

# 2018 Grants Guide

## for STEM, EdTech, and Professional Development

### Where and how to secure funding

This comprehensive guide contains detailed information for grants by category, with a focus on K–8 students and their teachers. You'll also find links to online resources and search engines, and how-to grant writing tips.

### Table of Contents

#### Part 1: Funding Sources

- STEM Grants 1
- Grant Resource Websites 2
- EdTech Grants 10
- Professional Development Grants 12
- Federal Grants 15
  - ESSA Implementation and Budgets
  - Federal Formula Grants
  - Federal Discretionary Funding and Grants

#### Part 2: How-To Tips

- What to do Before Applying for a Grant 18
- How to Match Grant Proposals with Providers 19
- 8 Tips for Writing a Winning Grant Application 19

### PART 1: FUNDING SOURCES

If your school or district doesn't already have a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed, you may want to consider creating one. There is cost, time, and energy involved, but some private foundations, particularly at the state and local level, may provide grant support to non-profit groups only. To find out about forming a non-profit entity to raise funds for your classroom, school, and district needs, search [here](#).

### STEM Grants

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATORS CLASSROOM GRANTS (AAE)** Teacher scholarships and classroom grants are competitive awards available to all educators.

- **Awards:** Up to \$500 for classroom materials or professional development.
- **Submission deadlines:** October 1 and March 1.

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS (AIAA) CLASSROOM GRANT PROGRAM** Applicants must establish a clear connection to STEM with an emphasis on aerospace in the grant proposal. Teachers must be current AIAA Educator Associate members actively engaged in K–12 classroom education before receiving this grant.

- **Awards:** Up to \$250 to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning.
- **Submission deadlines:** October through November for a grant in the following year.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METALS (ASM) INTERNATIONAL TEACHER GRANTS**

Foundation grants help K–12 teachers bring the real world of materials science into their classrooms. "Living in a Material World" grants recognize teacher creativity.

- **Grant amounts:** 20 grants of \$500 annually.
- **Application deadlines:** May 25.

**GRANT RESOURCE WEBSITES**

**[The Foundation Center](#)**

Search for information on philanthropy

**[Grants.gov](#)**

Search for federal funding opportunities

**[Grants for Teachers](#)**

Search for K–12 grants by category, location, or grade

**[GrantWatch](#)**

Search by interest, geographic focus, and type of funding (subscription-based)

**[Inside Philanthropy](#)**

Search for K–12 education funders, particularly for charter schools (especially those in underserved communities)

**[The School Funding Center](#)**

Search for grants by state, program category, and type of institution

**[Technology Grants](#)**

Follow @winmoregrants on Twitter

**[ASTELLAS USA FOUNDATION](#)** Foundation awards grants in the areas of science, literacy, and education. Priority is given to projects addressing health and well-being; STEM education; and disaster relief. Through its commitment to STEM education, the foundation awards grants that inspire students to pursue careers in science-based industries. Grants for STEM education programs and after-school enrichment programs provide mentoring and hands-on learning to students to cultivate their critical thinking, collaboration with others, and problem-solving skills.

- **Awards:** Varies.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**[BOEING COMPANY CHARITABLE TRUST](#)** Education is one of the areas of focus for Boeing’s corporate-giving program. Boeing intends to help students gain fundamental twenty-first-century skills relevant to STEM, such as the ability to think critically and solve problems, collaborate well, be creative, and communicate effectively. Proof of 501(c)(3) status required.

- **Awards:** Varies.
- **Submission deadlines:** Deadlines vary by location. More information on country, state, and local office contacts may be found on the website.

**[BRAITMAYER FOUNDATION](#)** This Foundation is interested in proposals utilizing innovative practices in K–12 education throughout the United States. Of particular interest is 1) curricular and school reform initiatives and 2) preparation of and professional development opportunities for teachers, particularly those which encourage people of high ability and diverse backgrounds to enter and remain in K–12 teaching. Proof of 501(c)(3) status required.

- **Awards:** Up to \$35,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Letters of Inquiry are accepted February 1 through March 15, annually. Invited proposals are due October 15, annually.

**[BROWN RUDNICK COMMUNITY GRANTS](#)** The Community Grant Program proceeds from the premise that those involved on the front lines often have unique insight into small but significant needs or innovations that are often overlooked and which, with foresight and focus, could be addressed to make a positive difference to the community served. The program funds classroom projects for K–12 schools in Hartford, Boston, New York City, Providence, or Washington D.C.

- **Awards:** \$2,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Ongoing.

**[THE RONALD BURKLE FOUNDATION](#)** The Ronald W. Burkle Foundation makes grants to programs that engage children in learning, advance scientific research, strengthen international understanding, foster worker’s rights, empower underserved communities, and nurture the arts and architecture. Previous grants were used to fund youth outreach programs, health education projects for children and youth, teaching and mentoring programs for underserved children, and youth arts and athletic programs. Eligible applicants are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and PreK–12 schools. Interested applicants must first submit a Letter of Inquiry; selected applicants are then invited to submit a full proposal. Letters must be sent by postal mail.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**COGNIZANT MAKING THE FUTURE GRANTS** This initiative was created to spark interest in STEM disciplines through financial, in-kind, and volunteer support for schools and non-profits, advocacy, college scholarships, and the company's flagship *Making the Future* after-school and summer programs. Proof of 501(c)(3) status required.

