



Grants for Great Ideas Fall 2026

Project Eligibility Criteria

- Open Now- September 8th
- Maximum grant awards \$1,000 for classroom grants or \$1,500 for school-wide grants. Teachers may submit up to 2 projects, and schools may submit one school-wide project. Innovative projects in the areas of STEM and/or literacy with a direct student impact are eligible.
- Projects must be submitted through www.donorschoose.org (instructions attached).
- Projects **must have “Grants for Great Ideas (grant name)” in the project title. Grants without “Grants for Great Ideas” in the title will not be considered.**
- Applicants must currently serve as a teacher or librarian in a traditional public or charter public school in Clay County. All projects must have school administration support – *this will be confirmed before the grant is awarded.*
- Project narrative should include:
 - Brief description of the project idea and the broad goal of the activity.
 - Descriptions of activities/lessons you plan to conduct in enough detail so someone else can adapt your lesson/activities.

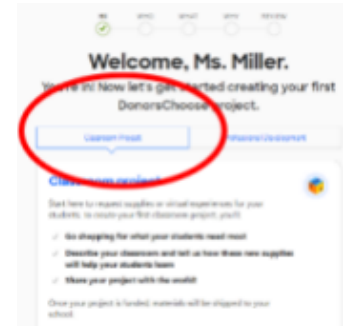
Narrative must include the grade STANDARDS that will be addressed and supported by the project.

- Projects will be scored on the attached rubric.
- **Please note:** All grants are subject to grant reporting. Grant reporting must be completed by May 1, 2027. This will be in the form of a short survey.
- If the budget is over the allowable amount, the grant will not be scored.
- All books/literacy materials must be approved. Projects may be rejected if purchasing conflicts with district vendor agreements.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Obermiller at hobermiller@clayeducationfoundation.org

Create a Project on Donors Choose for Grants for Great Ideas

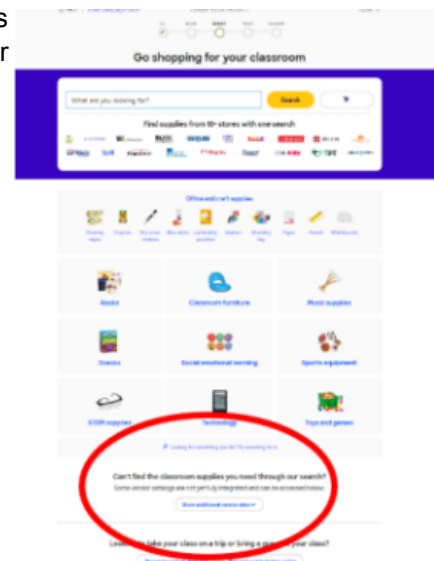
1. Create an account on DonorsChoose.org. Our grants are only funded using this platform.
2. Once in DonorsChoose, navigate the site by using the panel at the top of the screen.
3. The first section “HI” will ask you to select a project. **Select “Classroom Project”**



4. WHO - Select the grade level/levels for the project and the number of students that will benefit from it.

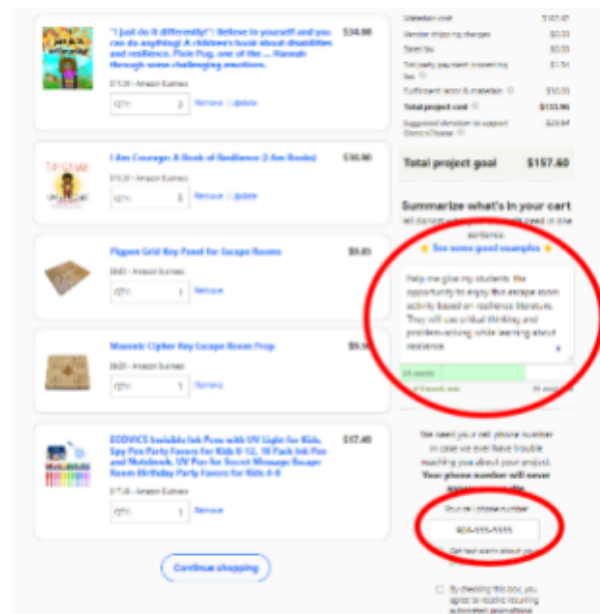
This screenshot shows the 'About your students' form. The 'Grade level' section asks 'Which grade levels will benefit from this project?' and has a 'Select all' link. Below it are radio buttons for 'Preschool', 'Kindergarten', '1st', '2nd', '3rd', '4th', '5th', '6th', '7th', '8th', '9th', '10th', '11th', and '12th'. The 'Number of students' section asks 'How many students will benefit from this project this year?' and has a text input field. A red note states: 'You can move on, but you will need to fill out grade level and number of students before you can submit this project.' At the bottom is a 'Save and continue' button.

