.INSPIRING INNOVATION.

COUNCIL ROCK
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
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Innovative Learning

Grants

Grant Guidelines

For programs to be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year

Grant Deadline: February 28, 2023

Innovative Learning Grants

The Council Rock Education Foundation (CREF) is pleased to provide grant funds to teachers and staff of the Council Rock School District through the Innovative Learning Grants Program. The Foundation Board will award grants for projects that enhance and enrich the district's curriculum and public education.

What is CREF? The Council Rock Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization created to encourage excellence and to enhance and enrich educational opportunities offered to the students of the Council Rock School District. The Board of Directors consists of business professionals, community members and school district personnel. The Superintendent of Schools and a member of the School Board are voting members of the Council Rock Education Foundation.

Our Mission: The Council Rock Education Foundation partners with the community, businesses, and the Council Rock School District to provide inspiring programs and innovative learning grants to enhance the educational experience of all district students. These projects are not included in the annual district budget.

What is an Innovative Learning Grant? CREF resources are distributed to support programs for the benefit of the students in the Council Rock School District. The Foundation, acknowledging that teachers and educators of the Council Rock School District are best equipped to recognize, organize, and support such programs, has created the Innovative Learning Grants program.

Innovative Learning Grants projects may be limited to a single classroom, involve several grade levels or departments, or they may be school/district wide.

EITC Funded Programs
CREF is an approved Educational Improvement Organization (EIO) under Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. As an EIO, the Foundation receives donations from area businesses that in turn receive tax credits for their donations. Applications supported under Direct EITC Funded Projects are restricted to state-approved categories and must be innovative in nature.

PROGRAM AREAS

The Council Rock Education Foundation considers programs in the following main areas:

STEAM Innovation

Providing advanced educational programs to increase students' knowledge of and hands on experience in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
Recently funded programs include:
Science: Family Science Night; NASA Space Station Project, iPad Astronomy, Robotics Academy, Water Research Project
Technology: Blended Classroom, Coding Clubs, OSMO, Bee Bot's, Interactive Videoconferencing, 3D Print Maker Space
Engineering: Rock Rovers NASA project, Egyptians, and Engineering
The Arts: Master Music Workshop, Composer Victor Lopez with Jazz Band

Math: 21st Century Math

Environmental Engagement

Providing value-added programs that engage students to identify, investigate and propose innovative solutions to environmental issues both locally and globally.

Youth Leadership and Community Engagement

Developing students' leadership skills by engaging with community organizations to study and address issues ranging from bullying and mentoring to historical and geographical issues connected to racial, class, and power divides.

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Arts and the Creative Economy

Providing students innovative new ways to explore and develop their creativity in music and art programs contributing to awareness of the impact that creativity can have upon all aspects of our economy.

Literacy Projects

Creating opportunities for students to access, analyze, evaluate, and communicate messages in a wide variety of forms through innovative literacy programs.

Health and Wellness

Providing creative opportunities for students to explore, create and apply health and fitness to their everyday lives.

Special Needs

Providing innovative learning programs to enhance and expand the skills and opportunities for our special needs students. **Previously *funded programs include:*** Green Team Autism Club, Kids with Heart, Inclusive Practices, ACHIEVE Coffee Cart and the Friendship Bracelet project.

Look below at some of the projects the Education Foundation has funded since 2007.

**Every year
your gift makes
a difference!**

- Video Multimedia Communications Project
- Grow Lab
- Kids on the Block Awareness Program
- Learning Support – Adventure Based Counseling
- Autistic Computer Software
- Professional Story Teller
- Greenhouse Project
- Hagman Colonial Cemetery Preservation Project
- HIV/AIDS Elementary Curriculum Kits
- Physics in Flight
- Short Film Festival Series
- World Music Drumming
- Kick Off Mentoring Program
- Interactive Videoconferencing
- Norwester Readers Canine Assisted Learning Program
- Senteo interactive response system
- Churchville Elementary Digital Portfolios
- The Council Rock Green Team
- CRHS South Family Science Night
- Newtown Elementary Organic Gardening
- CRHS N Wind Kit
- Holland Middle School Scientific Probes
- Reawakening's of American Indian Music
- Past and Present
- Let's Build a Molecule
- iPAD Astronomy and Science
- Sewing Lab
- Igniting an Early Passion for Mathematics
- 6th Grade Botany Club
- Read to Succeed!
- HES Annual Friendship Day
- Electric City at Winter Wonderland
- CR South Peer Mentoring Program
- I-News Council Rock – iHOOT
- UAV Club Explores the Skies
- Electronic Language Learning + English Language Learners
  ENHANCED & EFFICIENT Language Learners