- **Awards:** Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000, and are in increments of \$500.
- **Submission deadlines:** October 1 through November 15 to gain funds for the following year.

**SPARKFUN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM** This program supports maker education projects that foster innovation and creativity. Priority is given to activities that embrace maker values of open source, collaboration, playfulness, learning at all levels, and making the world a better place. Grants are awarded in the form of hardware, expertise, and cash funds.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Ongoing. Applications are reviewed the third Thursday of each month.

**CORNING FOUNDATION** The Foundation puts specific focus in STEM and STEAM (which includes the arts) curricula as well as workforce development programs that lead to productive career paths for young adults. The programs could include exposing K–12 students to STEM-related experiences and hands-on activities. At colleges and universities, the Foundation supports expanding the depth and breadth of STEM curricula. Corning Incorporated Foundation supports programs in the communities where the corporation has a presence.

- **Awards:** Totaling approximately \$5 million overall.
- **Submission deadlines:** Ongoing.

**MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL FOUNDATION GRANTS** The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation only accepts unsolicited proposals for specific areas within the education, family economic stability, and childhood health sectors in select countries where they work, namely the United States, India, and South Africa. Projects should directly serve or impact children living in urban poverty, particularly in the areas of education, family economic stability (including microfinance), and childhood health.

- **Amounts:** Foundation has approved grants ranging from \$500 to several million dollars. As a guideline, the Foundation generally will not fund more than 25 percent of a project's budget or more than 10 percent of an organization's total annual operating expenses.
- **Submission deadlines:** Ongoing.

**CAPTAIN PLANET FOUNDATION (CPF) ECOTECH™ GRANTS** The CPF is offering grants to support inquiry-based projects in STEM fields that leverage technology or use nature-based designs to address environmental problems in local communities. Ideal projects are youth-led, project-based, and integrate technology to solve an environmental issue that results in real, demonstrable environmental outcomes. The Foundation does not provide funding for applications that merely add iPads, tablets, or other smart devices to a project. Preference is given to requests that have secured matching or in-kind funding.

- **Amounts:** Up to \$2,500.
- **Submission deadlines:** Cycle 1 opens July 16 and closes January 15. Cycle 2 opens January 16 and closes July 15, annually.

**THE ALFRED E. FRIEND, JR., W4CF, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FUND OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE (ARRL) FOUNDATION** This Fund provides annual grants to organized programs and projects designed for groups to pursue on-going education in wireless/STEM/radio technology with special emphasis on activities involving youth and teacher development. The ARRL Foundation gives preference to applicants who have local radio club participation, and have successfully conducted local fundraising prior to submitting a grant application.

- **Awards:** Range from \$1,000 to \$3,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due October 1, annually.

**GLADYS AND ROLAND HARRIMAN FOUNDATION** There is no official website for this foundation that provides grants on a national basis to public and private schools primarily for education, including STEM programs. Initial approach should be a written summary in letter form with a brief description of the organization and their funding requirements as well as a copy of the 501(c)(3) form. Address: 140 Broadway, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10005; 212-493-8185.

- **Amounts:** \$5,000.00 to \$100,000.00.
- **Submission deadlines:** Ongoing.

**AMERICAN HONDA FOUNDATION** The American Honda Foundation supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM; the environment; job training; and literacy. Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) public charities, public school districts, and private and public elementary and secondary schools with a program focused on youth and scientific education. "Youth" is defined as pre-natal through 21 years of age. Applications must be submitted online.

- **Amounts:** Awards range from \$20,000 to \$75,000 over a one-year period.
- **Submission deadlines:** For new applicants, applications are due February 1 and August 1, annually. For returning applicants, applications are due May 1, annually.

**THE CHARLES LAFITTE FOUNDATION (CLF)** The CLF supports innovative and effective ways of helping people help themselves and others around them to achieve healthy, satisfying, and enriched lives. The foundation supports organizations working in four main areas: education, children's advocacy, medical research and initiatives, and the arts. CLF helps individuals gain access to schools, from preschool through college, by issuing grants and taking an active role in exploring new approaches to education.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**LOCKHEED MARTIN** Lockheed Martin provides generous funding to STEM education outreach activities for students from elementary school through college. The company supports programs, events, and campaigns that focus on student achievement, teacher development, and gender and ethnic diversity.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL® (NSB)** The NSB is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics. Middle and high school student teams from diverse backgrounds face off in a fast-paced question-and-answer format, being tested on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy, and math.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Regional competition dates vary, but are typically between January and March. See the website for specific dates. The national competition will take April 26 through 30, 2018; April 25 through 29, 2019; and April 30 through May 4, 2020.

**THE MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC AMERICAN FOUNDATION (MEAF)** MEAF funds projects that help young people (up to age 26) with disabilities develop the leadership and employment skills they need to succeed, particularly for careers in \STEAM. Programs must be national in scope or intended to be replicated nationally to be eligible for funding. The foundation does not provide grants to individual schools or school districts. However, a school or district may be a member of a coalition of school districts seeking a grant for an inclusion program, a partner with a community college or university on a program for disabled students, or partner with a qualified nonprofit organization, which may be a school-based foundation. The application process requires the initial submission of an eligibility quiz.

