepted in November.

Where can I find more information about these awards?

For more information about the NEA's Books Across America Library Books Awards program, please visit (www.neafoundation.org) or call 202.822.7289.

Tips for Writing *a Better Grant*

- Be creative. Experiment with ideas that you and your colleagues believe will improve student achievement or your instruction.
- Identify clear, specific learning objectives and activities. For Student Achievement grants, be sure to relate them to student needs.
- Ask someone not involved in the project to read the application, and clarify any confusing, conflicting, and vague language.
- Avoid acronyms and jargon.
- Relate budget line items to learning objectives.
- Describe how the proposed work will be a true team effort.
- Develop a strong evaluation plan and connect it to the learning goals outlined in the application.
- Read and carefully follow grant application guidelines.

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THE NEA
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