



Important Guidelines for Schools and Vocational Training Centers Applying for Dart Foundation Grants

OVERVIEW

Dart Foundation grants are intended to support public schools and vocational training centers in their efforts to provide innovative instruction. Strong preference will be given to proposals that increase student interest, academic achievement and career preparation in STEM education and workforce development in the skilled trades. Other public education proposals are also considered.

Grants are awarded to schools in the immediate vicinity of the communities [listed here](#). Each community has an annual allocation for possible distribution, so grants are awarded on a competitive basis. We suggest that you [contact us](#) if you are uncertain whether your school meets our criteria.

Most grants are between \$2,000 and \$5,000, but smaller and larger grants are occasionally considered. Please [contact us](#) for District-wide requests or if you have a project that exceeds \$5,000 and you are located in one of the following geographical areas: Chicago, IL; Horse Cave, KY; Leola, PA; Mid-Michigan; Sarasota, FL; and Waxahachie, TX. Please note that if your school is not located in one of the geographical areas mentioned here, due to budget restrictions in our other giving communities, it is highly unlikely that we can be of assistance. Only one grant per school building may possibly be awarded each Dart Foundation fiscal year (November 1 – October 31).

PREFERRED PROJECTS – Preference will be given to proposals that fund:

- Tangible items such as equipment, materials and capital improvements.
- Projects that enhance STEM and skilled trades learning in the technical, industrial and manufacturing pathways, including career, technical, and adult-education efforts.
- Activities that provide opportunities for students to participate in STEM or skilled trades learning experiences that enhance existing curriculum and programming.
- Projects that assist schools in meeting state and federal requirements or “best practices.”
- Projects that prepare individuals for placement in the workforce such as through certifications, licensure or training.
- Projects that benefit a large number of students over many years, as well as a large cross-section of the student population as opposed to a limited number of students.

PROJECTS THAT ARE NOT PREFERRED – The following types of proposals are not preferred and generally are not funded:

- Non-tangible items such as administrative costs, salaries and professional development including teacher/administrator training.
- Food, consumables or items that are purchased for one-time use.
- Curriculum development.
- Scholarships and individual awards.
- Projects that benefit sports and arts programs.
- Transportation, meals, lodging and registration/admission fees.
- Repeated requests from the same teacher or school building, especially for the same purpose for more than two years. We like to see varied projects benefitting different groups of students from year to year.

IMPORTANT DATES – Please refer to [When We Fund](#) for our quarterly deadline and funding schedule.

TO APPLY - Applicants must complete a Dart Foundation online grant application and one-page project budget.

QUESTIONS? We are happy to provide limited guidance and answer questions that are not otherwise found on our website. If you don't find what you need there, please [contact us](#).