

The
FOUNDATION
Grants for Great Ideas

2024-2025

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 \$1.968 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.

2024-2025 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 15, 2024
 - Grant Cycle II – Deadline: Sunday, October 20, 2024
 - Grant Cycle III* – Deadline: Wednesday, November 13, 2024
- *Cycle III will only open if funding is available

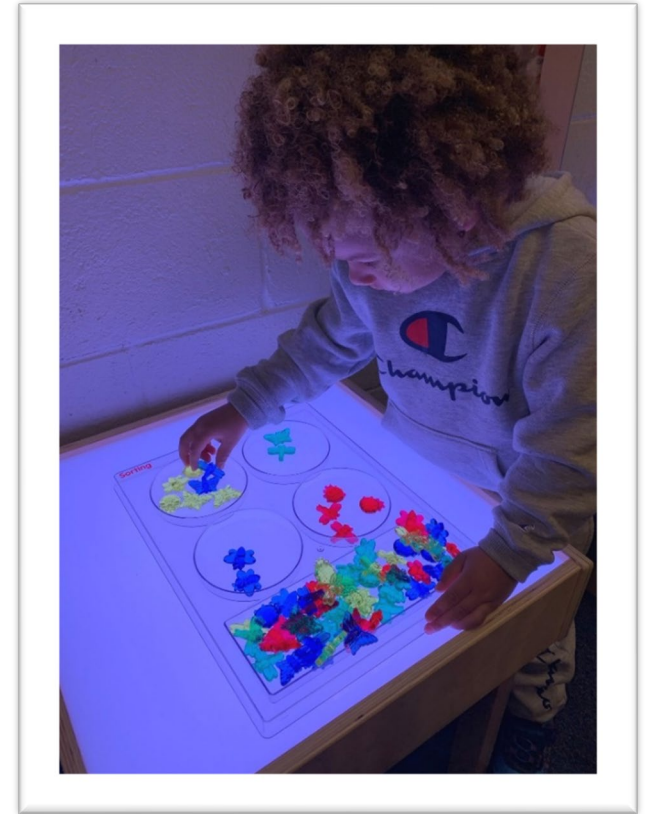
Who Can Apply for GFGI?

- All SCPS educators, Assistant Principals, and Principals are eligible to apply for grant funding through Grants for Great Ideas.
- All SCPS elementary, middle, and high schools are eligible for funding including Seminole County Virtual School, VPK programs, and special centers.
- All projects and funds must be used to impact SCPS students.



GFGI Requirements: What does the Review 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



GFGI Requirements: Measurable Outcomes

- All projects must have measurable outcomes and the ability to track those outcomes with all students who participate.
- All projects must track the number of students and teachers 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?
- Examples of data collection for all students involved include test scores, pre-and post-participant surveys, or teacher administered skills test, such as iReady.
- Each project's GFGI final reports provide the required data FSCPS needs to report to our current donors and secure future program funding.



GFGI Requirements: Tracking & Measuring Outcomes

Collecting the data to meet the reporting requirements is easier than you think!

Track measurable outcomes associated with your project using:

- Student Test Scores or Grades
 - Track student improvement using a teacher administered skills test related to the subject such as i-Ready.
 - Track student improvement using overall grade in a related subject.
 - For Arts projects, teachers can have students create a project, receive a grade for the project, and report on that.
- Pre-and Post-Surveys
 - Have students' complete surveys before and after the project.
 - For Arts projects, gauge changes student's interest in continued learning about the arts, or their interest in pursuing artistic endeavors, careers, or majors.
 - For ELA projects, gauge 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.
 - For STEM projects, gauge changes in students' interest in STEM Careers, STEM majors/learning, and their participating in STEM-related activities outside of coursework.



GFGI Requirements: School, District & State Approval

- Prior to submitting your application, ensure school leadership (Principal or Assistant Principal) approves of the overall proposed project including its activities, purchases, and any facility impacts to your school site.
- Ensure project and all its activities, materials, and curriculum complies with district and state education standards.

- [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](#)

| Benchmark | Description | Benchmark | Description |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| 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. | | |

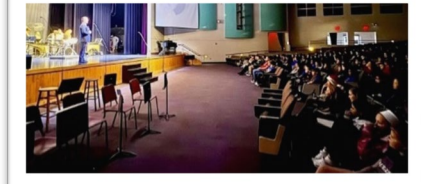


What Purchases are Allowed with GFGI Funds?

Ensure all purchases comply with district and state education standards, are project related, and add to the educational value of the project.

This is a non-exhaustive list of allowable purchases/expenses and should be used in conjunction with the unallowable expenses to guide your purchases.

- Technology and equipment directly related to the project's goals and not available through the district such as 3D printers, coding robots, tablets, specialized art tools, school garden equipment, etc.
- Consumable supplies like wiring, circuit boards, paint, brushes, workbooks, etc.
- Printing expenses for classroom resources and learning at home resources.
- Field trips costs (digital, in-house, or external) such as transportation, admission fees, etc.
- Performers/performances associated with and paid by an organization that are tied to a structured activity related to the project.
- SCPS approved virtual/online expenses that will enhance student learning such as Virtual Field Trips, ebooks, software/apps/technology accessible online.
- Approved classroom books and curriculum related to the project and its goals.
- Manipulatives materials that allow students to explore an idea in an active, hands-on approach.
- Costuming and other performance materials for school productions.



What Purchases are NOT Allowed with GFGI Funds?