- **Awards:** Range from \$10,000 to \$75,000 for one to three years.
- **Submission deadlines:** The eligibility quiz is available online from April 1 through June 15, annually.

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)** NASA seeks proposals to establish and implement an aerospace academy to increase participation and retention of historically underserved and underrepresented K–12 youth in STEM disciplines. The goal is to build the interest, skills, and knowledge necessary for elementary and secondary students to pursue STEM careers by engaging them in authentic STEM experiences constructed around NASA mission content. There is an emphasis on including female, African American, Hispanic, and Native American students.

- **Awards:** Cooperative agreements up to \$325,000 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Notices of Intent are due January 18, 2018. Applications are due March 22, 2018.

**NATIONAL FLUID POWER ASSOCIATION (NFPA) EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION**

The NFPA Education and Technology Foundation is committed to supporting educational programs and research in fluid power. To goal is to foster awareness and involvement of middle and high school students and help them understand fluid power's potential as a technology and as a career path.

- **Awards:** Grants up to \$500 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted and reviewed year-round.

**NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (NEA) FOUNDATION GRANTS** The NEA typically awards 150 to 170 Student Achievement Grants and Learning & Leadership Grants each year. Grants are available to current members of the NEA who are educators in public schools or public institutions of higher education. They give preference to proposals that incorporate STEM and/or global competence in their projects. Learn more about the individual grants at the website.

- **Awards:** \$2,000 or \$5,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** February 1, June 1, and October 15.

**OMRON FOUNDATION, INC.** The OMRON Foundation, Inc. coordinates the charitable efforts of all OMRON offices in the United States and is funded by OMRON's subsidiaries in North America, who contribute a portion of their sales. Among the foundation's funding priorities are programs to support education from elementary to college, with a focus on engineering, science, mathematics, and technology.

- **Awards:** Range from \$250 to \$100,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Preliminary applications are accepted year-round.

**THE PARADIGM CHALLENGE** The Paradigm Challenge is an annual competition that invites students aged 4 to 18 around the world to use kindness, creativity, and collaboration to help solve a real-life problem and make a difference in the world. The Challenge welcomes all types of ideas, including posters, videos, inventions, public messages, community events, websites, mobile apps, or anything else that will help improve personal health. More than \$250,000 in cash prizes and grants are awarded each year to innovative students and their inspiring teachers.

- **Awards:** One grand prize of \$100,000; first-place prizes of \$10,000; second-place prizes of \$2,000; third-place prizes of \$1,000; and finalist prizes of \$200 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Entries are due May 1, 2018.

**PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW)** PLTW is a national provider of STEM grant programs. There are multiple grant opportunities available through a number of partnerships. Current and upcoming opportunities are listed [here](#).

**RESEARCH IN THE FORMATION OF ENGINEERS** (RFE) Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the RFE program supports the study of the formal and informal educational processes influencing how students become engineers. Proposals are accepted for research projects or design and development projects advancing knowledge about engineering education at the elementary, secondary, postsecondary, graduate, and professional levels.

- **Awards:** Average grants of \$350,000 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due the fourth Wednesday in January and September, annually.

**SHELL OIL COMPANY** Shell makes educational grants to qualified nonprofit groups, with special consideration given to requests from organizations in or near communities in the United States where Shell Oil Company has a significant presence. Grant requests related to education must focus on energy awareness with special publics. These include increasing interest in technical careers among students, and professional development in science and mathematics for educators. Funding is provided to support K–12 programs that are designed to boost students’ mathematics and science skills. Shell also funds projects at vocational and technical schools where chemical and refinery operators and technicians are trained. Of particular interest are programs in mathematics, science, and technology that engage women or girls and minority students, and within academic institutions that have ethnically diverse enrollments.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Grant applications are accepted year-round.

**SOLVE FOR TOMORROW EDUCATION CONTEST** *Solve for Tomorrow* is a video competition sponsored by Samsung. Its goal is to give schools across the US the opportunity to raise interest and foster more enthusiasm in STEAM subjects among students by awarding their schools with a share of over \$2 million in technology. The contest asks participants to submit ideas on how STEAM can help improve their local community, and empower students to learn creative problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

- **Awards:** Up to 255 state finalists receive a Samsung Galaxy Tab. Up to 51 state winners receive a prize package consisting of \$25,000 of Samsung technology (exact items to be determined by the sponsor). Ten national finalist’s teams receive \$50,000 in Samsung technology for their school and attend the Pitch Event. Each national winner team receives \$150,000 in Samsung technology. The Community Choice Award winner receives an additional \$20,000 in Samsung technology.
- **Submission deadlines:** Phase one entries are accepted September 14 through November 9, 2017. Phase two activity plans are accepted November 22 through December 6, 2017. Phase three video entry submissions are accepted December 13, 2017 through February 13, 2018. Public voting for phase four takes place March 1 through March 25, 2018.