- You Be The Chemist
- Makerbot 3D Printer
- Going for Goals
- Green Team
- No Place for Hate
- AAC Parent Support Group
- Digital Reflection Books
- Probes to Enhance Science Labs
- Reflecting Hope 9-11 Sculpture Garden
- Trout in the Classroom
- Rock Rovers NASA Project
- Strum Along in Circle and Song
- Mobile Catalog and 21st Century Literacy
- Multimedia Interactive Fitness
- Science Telescopes
- App Development
- IPAds for RTL Reading
- Robotics
- Wait Watt
- Inclusive Education
- Egyptians and Engineering
- Labquests
- "I" Motion: Creating Movies through Art
- Solar Suitcases for ES
- A Blended Classroom
- Kids with Heart
- A View of Council Rock from Above
- Mindful Metacognition
- WeatherBug
- Green Team Club
- Gallery at the ROCK
- Impact Grant
- Handchimes
- Goodnoe Garden
- Reading, Writing and Robotics
- Nat'l Geographic Spelling Bee
- The Sky's the Limit
- Flight and Rocketry Club

- STEM Expansion
- STEM Club Makerspace
- Literature Buddies
- One School One Book
- Culinary Kids
- Bouncy Bands for ALL
- Budding Birders Club
- Sixth Grade STEMspace at Sol Feinstone
- C2 Club - computers & coding
- Holland STEM Curiosity Program
- OSMO Software
- STEM Library
- Who's in Charge - An Intro to Mindfulness
- OSMO for iPad
- STEM Expansion: It's Time to Expand
- The Sky(pe) is the Limit Wrightstown & Newtown!
- STEM Research Resources
- STEAMing Towards Arts, Education & Community
- Tinker Tuesday
- Accepting Me Accepting You Initiative
- Unless Project at the Philadelphia Zoo
- Check-out STEM @ Your Library
- Richboro Elementary School Library Mural
- STEAM Printing in 3D
- One School One Book - Churchville Elementary
- STEM Implementing Technology 1st Grade
- Beyond the Textbook
- STEM Environmental Research - Districtwide
- ISS Above the International Space Station
- Coding with OSMO
- NightHawks Graphics
- Master Music Workshop
- Creating Creative Characters
- ROCK ON!
- OSMO Learning System for IPads
- Bee Bots Kindergarten Program- Districtwide
- 4th Grade Embryology Project - Districtwide

Innovative Learning Grants - Guidelines

Submission Deadline: February 28, 2023

The purpose of the Council Rock Education Foundation grant is to enhance and support innovative programs for the benefit of the children in the Council Rock School District.

1. **Who can apply?**
   - **All Council Rock staff**
   - **Community organizations**
   - **PTO/PTA/Home and School Association**

2. **How much can I ask for?**

   Grant Requests will be accepted up to $6,000 for teachers grants and up to $10,000 for districtwide or multi school projects. To see examples of previously awarded grants, go to www.creducationfoundation.org. Please make sure to anticipate any cost increases and sales tax and include those in your budget projections. The Foundation will not cover any costs that exceed the amount granted. Since product prices can increase between the time of the application to the time of purchase (after July 1) we strongly recommend that applicants ask vendors to disclose any expected cost increases and include those in your budget. In the unfortunate chance that grantees expenses exceed the grant amount, they have several options to locate additional funds:
   - **School Principal**
   - **Department Chair Budget**
   - **Curriculum Coordinator**

3. **Can grants be used to purchase technology/equipment?**

   Projects that include the purchase of technology/ equipment will be considered only if use of this equipment is integral to innovative instructional strategies. The technology/equipment must be clearly described in the grant narrative and properly listed with accurate costs given within the budget. All proposed technology/equipment purchases will be submitted to Matt Frederickson for approval before being considered for funding.

4. **Can grants be used for travel?**

   Travel expenses will only be considered when they represent less than 10% of the project budget and only if the travel is essential to the project's success. Overnight travel expenses are not eligible for grant funding.

5. **What additional information should accompany the application?**

   Projects that require outside presenters or personnel must include resumes and/or organizational information about the presenters. Projects that require equipment purchases (items over $500) must include a brief description of the equipment as well as supporting documents.

6. **Why are the principal's signature and curriculum coordinator's signature required on the grant application?**

   The principal's signature is an assurance that supporting and sustaining resources will be available for the project and that it poses no conflict with the school's established curriculum. A principal can often be a great help in making a teacher's application more cost effective since portions of the required resources may already be available through the school district's general fund or through other organizations such as the PTA's. The curriculum coordinator's signature is an assurance that the project is in line with the current and planned curriculum objectives for the district.

