

2025-26 Grants of Excellence

Application Process



PURPOSE:

Grants of Excellence provide funding for innovative and creative educational programs or projects that not only enrich curriculum but could also be incorporated into future curriculum plans within our district.

The program or project should directly impact a significant number of students. We encourage creativity, innovation and collaboration between teachers and staff at varied grade levels and between buildings within the district.

These grants may total up to **\$1,000 per teacher** or up to **\$2,500 if multiple grades and staff**.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Any GJPS staff member may apply.
- Please [CLICK HERE](#) to begin the on-line application process or go to www.gjef.org for the link. You will be able to save the draft for editing at a later time.
- Application deadline: **4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026**
- Grant application **MUST be approved** by the building Principal.
- If there is technology component to the grant, please consult with Director of Technology, Matt Blackwell, to verify cost information and preferred vendors.
 - **Due to the new SB 29 requirements: Digital resources will need to go through the new approval process if they meet ANY of these conditions:**
 - *Students log into it in any way, including a Google button, Classlink, Google Classroom integration, etc.*
 - *Any student information will be entered into the system, even if it is just names.*
 - *Any educational records will be in the system.*
 - *The system may potentially have access to educational records, including things like a grammar checker that can read a Google Doc.*
 - *School funds will be used, including grants.*
 - *Data sync, single sign on, or rostering support is required.*
 - *Terms or conditions must be accepted, signed, or agreed with to use the resource.*
- Projects will be funded for one year from the start of the project. Unused funds will NOT be carried over to the next year.
- We ask that grant recipients acknowledge GJEF as a supporting organization when publicizing their project. Photos or video of your project are appreciated!
- Equipment and materials shall remain with the building.
- Timeline for awarding grants and ordering materials
 - **Grants awarded: End of March, 2026**
 - **Grant winners to submit purchase requisition by: March 27, 2026**

2025 Grants of Excellence

Grant Guidelines



FOUNDATION MISSION:

To promote excellence in education by supporting inspiring and innovative programs that impact the learning experiences for the students of the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The Education Foundation seeks to fund educational projects that are relevant, creative, effective, and inspiring. An emphasis will be given to projects that fall into the following categories:

- programs, projects and activities that provide an innovative or creative approach to teaching the curriculum
- programs that introduce new resources or tools to support the curriculum
- programs, projects and activities that are high-interest and increase student engagement

Grant applications will be evaluated based on, minimally, the following factors:

- broad in scope with a measurable impact (*i.e.* will impact a significant number of students)
- show creativity and innovation
- enhance collaboration among classes, grades, schools and/or curricular teams
- strengthen academics and meet curriculum objectives
- detailed project description and work plan including a specific timeline
- goals and objectives clearly defined and measurable
- detailed, **itemized budget** that is economically sound
 - o **Please list specific products and costs**
 - o Attachments or links to websites with product descriptions are very helpful

GJEF grant monies may NOT be used for the following:

- Field trips or transportation costs
- Staff salaries or the cost of substitute staff
- Salaries for outside instructors
- Small Appliances (e.g., refrigerators, microwaves, space heaters, etc.)
- T-shirts
- Food or refreshments
- Items for incentives
- Programs and items which could be funded through traditional school or public funding sources

QUESTIONS OR WANT TO DISCUSS A GRANT IDEA?

Tricia Mueller (MuellerT@gjps.org) or Dianna Bessignano (BessignanoD@gjps.org)
614-416-0298

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Grant Guidelines



(SAMPLE BUDGET)

Including links is very helpful.

Shipping cost is an important consideration.

Our purchases are tax-exempt so no need to include tax costs.

Item	Quantity	Cost	Total Cost	link
Go Talk Now	3	\$99.00	\$297.00	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/gotalk-now/id454176457
Quick Talk AAC	3	\$24.99	\$74.97	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/quick-talk-aac/id487824507
Touch Chat	1	\$149.99	\$149.99	https://touchchatapp.com/apps/touchchat-hd-aac
LAMP Keyguards	3	\$69.95	\$209.85	https://www.keyguardat.com/lamp-words-for-life-keyguard/
LAMP license	2	\$299.99	\$599.98	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/lamp-words-for-life/id551215116
Talking Brix 2	1	\$255.00	\$255.00	https://www.ablenetinc.com/talkingbrix-2/
Fish and Glow Spinner	1	\$149.95	\$149.95	https://enablingdevices.com/product/fish-glow-spinner/
Misting Fan	1	\$99.95	\$99.95	https://enablingdevices.com/product/misting-fan/
Under the Sea	1	\$229.95	\$229.95	https://enablingdevices.com/product/under-the-sea/
Big Water Toy	1	\$199.95	\$199.95	https://enablingdevices.com/product/big-water-toy/
Compact switches	1	\$77.95	\$77.95	https://enablingdevices.com/product/compact-switches/
Head switch	1	\$79.95	\$79.95	https://enablingdevices.com/product/head-switch/
Tilt switch	1	\$49.95	\$49.95	https://enablingdevices.com/product/tilt-switch/
Total			\$2,474.44	

(We can email you a spreadsheet if that is easier.)