**SONY GRANTS FOR EDUCATION** Sony focuses the majority of its charitable giving on arts, culture, technology and the environment, with a particular emphasis on education in each of those areas. The Company welcomes requests for support throughout the year within the guidelines [set forth here](#). There is no grant application form. Requests must be submitted in writing. Proof of 501(c)(3) status required.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Grant applications are accepted year-round.



**SPIE EDUCATION OUTREACH GRANTS PROGRAM** SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, provides grant support for education projects related to optics and photonics, including STEM activities with an optics or photonics component. Proposed projects are judged on their potential to impact a large audience and increase awareness and interest in optics and photonics.

- **Awards:** Education Outreach Grants up to \$5,000 and Sustaining Grants up to \$2,000 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due January 31 and May 31, annually.

**TOSHIBA AMERICA FOUNDATION (TAF) GRANTS** Toshiba offers grants to elementary-level teachers for projects that focus on improving science and mathematics education. The goal is to provide teachers with additional funding to support innovative ideas for hands-on classroom projects. Applications must be for project-based learning. Funds may be used for project materials only. Summer programs, after-school projects, and independent study projects are not eligible for funding. In addition, requests solely for computers are not considered. Any K–5 teacher in a public or private (not for profit) school is eligible. Applicants may contact the foundation via phone to discuss their project ideas before submitting a proposal. Applicants must complete a short questionnaire in order to access the online application.

- **Awards:** Up to \$5,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due October 1, annually.

**TOSHIBA/NSTA EXPLORAVISION COMPETITION** The ExploraVision competition for K–12 students engages the next generation in real-world problem-solving with a strong emphasis on STEM. ExploraVision challenges students to envision and communicate new technology 20 years in the future through collaborative brainstorming and research of current science and technology. Teachers may incorporate the competition investigation into their curriculum to involve all students, or coach interested teams of students that want to enter the competition.

- **Awards:** Each first-place team receives a prize of a US EE Savings Bond worth \$10,000 at maturity for each student. Each second-place team receives a prize of a US EE Savings Bond worth \$5,000 at maturity for each student.
- **Submission deadlines:** Projects are due February 8, 2018.

**TOYOTA U.S.A. FOUNDATION GRANTS** To be considered for a grant, all interested candidates must start by filling out an online application and follow the listed process. Organizations must be classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity by the Internal Revenue Service, be located within the United States, and have a national scope. Additionally, programs requesting funding must focus on education specifically in the STEM disciplines.

- **Awards:** Varies but begins at a minimum of \$50,000 per year.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round.



**VERIZON FOUNDATION GRANTS** Funding is intended to support, among other things, projects that promote STEM initiatives, including summer or after-school programs, teacher training, and research on improving learning in STEM areas through the use of technology. Grantees may not use grant funding to purchase technology hardware (computers, netbooks, laptops, routers), devices (tablets, phones), data storage, or Internet service and access.

- **Awards:** Average grant size over the last several years ranged between \$5,000 and \$10,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are by invitation. Eligibility is determined by visiting the local community relations manager in your area.

**WALMART FOUNDATION GRANTS** Walmart offers a range of grants at state and community levels. The grant process begins with an online application.

- **Grant amounts:** Community Grants range from a minimum of \$250 to the maximum grant of \$2,500.
- **Submission deadlines:** Vary.

**THE WEBB FAMILY FOUNDATION** This foundation provides grants in the areas of education; youth development; career and workforce readiness; financial literacy; entrepreneurship; STEM; digital and blended learning; and youth mentorship. The foundation supports programs and projects that target underserved children and youth. Recent grants have funded a college success program and support of charter schools working to close the achievement gap for low-income students.

- **Awards:** Vary
- **Submission deadlines:** Letters of Inquiry are accepted year-round.

**THE HARRY AND JEANETTE WEINBERG FOUNDATION** This foundation supports lower-income individuals, and vulnerable and at-risk populations in the communities in which they reside. Focus areas include early childhood education, STEM, and Out of School Time learning enrichment. The Foundation also invests in professional development and staff training, and effective data collection and evaluation.

- **Awards:** Vary
- **Submission deadlines:** Letters of Inquiry are accepted year-round.

**WESTINGHOUSE COMMUNITY GIVING** Westinghouse gives priority to STEM education. Grantees must be non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

- **Awards:** Up to \$5,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Rolling. Proposals are reviewed by the Westinghouse Charitable Giving Advisory Board two times each Westinghouse fiscal year April 1 to March 31.

## EdTech Grants

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATORS FOUNDATION (AAE)** Classroom grants from the AAE Foundation can be used for a variety of projects and materials, including but not limited to books, software, calculators, mathematics manipulatives, art supplies, audiovisual equipment, lab materials, and more. Funds must be used within one year of the application deadline.

- **Awards:** Grants up to \$500 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due March 1 and October 1, annually.

**AT&T FOUNDATION** The AT&T Foundation supports programs that encourage family involvement in education, provide professional development opportunities for teachers, aid in the preparation of new teachers, and promote lifelong learning and community collaboration.

