

BIG Idea Builder

worksheet for applicants

Purpose

Use this worksheet to plan your idea before submitting your Bright Ideas Grant application. Strong ideas are clear, student-focused, and easy to implement.

Step-by-Step Idea Builder

Notes

A. What is your idea?

- What do you want to do or purchase?
- What will students actually do?

Tip: Be specific—avoid just listing items.

B. What need does this address?

- What challenge are your students facing?
- Why is this needed now?

Tip: Think about gaps due to time, resources, or access.

C. Student Impact and Outcomes

- What will students learn or experience?
- What will be different because of this project?

Tip: Focus on skills, engagement, or opportunities.

D. How will you measure success?

- Student work samples
- Participation/engagement
- Student reflections
- Skill development
- Other: _____

Tip: Keep it simple—how will you know it worked?

E. Alignment

Which focus area does this fit?

- Academic Growth and Student Success
- Student Engagement and Student Success
- Career Exploration and Future Ready Skills
- Student Opportunity and Access

How does this connect to your school goals (CSIP/CDIP)?

F. Scope of Project

Who will this impact?

- One class
- Multiple classes
- Grade level
- School-wide

G. Budget Thinking

- What do you need to purchase?
- Are costs reasonable and clearly connected to your idea?

Tip: Every item should tie directly to student impact.

Signature Grant Add-On (ONLY if applying for \$5,000)

- How does this go beyond one classroom?
- How will this last beyond this year?
- What planning or support is already in place?

“Before You Submit” Checklist

- ✓ My idea is clear and specific
- ✓ I explained how students benefit
- ✓ I included how I’ll measure success
- ✓ My project aligns to a focus area
- ✓ My budget matches my project
- ✓ I discussed my project with my principal or school leader
- ✓ I completed the FCPS “Intent to Apply” document
- ✓ (If applicable) I explained scale and sustainability

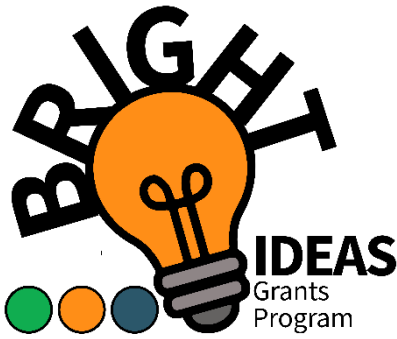
Rubric Snapshot (Simple Version)

Your application will be scored on:

- Student Impact
- Alignment to Focus Area
- Innovation / Engagement
- Student Opportunity & Access
- Budget Clarity

Tip: Strong applications are clear, realistic, and focused on students.

You don’t need a perfect idea—just a clear one that supports your students. We’re here to help bring it to life.



Bright Ideas Grant Evaluation Rubric

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of Fayette Education Foundation board members and community volunteers using the following criteria.

Each category is scored on a scale of **1-4 points**.

1. Student Impact and Outcomes

How clearly does the proposal demonstrate that the project will benefit students and improve learning or engagement?

Score	Description
4 - Strong Impact	The project clearly benefits a large number of students or significantly enhances learning for a defined group. The proposal explains what students will do and how the experience will improve learning, engagement, or skill development.
3 - Moderate Impact	The project benefits a group of students and describes how learning may improve, though the impact may be limited in scope or detail.
2 - Limited Impact	The project affects a small number of students or the impact on learning is unclear or only partially explained.
1 - Unclear Impact	The proposal does not clearly explain how students will benefit or what learning outcomes are expected.

Examples of strong impact evidence:

- increased engagement
 - student projects or presentations
 - hands-on learning experiences
 - skill development or deeper understanding of content
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2. Alignment to Focus Area

How well does the project align with one of the Bright Ideas focus areas?

Focus Areas:

- Academic Growth and Student Success
- Student Engagement and Student Success
- Career Exploration and Future Ready Skills
- Student Opportunity and Access

Score	Description
4 - Strong Alignment	The project clearly supports one of the focus areas and explains how the activities directly connect to that priority.

Score	Description
3 – Moderate Alignment	The project generally aligns with the selected focus area but the connection could be more clearly explained.
2 – Weak Alignment	The proposal references a focus area but the connection to the project is unclear.
1 – Not Aligned	The project does not demonstrate alignment with a focus area.

3. Student Engagement and Learning Experience

Does the proposal introduce a creative approach or provide students with engaging learning experiences? Innovation may include:

- creative teaching strategies
- hands-on learning
- project-based learning
- new ways students engage with content

Innovation does not require technology or expensive materials.

**need for basic supplies will be taken into account in 2026*

Score Description

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 4 | Project creates a highly engaging learning experience or introduces a creative instructional approach. |
| 3 | Project enhances student engagement through hands-on or collaborative learning. |
| 2 | Project supports classroom instruction but does not significantly change student learning experience. |
| 1 | Request is primarily for standard supplies with limited explanation of how they will enhance learning. |

4. Student Opportunities and Access

Does the project expand access to learning opportunities or address barriers students may face?

Score	Description
4 – Expands Opportunity	The project clearly expands opportunities for students who may otherwise lack access to certain learning experiences or resources.
3 – Supports Diverse Learners	The project supports a range of student needs and includes consideration for diverse learners.
2 – Limited Equity Focus	The proposal briefly mentions student needs but does not clearly explain how the project expands opportunity.
1 – No Equity Consideration	The proposal does not address how the project supports student access or opportunity.

Examples may include:

- providing materials students would not otherwise have access to
- supporting English learners or students with learning differences
- expanding enrichment opportunities

5. Budget

Is the requested budget reasonable and clearly connected to the project?

Score	Description
4 – Clear and Reasonable	The budget is detailed, realistic, and clearly explains how each item supports the project.
3 – Mostly Clear	The budget is mostly clear but may be missing minor details or explanations.
2 – Limited Detail	The budget lacks detail or does not clearly connect items to the project.
1 – Poorly Explained	The budget is unclear, unrealistic, or incomplete.

Applicants should list:

- item name
- estimated cost
- brief explanation of how it will be used

Total Scoring

Maximum Score (standard grants):

20 points

Maximum Score (Signature grants):

32 points

Signature Grant Additional Scoring

Criteria	3 – Strong	2 – Moderate	1 – Limited
Scale & Impact	Clearly extends beyond a single classroom; meaningful reach (multiple classes, grade levels, or school-wide); strong student impact	Some expansion beyond one classroom; moderate reach or impact	Limited to one classroom; minimal expanded impact
Sustainability	Clear plan for continued use, long-term benefit, or replication beyond the grant period	Some indication of continued use, but not fully developed	One-time use with little or no lasting impact
Implementation Readiness	Strong evidence of planning, support, or partnerships; clearly feasible to execute	Some planning evident, but gaps remain	Limited planning; feasibility unclear
Budget Justification	Budget is clear, detailed, and strongly tied to project impact and scale	Budget mostly clear but lacks full detail or connection	Budget unclear, unrealistic, or weakly connected