



GREAT IDEA Grants

What are GREAT IDEA Grants?

Thompson Education Foundation (TEF) awards GREAT IDEA Grants to staff to implement an innovative project in education and instruction to enhance the learning experience of students in Thompson School District. A teacher or professional staff member may be selected to receive a grant of up to \$5,000 for implementation during the 2025-2026. GREAT IDEA Grants are awarded on a tiered structure. Grants may be awarded up to the amounts listed below.

Single Classroom or Grade Level Project - **\$2,000**

Multiple Grade Level or Schoolwide Building Project - **\$3,000**

Districtwide Project - **\$5,000**

When do I apply for a GREAT IDEA Grant?

The GREAT IDEA Grant application window is open Wednesday, August 13 to Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Grant winners will be notified in early December 2025. Award funds will be made available for project implementation starting in January 2026.

GREAT IDEA Grants will not be given for the following:

- General operating support for existing projects or programs (significant expansion of current projects or programs may be considered)
- Capital improvements to district facilities or equipment
- Textbooks (unless a specific volume is inherent to the overall project)
- Teacher training or professional development
- Teacher salaries or extra duty contracts
- In general, GREAT IDEA Grants will not be awarded to fund programs, projects or activities that would usually be considered a normal operating expense for the schools

What criteria are used for reviewing GREAT IDEA Grant applications?

- Dynamic educational experiences that support students in the following areas: Academic, Social-Emotional, Innovation, Leadership, and Cultural Arts
- Enhanced student skill building
- Clarity of objectives
- Clear and measurable student growth and mastery
- Detailed and itemized budget including item descriptions, amount needed and cost per item

Application Instructions:

- Applicants must be employees of Thompson School District.
- All grant requests must be received by the deadline: **Wednesday, October 1, at 11:59 p.m.**
- All grant projects must adhere to district policies and procedures. Projects are reviewed for safety and legal concerns and may be denied based on either of these criteria.
- Grant recipients will be required to submit an initial report of their project and receipts to the foundation by May 31, 2026. Report guidelines and format will be sent to each recipient. Failure to provide the required report by the deadline will disqualify the applicant for future TEF grant consideration. TEF may pay a visit to the recipient's classroom during project implementation for photos/videos of the activities which will be shared with others at TEF events and online. Details will be provided to grant recipients.

Questions? Contact Thompson Education Foundation at 970-613-5074, or at info@thompsonfef.org.