- **Amounts:** Vary. The AT&T Foundation has committed \$50 million to help families, schools, and communities use technology to enhance teaching and learning.
- **Submission deadlines:** See the [website](#) for programs and partners, and descriptions of all programs.

**ADOBE EDUCATION EXCHANGE CONNECTED INITIATIVE** Adobe offers funding for software and teacher professional development. The ConnectED Initiative is designed to enrich K–12 education. Funding is available for creative tools, elearning tools, and electronic signature tools from Adobe. There is also on-demand teacher training available. Training consists of 30-minute webinars to in-depth workshops and collaborative courses.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**DIGITAL WISH** Digital Wish is a non-profit on a mission to help teachers solve technology shortfalls in their classrooms. Teachers can apply for grants, create a wish list of technology needs for their classroom, and share lesson plans and fundraising ideas with fellow educators across the country. Digital Wish also provides a searchable library of grants and a myriad of ideas for fundraising. The entire site is designed to empower teachers to find funding for technology for their classrooms.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Lesson plan deadlines vary based on grants.

**DONORS CHOOSE** DonorsChoose.org is a United States–based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that allows individuals to donate directly to public school classroom projects. Visit the crowdfunding website to discover how you can get your students what they need.

**EDUCATORS OF AMERICA, INC.** Educators of America, Inc. offers Classroom Technology Grants to promote student achievement and technology integration. Grants allow schools to furnish a classroom or entire building with needed technology tools such as web-connected devices; electronic whiteboards; tablets; and STEM lab equipment. Funding not only supplies teachers and educators with the classroom technology they need, but also trains them to use it in the most effective ways possible.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications accepted year-round and reviewed quarterly.

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION (ISTE) DISTINGUISHED**

**DISTRICT AWARD** The ITSE Distinguished District Award recognizes a school system larger than one individual school (school district, school board, secretariat of education, education organization) that exhibits effectiveness and innovation in the application of technology. The winner will ensure equitable and appropriate technology use for all students in the system, aimed at improving learner outcomes and increasing learning opportunities.

- **Awards:** Up to \$2,000 for travel expenses to attend the ISTE Conference and Expo is awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Nominations are accepted December 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018.

**INTERNATIONAL GAME TECHNOLOGY (IGT) AFTER SCHOOL ADVANTAGE (ASA) PROGRAM**

IGT's ASA program strives to close the "Digital Divide" for disadvantaged children who get left behind because they do not have the means to access computers in today's increasingly digital society. Its goal is to address the needs of underprivileged/at-risk children ages 5 to 18 with a meaningful, yet fun, learning experience during after-school hours in a safe environment. The program provides qualifying non-profit community agencies and public schools with digital learning centers. Download the proposal guidelines PDF for additional details.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Proposals are accepted year-round.

**NATIONAL CRISTINA FOUNDATION** The National Cristina Foundation works to promote technology reuse by educating businesses and the public that technology resources coming out of their first place of use can be given a second productive life for developing human potential. Through the Cristina Network, the Foundation provides free donation management system software and solutions for use by nonprofits, schools and public agencies in their local communities to manage their own reuse agendas to benefit people with disabilities, students at risk, and persons who are economically disadvantaged.

- **Awards:** Computer and technology donations are awarded to serve a variety of educational and workforce development-related projects for underserved populations.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are accepted year-round.

**FRESH FILMS SUBWAY® TECH GRANT** Fresh Films uses the fun and relevancy of film to connect students with technology, STEM and careers. The Fresh Films SUBWAY Tech Grant provides funding towards classroom technology software, hardware, or supplies. All K–12 teachers and principals from any discipline who have a demonstrated need for technology are eligible to win.

- **Awards:** Grants of \$300 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due May 5 and September 15, annually.

**TENSOR WOMEN AND MATHEMATICS GRANTS** The Tensor Foundation provides funding to support projects designed to encourage women from middle school, high school, college, or university levels to study and persist in mathematics. Possible projects, all of which have a strong mathematics component, may include: creating a network of women professional mentors who direct mathematics projects for girls, holding a conference for counselors to prepare them to encourage women and girls to continue to study mathematics, or conducting a summer mathematics program for high school women.

- **Awards:** Grants up to \$6,000 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due February 12, annually.

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) COMPUTERS FOR LEARNING (CFL)**

**PROGRAM** The U.S. GSA sponsors the CFL program which provides used, but still useful, computers and peripheral equipment to schools. You pay for the shipping. Find directions and application forms [here](#).

- **Awards:** Various computer equipment is awarded, including computers, laptops, desktops, printers, scanners, peripheral devices (e.g., monitors, keyboards, mouses), and computer components.
- **Submission deadlines:** Registration and requests are accepted year-round.

---

## Professional Development Grants

**ALBERT EINSTEIN DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (AEF)** The AEF program provides a unique professional development opportunity for K–12 teachers who have at least five years of experience teaching in STEM subjects. Educators participate in 10- or 11-month positions in Federal agencies or U.S. congressional offices across the country, during which time they are given the chance to have a direct impact on education programming, policy, and reform efforts. After the program, teachers return to the classroom with a deeper understanding of STEM education and experience that will enrich instruction and benefit students.

