



OVERVIEW

The *Bright Ideas Grants (BIG)* program promotes equity and excellence in classroom experiences, initiatives and programs that excite young minds and stimulate learning beyond what some school budgets allow. These classroom enrichment grants are awarded to teachers or schools to bring innovative ideas, concepts, or practices to life, or expand past successful ideas in the classroom or school. Money (up to \$2,000) is allocated to programs that focus on creativity and innovation and academic success. FEF can also step in to help find other funding sources over time so effective initiatives can expand and reach more students.

Before completing the BIG online application, please complete the FCPS “Intent to Apply” form. Link available on the Foundation’s website above the online application. If you have questions, please contact Angela Roberts in the FCPS Grants Programming Office.

Grants applications must align with one or more of the focus areas. Our current programmatic funding priorities include:

- increasing literacy
- career and technical education opportunities
- financial literacy or education
- STEM initiatives
- assisting low-performing schools
- assisting under-served populations.

Application Deadline: June 5, 2024

Recipients Notified: July 10, 2024

Generally, the Foundation will not fund requests for general administrative expenses, capital improvements, fundraising, or projects that do not support students or teachers within the Fayette County Public School district.

Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the board. Normally, The Foundation does not support projects on an on-going basis, preferring to distribute its currently limited funds among many projects. The Foundation will consider requests for renewed support for a project after the current grant period has been completed. Generally, a project receives funding for one year. If a project has received funding from the Foundation for the past two consecutive years, the project request may be denied.

Emergency Discretionary Grant Funds are sometimes available to address immediate or emergency needs and are not awarded regularly. Funds are limited and are subject to an annual budget overseen by the Foundation Board of Directors. Submissions are limited to comprehensive FCPS departments, elementary, middle, and high schools or nonprofits serving those schools. Schools are eligible to apply. To request an application, please contact The Fayette Education Foundation.

Eligible Applicants: FCPS PreK-12 schools and school departments are eligible to apply for BIG, which includes teachers, educational assistants, librarians, counselors, social workers, and **other** school personnel. Applicants may apply as individuals or as part of a group. Emergency Discretionary Grants are generally by invitation only.

All applicants must certify that the principal and immediate supervisor, if applicable, is aware of the proposal and supports the application. Grants will not be funded without the support of **school** administration.

Amount/Approval:

- The maximum amount per request is \$2,000 – **please be as precise as possible.** We understand prices change. ***It is important that you get estimations, don't just apply for "\$2,000" and figure it out later.***
- NOTE: All items, including but not limited to materials, curriculum and equipment that are purchased with grant funds must remain with the classroom(s), department and/or school for which they were purchased. Any exception to this requirement must be authorized, in writing, by The Fayette Education Foundation.
- These are competitive grants that will be awarded to highest to lowest scoring applicants in each category until the funding runs out. All grants are contingent upon availability of funding.
- Consult with your Principal regarding any technology requirements and specifications to ensure compatibility with the district guidelines.
- Unspent funds will remain with the Foundation. When you accept a grant award, you are expected to carry out the project. If there are changes preventing grant implementation, you must notify the Foundation.

Reporting: Recipient will submit a final report online, including accomplishments, evaluation and financial accounting one month after the completion of the project or by May 1.

