

Council Rock Education Foundation

2027 Innovative Learning Grant — Example Completed Application

This sample shows one way to answer each question on the current Google Form application. Personal/contact fields are shown as placeholders — focus on how the project questions are answered.



About You

Email *

[your.email@crsd.org]

Full Name *

[Full Name]

Your Position or Role *

Classroom Teacher

School or Department *

Maureen M. Welch Elementary (lead applicant building)

The Project

What type of Innovative Learning Grant are you applying for? *

District-Wide/Collaborative Grant (multiple CRSD schools) — up to \$10,000

District-Wide / Collaborative Applicants

This section only appears for District-Wide/Collaborative applicants. List all co-applicants and note that each building's principal must sign the signature page.

List all co-applicants (name and school for each) *

[Full Name], Maureen M. Welch Elementary; [Co-Applicant Name], Hillcrest Elementary

Project Title *

WhatSUPcycling

Main curricular area *

STEAM

Which school(s) will benefit from this project? *

Hillcrest Elementary; Maureen M. Welch Elementary

Grade level(s) this project serves *

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th

Approximately how many students will directly benefit from this project *

800

If applicable, approximately how many students will indirectly benefit from this project?

Approximately 200 additional students across both schools will indirectly benefit through school-wide plastic-collection efforts and PTO involvement.

Project Description

Describe your project. *

We will purchase two Sustainability Stations to install at Maureen M. Welch and Hillcrest Elementary Schools. These stations let students in grades 1–6 upcycle single-use plastic (SUP) products into new Strawbees building pieces. Students will collect and prepare SUP materials with support from their school community and PTOs, then use the Sustainability Stations to turn that waste into hands-on engineering materials they can build with and take home.

How does this connect to your curriculum, and what makes it different? *

This connects to our STEAM curriculum and PA STEELS Standards 3.4.3-5 (Environmental Literacy and Sustainability). Unlike our current use of pre-made Strawbees kits, students will physically transform real single-use plastic waste into their own building materials, linking engineering and environmental stewardship in a way that isn't part of our STEAM instruction today. The project also stands out by involving the entire school community, including PTOs, in collecting and preparing materials — making it a school-wide sustainability effort rather than an isolated classroom activity.

Why do your students need this, and why now? *

Our students currently have access to Strawbees and Strawbees Robotics Kits, but we have no sustainable way to replenish or expand these materials. At the same time, our classrooms generate single-use plastic waste with no meaningful way to reuse it. This grant would close that gap immediately by turning existing waste into new building materials, teaching students the practical value of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) rather than just the concept.

How will students benefit from this project? *

1. Students will be able to explain and apply the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) using real materials they've upcycled themselves.
2. Students will be able to design and build engineering projects using Strawbees made from upcycled SUP materials.
3. Teachers will have a reusable Sustainability Station and process that can run year after year without additional purchasing.

Impact

What is your anticipated timing for this project? *

July–August 2027: Order and set up Sustainability Stations.

September–October 2027: Introduce Strawbees as a building material, teach students about the impact of plastic waste, and begin collecting and preparing SUP materials.

November 2027–March 2028: Ongoing implementation of Sustainability Stations and student engineering activities.

April–May 2028: Document and share project outcomes.

How will you measure the success of this project? *

Goal 1 (understand and apply the 3Rs): Student reflections and a rubric measuring students' ability to explain upcycling concepts.

Goal 2 (design and build with upcycled Strawbees): Rubric measuring students' problem-solving and engineering process.

Goal 3 (reusable station/process): Amount of plastic upcycled tracked over the year, plus teacher and community feedback on the process.

What do you anticipate will happen with this project after the grant period ends? *

- ☒ Equipment or materials will be reused in future years
- ☒ The project could be duplicated or scaled by other teachers or classes
- ☐ The project could be duplicated or scaled but would require additional funding
- ☐ This project is intentionally designed as a one-time experience
- ☐ Not sure yet

Briefly explain your selection.

The Sustainability Stations will remain in our STEAM classrooms and continue turning donated single-use plastic into new Strawbees indefinitely, so no further CREF funding is needed to sustain the project. We also anticipate other CRSD schools requesting their own Sustainability Station once they see the model in action.

How will you share your results with the CRSD community (administration, teachers, parents)? *

- ☐ Present at school, grade-level, or district event
- ☒ Share with colleagues at a department or staff meeting
- ☐ Student showcase or exhibit (in school or community)
- ☒ School, CRSD, and/or CREF newsletter and/or social media
- ☒ Other: PTO meetings

Budget

Total amount requested (\$) *

2000

Upload your completed CREF Budget Template (required) *

[Attach: WhatSUPcycling_Budget_Template.xlsx]

The budget template lists 2 Sustainability Stations under Equipment, itemized with quantity, unit cost, and total, matching the \$2,000 requested above.

Are there any other funds supporting this project? (Optional)

No other funding is needed — single-use plastics will be donated by the school community.

Signatures and Terms

Upload your completed signature page. *

[Attach: WhatSUPcycling_Signature_Page.pdf — signed by Building Principal and District Curriculum Coordinator for both participating schools]

If awarded, I agree to the terms of acceptance of funds. *

- ☒ Submit a mid-year check-in report via Google form by December 31, 2027
- ☒ Submit a final Grant Summary Report via Google form by June 30, 2028
- ☒ Provide photos and/or videos as requested
- ☒ Showcase your project to parents and the school community, options include: slide decks, photos, newsletters and social media (share posts to Council Rock Education Foundation)
- ☒ Acknowledge CREF as the funding source whenever you discuss, showcase, or communicate about the project
- ☒ Give CREF permission to share and publicize the grant
- ☒ Materials/equipment purchased are considered property of CRSD
- ☒ CREF retains rights to any profits from future distribution of a CREF-funded grant

I understand this is my final application submission for CREF review *

- ☒ Yes, this application is final and complete