



**GUNNISON VALLEY
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

TEACHER INNOVATION GRANTS

Grant Guidelines and Policies

What are Teacher Innovation Grants?

Gunnison Valley Education Foundation (GVEF) provides grants for teachers in the Gunnison Watershed School District (GWSD) of up to \$500 each to innovatively explore ways of helping students learn.

You may apply to:

- Develop an original teaching idea or new program for use in your classroom which others can adapt and will enrich your core curriculum (may include funds to visit model programs, hire consultants).
- Experiment with ways to solve specific instructional challenges in your classroom.
- Develop a project involving cooperation between you and one or more GWSD teachers. Each teacher in such a cooperative effort is eligible for up to \$500.
- Develop a project that encourages parent and/or community partnerships.
- Develop a project that enhances the school's facility (e.g. visual art, recreation) and benefits students educationally.
- Replicate a proven strategy not yet implemented in the applicant's classroom.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any GWSD certificated (non-management) employee may apply. If you have been awarded a grant for the same fundamental project for three consecutive years, you must sit out one year before requesting a grant for the same project again.

GVEF will not fund:

- Projects that have already been completed.
- Projects specifically for marketing and public relations.
- Projects that espouse political or religious views.
- Projects that target specific individuals.
- Projects that are not directly related to classroom curriculum.

Application Instructions:

The Teacher Innovation Grant application can be accessed and submitted online at [GVEF Teacher Innovation Grant Application](#). The application requires a detailed project description, goals,

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timeline, budget and a letter of support from a supervising administrator. **Applications for the annual grant cycle will be due in April, prior to the start of the school year in which the grant will be implemented. The April due date will be determined based on GWSD schools' calendar, and announced in February for the current grant cycle.**

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please be prepared to answer the following questions: It is recommended that you prepare your responses in a Word document where you can easily edit and get an accurate word count. Then cut-and-paste your responses into the appropriate fields in the online application. Special formatting such as bold text, underlines, numbering or bullet points may not appear the same once they've been pasted into the online application.

Basic Project Information:

- Project Title
- Grade Level(s)
- Number of students impacted by project
- Project Summary (max 50 words)

Detailed Project Information:

- Project Description:
 - Identify the issue or challenge you are trying to address. (max 75 words)
 - Describe your student population including the number of students impacted and any special needs they might have. (max 75 words)
 - List and describe the goals and intended outcomes of the project. (max 75 words)
 - Summarize the project activities and your anticipated timeline. (max 75 words)
- Innovativeness of Proposal: (max 250 words)
 - How is this project an innovative or creative way to address the challenge you identified in the previous question?
- Method of Project Evaluation: (max 200 words)
 - How will you assess whether this project effectively met its goals and intended outcomes?

Required Attachments:

- Project Budget - Please identify all sources of income for this project (including this grant) and all expenses.
- An Administrative Reference - a form signed by a school principal or supervisor

If funded, what are my responsibilities?

If your application is funded, you are required to submit a **Grant Report** within 30 days of completion of the project, or no later than **May 15th** if it is a full-year project. This report can

be accessed and submitted online at [GVEF Teacher Innovation Grant Application](#) and must include digital photos. *Failure to submit a final report will automatically disqualify you from applying for the Teacher Innovation grant the following year.*

Please note, all capital purchases made possible by GVEF funds will be considered property of the Gunnison Watershed School District.

Teacher Innovation Grant recipients will be notified of the annual awards for the current cycle by May 25th.

Questions? E-mail GVEF4Kids@gmail.com

Grant Policies

The mission of the Gunnison Valley Education Foundation (GVEF) is to *ignite the power of innovation in teaching and learning for students in the Gunnison Watershed School District.*

As a Designated Fund at the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley (CFGV), GVEF can receive donations according to the Gift Acceptance policy of CFGV including cash and publicly traded securities. Gifts to GVEF may be Unrestricted, allowing the Foundation Board to determine areas of need or designate funds to specific schools, activities, instructional supplies or special programs.

GVEF uses current best practices in seeking applications for grants in the grant review process and in awarding grants. Complete grant applications must be received electronically at [GVEF Teacher Innovation Grant Application](#) by the posted deadline date. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered by the Grant Selection Committee.

The Grant Selection Committee consists of two GVEF Board Members and three members of the community. This committee is responsible for submitting recommendations to GVEF's Board of Directors for preliminary approval. Through an impartial process, the committee will determine the merits of the request; any committee member connected in any way to the requesting program or with a child in a class of a teacher making a request, will be excused from participation in discussions or recommendations concerning that particular request. The Foundation Board of Directors will review the recommendations of the GVEF Board of Directors and make the final decision on the recommendations.

All awarded monies will be paid to the Gunnison Watershed School District for distribution to grant recipients.

All grant recipients must report on the expenditure of grant funds and results of the project upon completion, and in no case, later than May 25th of school for which the grant was awarded. A report form is available at [GVEF Teacher Innovation Grant Application](#). Without reports on prior grants, applicants will be ineligible for future grant cycles. Any funds not spent for the specific purpose of the awarded grant must be returned to GVEF and cannot be diverted to other uses without the express approval of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

The Gunnison Valley Education Foundation will prioritize the funding of Teacher Innovation Grants based upon the applicant's ability to develop, implement and share creative teaching strategies that benefit students. The Grant Selection Committee will consider applications that either generate new ideas or replicate proven strategies. The primary criterion for funding decisions will always be that which most benefits students.