

Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund Outstanding Ideas for Quality Education

Questions and Answers for Applicants

WHAT is the Outstanding Ideas Grants Program?

This program was created to provide teachers, counselors, librarians and nurses with initiative and imagination to carry out innovative projects that stretch the educational experience beyond the everyday classroom work.

WHO is eligible to apply?

The grants program is open to every professional member of the Pine-Richland School District staff. Two or more staff members from the same (or different) schools may team up on a single project. To be considered for a grant, the staff member(s) must develop an original project proposal and submit it to the PROF Grants Team with a completed application.

WHAT kinds of projects are acceptable?

The basic criterion is that the project must enhance the quality of the educational experience for children in a way that would otherwise be missed. The emphasis should be on stimulating new teaching ideas and new learning opportunities. Capital improvements or purchase of items normally included in the district line item budget are not eligible, however instructional materials and software may be considered. PROF is looking for original ideas with high-mileage potential for students. Projects that further initiatives in the Strategic Plan or projects that address identified needs from the client satisfaction survey are particularly encouraged.

WHEN are proposals to be submitted?

Projects may be submitted for consideration on an ongoing basis. Grant awards will be made according to available funds. The PROF Grants Evaluation Team will meet twice yearly to consider grant applications.

HOW are project awards determined?

The PROF Grants Evaluation Team will review all proposals and make a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees. Awardees will be determined on a district-wide basis with awards going to the top-ranked proposals, regardless of the number of awards going to any given school. Awardees are required to submit a report summarizing results, expenditures and effectiveness within a month of the conclusion of the project.

WHO will evaluate grant requests?

A team will review and recommend grants for approval by the full Board. The team members include: three Trustees from the Board at-large, the PREA-Trustee, and the Executive Director.

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Guidelines for Evaluating Grant Proposals

The **Mission of the Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund** is to enrich, foster and promote education; to encourage and reward academic excellence and achievement; to support unique, creative and innovative instructional and educational programs for students; and to reward, encourage and recognize students, teachers, and other staff members of the Pine-Richland School District.

The following criteria will guide the PROF Grants Evaluation Team in making recommendations to the Board of Trustees for project funding:

1. Proposals should represent creative and innovative ideas on the part of the staff members, and should in some way expand the students' learning experience a step beyond the everyday classroom.
2. Projects must support an educational purpose that is not presently offered or funded from within the regular school program. Projects designed solely to purchase equipment or offering monetary grants to current staff members cannot be considered.
3. Projects may be focused at any grade level; or across grade levels, from K-12.
4. Team proposals from one or more staff members are acceptable.
5. Each Evaluation Team member will independently review, and rank order, proposals, which, in his or her judgment, are the most creative and hold the greatest potential. The Team will evaluate proposals on an ongoing basis.
6. To achieve a cumulative evaluation, Team members will evaluate proposals on a 1-5 scale (low-high), based on: creativity, demonstrated need, fit with PROF and school district mission and potential for continued implementation and replication elsewhere in the district.
7. Please include letters of endorsement from principal, department chair, technology director and/or athletic director when applicable.
8. Submit completed grant applications to: Anthony DiTommaso and/or Rachel Hathhorn, c/o Pine-Richland Opportunities Fund, Central Administration Office.

5. What is the time schedule for implementation of the project including start date and completion date?

6. How will students benefit from this project and in what ways?

7. How will you evaluate the effectiveness of this project?

8. Detail your budget request below.

Item	Supplier	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<i>(Example)</i> Learning to Read Books	ABC Book Company	\$20	\$400
		Grand Total	

Project Director _____ **Date** _____

Principal's endorsement _____