- **Awards:** \$6,000 monthly stipend, \$1,000 monthly living expenses.
- **Submission deadlines:** See the [website](#) for further information and application information.

**ASSOCIATION FOR MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION (AMLE) FOUNDATION FUND** The AMLE Foundation Fund Committee awards two Collaboration Mini-Grants annually to middle grades educators who have taken leadership roles in developing collaborative projects both within and outside of schools. Funds may be used to enhance an existing collaborative project or to institute a proposed program. Any professional member or school that has been an AMLE school member for at least 12 months may apply.

- **Awards:** Grants of \$2,000 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due April 15, annually.

**FRANCIS R. DEWING (FRD) FOUNDATION** The FRD Foundation supports innovative ways of teaching young children (up to grade 6). Priority is given to new, untried, or unusual educational organizations or institutions experimenting with novel educational methods for young children and elementary-age students. Project proposals must address specific identifiable needs that involve children or students directly. The Trustees prefer to fund innovative projects with potential for broad influence, leading to the publication of results.

- **Awards:** Range from \$1,000 to \$20,000, averaging \$5,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due April 1 and October 1, annually.

**BRADY EDUCATION FOUNDATION (BEF)** BEF seeks to close the achievement and resulting opportunity gap between children living in under-resourced and/or under-represented communities and other children. The Foundation pursues its mission by promoting collaboration between researchers and educators via the funding of research and program evaluations in education. Currently, the foundation is focused on the development and evaluation of programs that are consistent with a strength-based approach and show promise of being feasible, effective, and sustainable. The Foundation funds two types of projects: evaluations of existing model programs and program development.

- **Awards:** Vary.
- **Submission deadlines:** Stage one applications are due April 1, August 1, and December 1, annually.

**FUND FOR TEACHERS** Fund for Teachers awards self-designed professional development grants for PreK–12 educators, based on the principle that teachers know best what they need to grow as an educator. The organization supports educators' efforts to develop skills, knowledge, and confidence to impact student achievement.

- **Awards:** \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** See the [website](#) for further information and application information by state.

**THE HEARST FOUNDATIONS EDUCATION GRANTS** The Hearst Foundations fund educational institutions demonstrating uncommon success in preparing students to thrive in a global society. The Foundations' focus is largely on higher education, but they also fund innovative models of early childhood and K–12 education, as well as professional development. The foundations have a particular interest in addressing the needs of low-income populations.

- **Awards:** Program, scholarship, capital and, on a limited basis, general and endowment support.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications accepted year-round.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS (NCTM)** In addition to the two grants detailed below, the NCTM awards a large number of grants, scholarships, and funds to help math teachers, prospective teachers, and other math educators improve the teaching and learning of mathematics.

- **Awards:** \$1,200 to \$24,000.
- **Submission deadlines:** Check each listing for applicable dates.

**NCTM SCHOOL IN-SERVICE TRAINING GRANTS (6–8)** This grant provides financial assistance to middle schools for in-service education in mathematics. While this grant does not fund the purchase of technology, proposals including professional development involving the use of technology to enhance student learning are encouraged. Proposals must address need, mathematics content, scope of the plan, other contributing sources of funding, number of teachers and students impacted, distribution of costs, and factors such as urban-rural isolation and multiethnic student body, as applicable.

- **Awards:** Grants up to \$4,000 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due May 4, 2018.

**NCTM TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS** The NCTM awards professional development grants to improve the competence of educators currently teaching Pre-K–5 level mathematics. While this grant does not fund the purchase of technology, proposals including professional development involving the use of technology to enhance student learning are encouraged. Recipients must have three or more years of teaching experience in grades Pre-K–5. Proposals must address the professional development plan, how it will enhance the applicant(s)' mathematical knowledge, and its anticipated impact on students' learning.

- **Awards:** Grants up to \$3,000 are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due November 2, 2018.

**MCCARTHEY DRESSMAN FOUNDATION** The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation sponsors proposals that enhance student learning and educational quality, paying particular attention to those that best serve the at-risk and under-funded. The Foundation awards both [\*Academic Enrichment Grants\*](#) and [\*Teacher Development Grants\*](#). Details are on the website.

- **Awards:** Up to \$10,000/year for three years.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications for both grants are accepted January 15 through April 15.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR TEACHERS (RET) IN ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM**

Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the RET professional development program supports active long-term collaborative partnerships between K–12 in-service and pre-service teachers, full-time community college faculty, and university faculty and students through participation in authentic summer research experiences with engineering and computer science faculty researchers. Goals are to strengthen the knowledge base of STEM teachers and community college faculty, enrich their capacity to teach engineering and computer science, and encourage students to seek engineering or computer science careers. Partnerships with inner city, rural, or other high-needs schools are especially encouraged, as is participation by underrepresented minorities, women, veterans, and persons with disabilities.

- **Awards:** New RET site grants up to \$600,000 are awarded. RET supplement grants up to \$10,000 per teacher or community college faculty are awarded.
- **Submission deadlines:** Applications are due the third Wednesday in September, annually.

---

## **Federal Grants**

### **2018: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Implementation and Current Budget Proposal Update**

2018 is the year ESSA went from planning to implementation. What does it look like?

