

Invest in Excellence Grant Process 2021-2022

The Foundation for Lovejoy Schools awards grants to teachers for projects that enhance and augment educational opportunities for students in LISD. Grants should utilize creative teaching approaches and be innovative projects with the hope that the best will serve as pilot projects for broader implementation. In addition, they should reflect the Lovejoy ISD Core Beliefs, Vision, Mission and Goals.

To be considered for grant funding, LISD staff must:

- Complete and submit application (including video)
- Provide all requested information
- Demonstrate specific needs and outcomes

Awards will be made based on how well a grant:

- Includes innovative practices that incorporate the LISD instructional priorities.
- Provides high-quality educational content and the impact on students and/or educational community.
- Complements, supports and enhances LISD curriculum and instructional objectives.
- Supports classroom instruction and enhances student learning.
- Promotes advancement of skills or knowledge and add depth to educational programming.
- Presents a creative and/or innovative approach to teaching or campus experience

Grant Scoring Process:

Grants are chosen using a three-step evaluation process. All applications will be evaluated on merit alone.

Steps:

1. **Review for compliance:** Lovejoy ISD Curriculum & Instruction, Technology and other departments will review grants for compliance to application criteria, district standards and support. Once approved by LISD, grants will be passed to the ranking committee for review.
 - a. If the district does not approve due to standards, etc. The Foundation Director will follow up with the teacher to find alternatives or to share reasoning on why the grant was not passed to the Foundation.
2. **Ranking of the grants:** a minimum of one teacher and administrator from each campus, LISD administration, staff from curriculum & instruction, technology and special education meet and score proposals using the grant selection rubric, with input from the Foundation Invest in Excellence (IIE) [See Grant Selection Rubric Below]

3. **Determine funding:** Following the ranking of grants, the Foundation Invest in Excellence committee together with the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction will evaluate ranked grants – including equity across campuses, number of children served and overall need. They will decide as a group which grant applications receive funding. Final list will be voted on by the FLS Directors.

Grant Evaluation Rubric

Rate each item with any number from 1-5 (no decimals) using the following Scale and Criteria.

Scale - 5 - Exceeds Expectations, 1 = Below Expectations, 0= No Response

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Below Expectations
Goals & Objectives	Objectives are defined, obtainable and address a stated need. The educational outcomes are stated and measurable. The project has potential to make a significant impact on identified needs of the school district	The objectives are defined and address a need. Educational outcomes are stated. It is evident that this project could make a difference in the identified needs of the school /district.	The objectives, needs and educational outcomes are not clearly defined and can not be effectively measured.
School / Community Impact	It is readily apparent that this project fosters unity within the classroom, school and or community at large.	There is some evidence that this project fosters unity within the classroom, school and/or community at large	There is little or no evidence that this project fosters unity within the classroom, school and/or community at large.
Implementation Plan	The projects include well thought out activities that engage students and incorporate LISD instructional priorities. The project supports engaging, new and imaginative pathways to learning that are well documented and clearly evident.	The project includes some evidence of activities that engage students and incorporate some of the LISD instructional priorities. The projects is imaginative in approach, content or delivery	There is a lack of clarity about how the stated activities will engage students and there are few correlations to the LISD instructional priorities. This project is not leading edge or creative.
Evaluation	An evaluation component was built into the grant project. Methods for evaluating the effectiveness of the projects are included and specific activities are identified.	An evaluation component is built into the project. Methods for evaluating the effectiveness of the project are included.	References to evaluating the effectiveness are not specific.
Budget	Proposed project budget is realistic considering the audience size and stated objectives and has a significant return on investment	Proposed project budget is realistic considering the audience size and stated objectives and has a moderate return on investment	Budget is documented and included in the proposal but has little or no return on investment.