

Gladstone Education Foundation Principles of Grant Funding

1. The Foundation seeks to support activities, innovations, and improvements that enhance educational services and programs for Gladstone youths.
2. Grants will not fund routine expenses that should be district funded, for example staff salaries or substitute within the contract day.
3. Funded projects should be completed within 12 months of the awarding of funds. The portion of funds not used within that timeframe will be returned to the foundation unless other arrangements are agreed upon.
4. The Foundation has aspirations to distribute grant funds in a balanced way, serving students at each level, from Pre-K to grade 12 as well as community organizations that serve Gladstone youths.
5. The total grant funding amount will be determined *each May* for the following school year. In the event of successful fundraising, the Board may add to this amount.
6. Grant funds will be dispersed in two rounds, with 60% of funds awarded in the fall, and 40% awarded in the spring.
7. District staff and GCCF preschool staff, students, and community organizations serving youth are eligible to apply for grants.
8. Grant proposals may include, but are not limited to:
 - Innovative classroom projects
 - Classroom technology
 - Supports to families
 - Afterschool clubs & activities
 - Staff professional development
 - Extra academic support
 - Health & well-being
 - Athletics
 - Community-building
9. After preliminary recommendations are received from the Grant Review Committee, grant awardees will be determined by a vote of the full GEF Board.
10. Proposals demonstrating the following will be given top priority for funding, projects that:
 - **Include matching funds, in-kind contributions, and/or volunteer involvement by parents or community members**
 - Stimulate higher-level thinking skills
 - Are innovative, motivational, and engaging for students
 - Have clear objectives, an evaluation plan, & a high probability of success
 - Are replicable by other teachers or community members
 - Serve a substantial number of youths in an impactful way
 - Use a research-based approach
 - Build collaboration between project partners

Annual Grant Commitment:

The GEF Board will approve an annual budget for grant awards, to be **determined each year at its May meeting**. This number will be based on a percentage of available funds or a targeted dollar amount.

In the 2023-2024 school year, GEF will distribute **up to \$45,000 in grants**.

- **Up to \$30,000 will be awarded in November of 2023.**
- **Up to \$15,000 will be awarded in March of 2024.**

All completed grant applications will be considered.

Grant Distribution:

- **Fall** application period opens October 1 and **closes October 27**.
 - Fall grants will be approved at the November GEF board meeting.
- **Spring** application period opens February 1 and **closes February 29**.
 - Spring grants will be approved at the March GEF board meeting.

Other Considerations:

1. **If a grant application originates from a District employee or student, the application must be “signed-off” by the applicable building administrator.** The application form includes a space for both the applicant’s and building administrator’s signature.
2. A previously unsuccessful grant applicant may resubmit their request in subsequent periods. However, it is strongly suggested that the applicant make adjustments to their request that increases likelihood for funding. Examples include: increase in matching funds; increase in the number of students impacted; and, a more effective effort to explain perceived value to students, community, etc.
3. There is no restriction on the number of grant applications or the dollar amount that can be requested by an individual. But bear in mind that the Foundation budget and funding philosophy encourages equity in giving amongst the District’s buildings and the community.