**ABOUT ESSA.** The Act provides states with more control over their accountability systems such as setting long-term goals for student achievement, multiple measures of school performance, methods of identifying low-performing schools and subgroups of students, and school improvement strategies. ESSA provides flexible funding streams through consolidated grant programs, yet the law also incorporates the concept of “evidence-based” into the legislation as a way of validating that the activities effectively improve educational outcomes and close achievement gaps. The goal of ESSA is to ensure that all students have access to an equitable and excellent education.

#### **THE PRESIDENT’S BUDGET PROPOSAL**

**ELIMINATED FUNDING.** In the spring of 2017, President Trump proposed cutting the Education Department’s \$68 billion budget by \$9.2 billion. This would be accomplished by eliminating Title II, a \$2 billion program that helps states train teachers and reduce class size. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, a \$1.1 billion after-school and summer learning program, would also be eliminated. It’s likely the after-school program will be retrained, since bills in both the House and Senate keep the program in place. Under the presidential budget proposal, other programs could be eliminated or cut drastically. Whatever Congress passes will impact the 2018-19 school year.



**RETAINED FUNDING.** Title I would remain and the budget “would maintain support for the regular Title I program while providing up to \$1 billion to support crucially needed, locally driven efforts to make public school choice a meaningful reality for more students, especially the poor and minority students who are the focus of Title I.”

**STEM SUPPORT.** In fall 2017, President Donald Trump called on the U.S. Department of Education to direct at least \$200 million in competitive grant funding toward expanding STEM education. The president’s directive also parallels similar moves by dozens of states to prioritize STEM education despite flat or declining state education budgets. States that use student performance on science assessments in their accountability systems will have the data to determine which districts, schools, and students need additional support for STEM learning.

**KEEP ABREAST OF CHANGES.** Budget approval is still pending as of the writing of this Guide. To understand the budget proposal, review this summary. Access official U.S. Department of Education ESSA FAQs and key resources here, and sign up for email updates here.

---

## Federal Formula Grants

Formula grant programs are noncompetitive awards based on a predetermined formula. These programs are sometimes referred to as state-administered programs.

**21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS** This program provides money for before- and after-school programs to expand learning activities including technology kits, STEM education kits, and telecommunication education. *The ultimate budget decision has not been made on this funding option.*

**CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM** This program provides funding for purchasing science kits for kids, equipment, supplies, or any educational materials.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** This program seeks to improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators who work in high-poverty areas. Funding can be used towards providing student STEM activities.

**EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY STATE GRANT** This program directs funds toward the effective integration of technology to ensure that students are technologically literate by the time they complete eighth grade.

**INNOVATIVE EDUCATION STATE GRANTS** This is a formula grant under Title V that stimulates educational innovation by encouraging broad-based reform efforts. The funds may be used for technology, professional development software, or curricular materials.

**[MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS](#)** This program is intended to increase the academic achievement of students in mathematics and science by enhancing the content knowledge and teaching skills of classroom teachers. Partnerships between high-need school districts and STEM faculty in institutions of higher education are at the core of these improvement efforts. Other partners may include state education agencies, public charter schools or other public schools, businesses, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations concerned with mathematics and science education.

**[NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION](#)** This foundation promotes and advances scientific programs in the United States and advances grants for science, math, and engineering research in education and grants specifically for [K–12 educators](#).

**[SMALL RURAL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM](#)** This program provides financial assistance to rural districts to assist them in meeting their state’s definition of adequate yearly progress (AYP).

**[TITLE I](#)** The largest of the elementary- and secondary-education programs, this program requires states to develop standards in reading and math and assessments linked to those standards for students. The program is also structured to assist high-poverty schools in giving their students an equal opportunity to meet state standards. *This program is targeted to remain in place in 2018.*

---

## Federal Discretionary Funding and Grants

Unlike federal formula grants, a discretionary grant awards funds on the basis of a competitive process. The department reviews applications, in part through a formal review process, in light of the legislative and regulatory requirements and published selection criteria established for a program. The review process gives the department discretion to determine which applications best address the program requirements and are, therefore, most worthy of funding.

There are hundreds of grants available, each with its own criteria and dollar amounts. Discretionary grant information is periodically updated, check back frequently. Grants that best apply to Math and EdTech can be found on [The Office of Elementary and Secondary Education](#), and [The Office of Innovation and Improvement](#) listings.

Availability may depend on new government budgets.

**Two discretionary funding sources that may be of particular interest to K–8 math educators are:**

**[GEAR UP](#)** This discretionary grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. College scholarships to low-income students have been added to the GEAR UP program.

**[GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS](#)** This program serves students (particularly the economically disadvantaged, disabled, or limited English proficient) who have been underrepresented in gifted and talented programs. To be ready when the right grant is available, register in advance at SAM.gov. For step-by-step registration instructions, view the [SAM tip sheet](#).

---

## **PART 2: HOW-TO TIPS**

### **What to do Before Applying for a Grant**

When districts and schools need educational tools and experiences beyond current budgets, outside funding in the form of government and private grants can make all the difference for teachers and their students.

