

GEF Grant Process FAQs for Educators

Q: If I have a question about the grant process or have an idea I'd like to get feedback on, whom should I contact?

A: The GEF Grant Committee has created a list of liaisons for each school whom educators can contact with questions on the process, to refine an idea, and work with administration, as well as with questions after a grant has been awarded. We hope the application process is a collaborative effort between educators, administration and Grant Committee members from the first spark of an idea to implementation.

Q: Where do I find the grant application?

A: A link to the online grant application can be found on the Grants page of the GEF website. The Grants page has everything you need to apply for a grant as well as sample grant applications, a list of liaisons for each school, and other useful information.

Q: Both GEF and PTA offer grant and wish list opportunities. How do I know the appropriate channel for my idea?

A: GEF focuses on high-impact innovative pilot programs, and we are able to fund grants across all eight schools in District 34. While each PTA has a different rubric for evaluating grants and wish lists, the PTAs have a wider scope of approval, including supplies and materials to improve the everyday classroom experience.

Q: What happens if a grant needs additional funding?

A: If you feel that an approved grant requires additional funding, please contact your grant liaison as soon as possible with details about the expenses and timeframe. Together, you'll request additional funding from the Grant Committee, which may need to gain the approval of the GEF board for financial extensions in excess of 10% of the approved grant.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of grants a teacher may apply for or be awarded?

A: No, educators may apply for as many grants as they wish! We hope that many grants are developed, but we also expect them to be thoroughly proposed and executed, which would make it unlikely that a teacher would be involved with more than one grant during the school year.

Q: I will need to submit a grant report for GEF after my grant is completed. What happens to my grant report after submission?

A: Grant reports are shared with GEF board members to inform future decision making and ensure we are fully meeting the needs of the community we serve. Grant report information is also used to publicize grants with current and future donors. GEF hopes to develop a repository for grant reports that may be accessed by District 34 personnel so that collaboration between GEF, D34 Staff and D34 Administration can flourish.

Q: How long do I have to use the grant money?

A: Grant money must be used within 18 months of grant approval.