7. **Reporting and Award Requirements**
   a) **State Reporting** – Under the EITC guidelines, CREF must provide end-of-year reports substantiating that the projects met the approved categories for funding.

   b) **Grantees are required to submit final reports** that will be used in CREF's end-of-year report. The Executive Director of the Education Foundation will contact recipients to provide report forms and assure the reports are submitted in a timely manner.

   c) **All grant recipients** will be asked to provide a calendar of implementation and to be available to showcase grants throughout the year in various formats including district professional development

8. **Submitting the Application & Application Requirement:**
   All the following are required as part of a complete grant application. There is a grant checklist within the grant application itself to serve as a reminder of these requirements.

   a) The completed application must be submitted online no later than midnight on February 28, 2023. Neither applications nor application materials will be accepted after that time. **No extensions beyond the deadline will be granted.**

   b) Applications should be submitted online at http://creducationfoundation.org/grants/cref- innovative-learning-grant-application/ and should be titled in the following: format: LastName_BriefDescriptionofGrant.pdf (Example: Smith_Garden.pdf). Please note:

   ● All school personnel applications must be signed and dated \ by both the applicant(s), building administrator and curriculum coordinator to be considered.
   ● If more than one school is involved, each building administrator must sign the application.

If applicant(s) is/are not Council Rock staff members, contact Beth Anne Dobosh at bethanne.dobosh@creducationfoundation.org if you need information about obtaining signatures.

c) Funding for special technology or equipment, such as iPads or laptops, is only applicable when clearly an integral part of an innovative grant program proposal. All proposed technology and technology purchases over $500 are subject to approval from the district.

d) For grant proposals including equipment/technology requests, all supportive technical information and/or technical specifications are required and must accompany the grant application as a PDF file. **No hard copies will be accepted**.

9. **Review Criteria:**

Please note that this is a competitive grant process, not all grants submitted will be funded. Applicants are reminded to provide a thorough narrative that clearly describes their project and answers all questions. Incomplete grant narratives, no matter how worthy the project, will not be funded.

In evaluating the applications, the grants panel will consider the following criteria:

a) **Summary -** Is the project clearly described? If restricted funds are requested, does the applicant explain how the project relates to the funding category? Is there a sequential listing of activities with dates and time frame listed where appropriate?

b) **Student Learning Outcomes -** Does the application concisely explain specific student learning outcomes that are based on specific needs? Does the language used in the outcomes contain phrases such as "The student will…"? Are methods for evaluating student learning outcomes described?

c) **Evaluation -** How will the overall effectiveness of the project be measured? What are the expected benefits of the project? For multi-year and continuing projects, what evaluation data is available and how has this data been used to adjust and/or justify project continuance?

d) **Curriculum Based -** Is the project innovative and enriching? Does the application specify how this project uses an innovative and enriching approach to teaching and learning? What is the relationship of the project to the CRSD curriculum and standards that best fit the project?

e) **Long Term Impact -** Does the application describe follow-up activities for the students, teachers and/or staff?

f) **Budget -** Does the budget reflect reasonable, efficient use of funds? Do expenses reasonably support the project goals? Is there a provision within the budget for partial funding of project expenses? Is the project sustainable after initial CREF funding?

g) **Completeness of Application -** Is all required documentation submitted in PDF format?

10. **Grant Program Timeline**:
   - **February 28, 2023**- Deadline for submitting grant application
   - **March/April 2023** - Grant panel meets to review application and make recommendations to the CREF Board. The District Superintendent verifies recommendations. CREF Board approves grants.
   - **May 5, 2023** –Grantees notified
   - **May 18, 2023 –** Grant award winners announced at CRSD Board Meeting

11. **Budgeting time to write the grant**
   It is important for teachers and administrators to plan their projects far enough in advance to submit their applications by the **February 28, 2023** deadline. **Late applications will not be accepted.** Applicant questions may be asked of the ILG Committee at bethanne.dobosh@creducationfoundation.org

12. Provide phone number and best times to be reached.

13. **When must funds be expended?**
   All funds are designated for projects planned for the 2023-2024 school year and must be expended between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. **All use of funds must comply with CRSD Purchasing Guidelines. Funds not expended by the stated deadlines will be returned to CREF and will be reallocated by the CREF Grant Committee and Board of Directors.**

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All materials and equipment awarded through the grant process become the property of the Council Rock School District. CREF reserves the rights to any profits generated from future distribution or production of any CREF funded end-product. This includes any proceeds from marketing a CREF funded end-product by CREF or the entity receiving funding.

Thank you for your interest in innovative educational programs through the Council Rock Education Foundation! If you have any specific questions about the grant or Foundation, please contact Beth Anne Dobosh, Executive Director, at bethanne.dobosh@creducationfoundation.org