#### **CHECK IN WITH YOUR ADMINISTRATION**

- Make sure you have support from your principal or superintendent. Grants that are over a few thousand dollars usually require the signature of a senior administrator.
- Some school districts limit the number of state and federal grants you can apply for, so check with administration before you begin your funding search.
- Government grants always require administrative permission.

#### **ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE PROJECT PLAN**

- Have a clear goal and a plan before you apply. Confer with colleagues and think about how the grant will benefit your students over the long term.
- It can be tempting to try to obtain a grant you hear about and then try to retrofit it to your project, but it makes it more difficult in the long run. The grant process is long and involved, so be sure you have a well-defined need and the time necessary to see the process through.

#### **START EARLY**

- It takes time to get feedback and buy-in from your colleagues; clarify needs and goals, get the support and resources in place, and write a winning grant proposal.

#### **INVESTIGATE SOURCES CLOSE TO HOME FIRST**

- Find out if there is a grant administrator in your district.
- Contact your PTA/PTO to see if they provide in-house grants.
- Your local Chamber of Commerce may be able to provide a list of businesses ready to provide grants.

## How to Match Grant Proposals with Providers

The best grant matches will score 4 or 5 in every category. If a score of 3 or higher is not given for each, it is doubtful that it is a good match.

### Rubric to Match Grant Proposals with Grant Providers

CRITERIA	POINTS EARNED (Possible: 0–5)	COMMENTS
Matches goals of grant provider		
Matches required demographics		
Able to be completed in timeframe		
Sustainable after allowable grant period		
Necessary funds are available		
Evaluation methods are compatible		

## 8 Tips for Writing a Winning Grant Application

**1. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT MATCH.** Once you are sure that you need a grant, look for grant opportunities that match your program’s goals and objectives. Understand the mission of the grantor, look at previously funded programs, and determine the range of grant awards typically awarded by that agency.

**2. UNDERSTAND GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS.** Most funding agencies publish grant guidelines or requirements. Be certain you understand them and follow them to the letter. Note the deadline and whether the proposal must be received or postmarked by that date.

**3. BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR MISSION.** Your needs statement drives your entire grant proposal. The proposed program should be clearly based on the challenges you face. The purpose of the grant is to meet the specific needs you have identified, so adequately describe the reason you need the program and include the use of statistics and other research data when possible.

**4. WRITE A PERSUASIVE PROJECT ABSTRACT.** Most proposals, particularly foundation and corporate proposals, require a project abstract. The abstract defines your entire project—needs, goals, objectives, and budget—within a few paragraphs or a page at most. This summary is usually read first. Grant writers often find it helpful to save writing the abstract for last because you can include excerpts from your own text, edited to suit the shorter format. Make the abstract easier to read by using subheads and bullets. Use the active voice in your abstract.

**5. USE “SMART” GOALS.** Smart goals are specific, measurable, attainable (or attainable with budget), relevant, and time-bound. Every proposal will require at least one section that describes the broad goals and measurable objectives of your project. Take the time to detail the activities that will be implemented to accomplish the program’s goals and objectives. Your budget and budget narrative must closely match the described activities. Your evaluation should carefully measure whether the stated project objectives are being met on a timely basis.

**6. DON’T DO IT ALONE.** Work with other educators and parents, especially those who have a passion for the project and—even better—grant-writing experience.

**7. WRITE A STANDOUT COVER LETTER.** Your cover letter should not simply repeat the information in the proposal; it is different from the abstract or needs statement, which is a concise summary of the complete project/proposal. The cover letter should bring your project to life and actively engage the recipient in one page with three to four paragraphs. Keep your tone positive.

- Your first paragraph should be short and focused. Introduce yourself and your district or school, and summarize any recent communication with the funding organization.
- State your purpose, the amount of money you are requesting, and who it will serve.
- Explain how your request aligns with the funder’s mission or funding priorities.
- Include a final thought about what this funding partnership can mean, and focus on solutions, not problems.

**8. BE GRATEFUL AND COLLABORATIVE.** Even if your proposal is not funded, it is a good policy to send a thank-you note to the grantor for the opportunity to submit your proposal. Ask if it is possible to receive reviewer comments so that you can see why your proposal was not funded. Use the reviewer comments to improve your proposal-writing techniques. If you are selected, keep your funder informed about the progress of your project, particularly about documenting results—it can make it easier to obtain your next round of grant funding!



DreamBox Learning was founded in 2006 in Bellevue, Wash. and the company's pioneering Intelligent Adaptive Learning™ platform has won 40 top education and technology industry awards and is in use in all 50 states and throughout Canada. DreamBox Learning Math™ offers a groundbreaking combination of Intelligent Adaptive Learning, a rigorous K–8 mathematics curriculum and a motivating learning environment. The innovative DreamBox platform captures every decision a student makes and adjusts the student's learning path and scaffolds support based on the student's input delivering millions of individualized learning paths, each one tailored to the student's unique needs. DreamBox Learning Math is available for PC and iPad. For more information, visit [www.dreambox.com](http://www.dreambox.com).

Let us help you understand more about how EdTech, Professional Development, and DreamBox can close gaps and open opportunities in your math classrooms.

To see DreamBox Learning in action, [click here](#).