This list outlines unallowable expenses:

- Books, curriculum, or any materials that DO NOT comply with district or state education standards.
- Sales tax. The teacher and school are responsible for ensuring funds are not spent on sales tax.
- Food or refreshments.
- Rewards and Recognition Items such as trophies, trinkets, gift cards, or certificates.
- Furniture including but not limited to bean bag chairs, shelving units, storage bins.
- Uniforms or clothing items. This does not include costuming for drama productions which is an allowable expense.
- Speaking fees paid to individuals such as authors, celebrities, and other professionals. This does not include performers/facilitators associated with and paid by an organization which is an allowable expense.
- Equipment, hardware, and software that can be funded by a school's budget.
- Equipment, hardware, and software unrelated to the project or does not provide educational value.
- Projects at non-SCPS schools or charter schools.
- Postage costs such as mailing of letters and/or packages by the students.
- Materials that will not remain property of the school for example later donated to the community, auctioned off, and/or sold as a fundraiser.

2024-2025 Timeline Reporting Schedule

- February 28, 2025 – 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, 2025 – Deadline for Bookkeepers to return any unused funds to The Foundation.
- April 18, 2025 - All projects must be fully implemented by this date in order to gather required data (grades and measurable outcomes) from your students.
- May 1, 2025 - 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.**

Be Ready to Share Your Outcomes

Keep in mind each project must be prepared to answer the following questions in their final report:

Impact – Every Project must track ALL of the following:

- Students Primarily Impacted (number of students who will be tracked/evaluated)
- Teachers Impacted (number of teachers involved in the project)
- Students Secondarily Impacted (if other students benefitted from the project but were not evaluated)

Arts Projects – Must track at least one of the following:

- Number of students who increased their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and/or behavior.
- Students who received a passing grade on the project

English Language Arts Projects – Must track at least one of the following:

- Number of students who maintained “C” or above or improved their overall grade in a related subject; or number of students who maintained on-grade level score or improved their scores on a teacher administered skills test.
- Number of students with an improved attitude toward reading and literacy.
- Number of students with an increased interest pursuing reading or literacy-based activities.
- Number of students who have increased the amount of time they read outside of school.

STEM Projects – Must track at least one of the following:

- Number of students who maintained “C” or above or improved their overall grade in a related subject; or number of students who maintained on-grade level score or improved their scores on a teacher administered skills test.
- Number of students with an increased interest in STEM careers.
- Number of students with an increased interest in STEM learning/majors.
- Number of students with increased participation in STEM-related activities outside of coursework.

Be Ready to Report on Expenditures

- All funds should be spent by February 28, 2025. 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 1, 2025.
- 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.

Grants for Great Ideas – Making An Impact

“Thank you for allowing me to **provide hands-on STEM lessons** to my students. Over the past few years, I have seen a number of students **find their joy in school** and **beg to be a part of some of my projects and clubs**. None of those clubs or projects would be possible without donors and the grants they help to provide.”

- STEM GFGI Recipient Missy Jones

“Thank you for your generous donations that have inspired many elementary students and teachers to **look at another way to learn**. Our grant **allowed us to look beyond** worksheets and books to using our hands to feel, explore, and create **other ways to interest us in learning** and especially with phonics. We've seen many **lightbulbs turn on and be excited about what they are learning**.”

- ELA GFGI Recipient Ann O'Donnell

“The Red Bug art department is so incredibly thankful for your generous donations. With the grant, my students have been able to get a **better understanding of art materials** and seem to have **increased their appreciation for the fine arts**.”

- Arts GFGI Recipient Lauren Lo McDermott

2023 – 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

\$73,476.30 Awarded

47 Projects

31 Schools

13,707 Students Impacted

- 51% of surveyed students involved in STEM projects improved their grade in at least one STEM subject area, or on a teacher administered test.
- 74% of surveyed students involved in ELA projects either improved their grades in reading, English, or language arts; or improved based on scores on a reading skills test.
- 91% of students involved in Arts projects having an increased interest in art topics and exploring both visual and performing arts on their own.
- 100% of teachers reported a positive experience with the program.

Grants for Great Ideas – YOU Can Do It!

“**It was my first grant, and I enjoyed it just as much, if not more than my students.** Being able to teach Science and do STEM labs and lessons **increased the academic knowledge** that the students took from each day in my class. Students in this 5th Grade class **enjoyed science a lot more** than students in previous years. I was a little confused in the beginning, but **the staff help me tremendously** and always got back to me when I needed assistance.”

- STEM GFGI Recipient Michelle Acker

“As a recipient of GFGI for over a decade and 4 different grade levels, I have firsthand experience with **how wonderful the Foundation’s GFGI program is.** Everyone in the **GFGI office is knowledgeable and friendly** when I have had to make inquiries in the past.”

- ELA GFGI Tracey Albert

“The **Grants for Great Ideas program has been incredible to work with.** Everything went very smoothly, and it has been **so easy to navigate.** Even when our schedules changed due to testing, **the staff was very easy and flexible to work with,** and I cannot say how much I appreciated their support through the entire process.”

- STEM GFGI Recipient Nicole Yurecko

“This grant program has been wonderful to work with. **The ease of application, reporting, communication, and assistance throughout the process has been expeditious and thorough.** I look forward to working with this program in the future.”

- ELA GFGI Recipient Lara Haslach

“The Foundation Grant staff has not only **made the grant application process easy** but shown enormous **support and encouragement for my project goals.**”

- Arts GFGI Recipient Lisa Van Smith





Making Your Project Stand Out: What does Review 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).

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Looking for Inspiration?

[Past recipients share their Guides for Great Ideas](#)



Ready to Get Started?

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

[GFGI 2024-2025 Budget Form](#)

[GFGI 2024-2025 Online Application](#)



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

Questions along the way? Contact Missy Mercado
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