

TEF Grant Final Report

All Thompson Education Foundation (TEF) grant recipients must submit a final report to TEF by **May 31, 2025**. The final report is required. If you do not submit a final report for this grant by the due date, you will not be allowed to apply for future TEF grants.

Name: Alex Wolfe

School: Turner Middle School

Grant Type: Great Idea Grant

Project Name: ESS Community Outreach

Objective of project as stated in the grant application:

The purpose of this project can be described in two main points. The first is that the project will give special needs students an opportunity to see what resources and activities are available to them in their community. It is an opportunity to expand the world of students who face unique challenges beyond their home and their school. The second is that it will teach these students how to navigate their community, and show them that they are capable of accessing so much more than they may have thought possible. Through these community outings, students will practice skills like appropriate social interactions, basic navigation skills, problem solving skills, positive coping strategies, and more. Beyond the life skills that they will have an opportunity to practice, students will also access academic material. Trips to local museums, parks, and libraries will allow students to practice using functional reading and math skills, as well as learn about more specific academic topics such as science and history.

1. Describe how you implemented your project.

This project was implemented by connecting the classroom with a variety of resources and activities in the local community. Cooking skills were a large part of the project as well. This required buying some kitchen equipment for the classroom.

2. Please provide the results of your project. This information needs to correlate to the "measurements" provided on your original grant application. If you changed your measurements of success, please detail the reason for the change with your results.

The result of the project was marked growth in the students' life skills and personal skills, as well as increased confidence in unfamiliar settings. The students became noticeably more comfortable navigating new and unfamiliar environments.

3. Did anything surprise you or your students during the implementation of your project?

I was surprised by how averse some students were to going on the class outings. I thought that all of the students would be excited to get the opportunity to leave school and try new things, but it turned out that a few of them did not want to try anything new. I think that the project was necessary for getting some students out of their shell - many students in this population are not often pushed out of their comfort zone or encouraged to try new and scary things.

4. Please provide a copy of the final budget for the grant (you may attach a separate sheet of paper). All copies of receipts must be submitted.

5. Do you feel the project can be easily replicated in additional classrooms in Thompson School District, and, if so, is there any advice you can share?

Yes, I think the project would be possible and beneficial for any ILC class in TSD. One thing that made the project much easier to implement was the fact that I was certified to drive the bus. With access to the grant money and transportation, there really were no major barriers to getting out into the community frequently. If any other ILC class is thinking about doing something similar I would highly recommend a staff member gets certified to drive the activity buses.

Optional:

6. Comments for the grant committee or TEF board.