

## Gladstone Education Foundation Philosophy 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 will seek 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 a successful fundraiser, 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:
  - 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
  - Include matching funds, in-kind contributions, and/or volunteer involvement by parents or community members
  - Build collaboration between project partners