5. WHAT - Select the items through donorschoose.org vendors. Numerous vendors exist, including Amazon, Lego, TPT, Best Buy, etc. You can search for additional vendors through the link at the bottom of the screen.



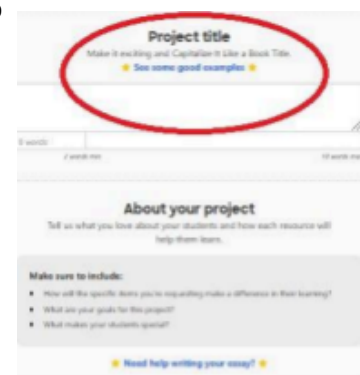
Once you find the items you need, add them to your cart as you would if you were online shopping.

The items in your cart will appear in your grant application. You will have a chance to describe the grant in greater detail on the next page. From this page, you can edit the content in your cart or continue shopping. When you are ready to continue, hit save and continue. If your grant is funded, you will automatically receive these items.



6. WHY - **The title must include: Grants for Great Ideas: followed by your title to be eligible.**

Next is where you describe your grant. Review the rubric, add the standards supported by the project, and use appropriate support for your idea. Grants must address STEM or literacy. Explain the project clearly, including the goals and how they will be achieved. You will be graded on the project innovation, so be creative.



7. REVIEW - The last screen is a review. It will highlight any missing information and will allow you to do a final review of your project before you post it. The grant will be assessed based solely on the information in DonorsChoose. Grants will be selected from posted applications. If you have any questions, contact hobermiller@clayededucationfoundation.org.

Scoring Rubric

PROJECT TITLE: _____ TEACHER NAME: _____

SUBJECT AREA : _____ SCHOOL: _____

NUMBER STUDENTS IMPACTED: _____ REVIEWER: _____

EVIDENCE OF NEED - _____ (score) X **5** = _____ points (max 25 points)

5 - Demonstrates a strong, clear need for the project. The project strongly enhances or supports the existing curriculum or provides additional learning experiences. Will positively impact students and meet the needs of students within several classes/across grade levels / across a school.

4 - Demonstrates a strong, clear need for the project. Project enhances or supports the existing curriculum or provides additional learning experiences. It will positively impact students and meet the needs of students within a classroom.

3- Demonstrates need for the project. The project relates to the existing curriculum or provides additional learning experiences. It will positively impact students.

2 - Weak demonstration of need for the project. Likely to have a positive impact on student learning.

0- Project does not meet the required criteria for Foundation support (literacy or STEM)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES - _____ (score) X **5** = _____ points (max 25 points)

5 - Clearly defines expected outcomes on student learning. The request shows how the grant will impact students' educational experience. The benefits of the project are expected to be long-term (materials can be used for more than one year). Explains how the project will help low-achieving students make gains.

3 - Defines expected outcomes on student learning. The request shows how the grant will impact students' educational experience. The benefits of the project are expected to be short-term (materials consumed and won't be reused from year to year).

1 - Confusing/unclear definition of expected outcomes or impact on student learning.

0 - No mention of expected outcome/ impact on student learning

PAYROLL DEDUCTION CONTRIBUTION - _____ (score) X **1** = _____ points
(max 10 points)

5- Contributes to the Clay Education Foundation via payroll deduction.

0 - Does not contribute to the Clay Education Foundation via payroll deduction.

CREATIVITY/INNOVATION - _____ (score) X **5** = _____ points (max 15 points)

3- Strong evidence that the project is innovative/creative / hasn't been done before

2 - Adequate evidence that the project is innovative/creative / hasn't been done before

1- Weak evidence that the project is innovative/creative / hasn't been done before

OVERALL APPLICATION QUALITY - _____ (score) X **5** = _____ points (max 25 points)

5- Request includes specific, STANDARDS-based support for the project and provides appropriately detailed responses to ALL questions.

4 - Request includes STANDARDS-based support for the project and provides generally thorough responses to ALL questions.

3 - Request includes STANDARDS-based support for the project and provides adequate responses to ALL questions.

2 - Request includes support for the project and provides adequate responses to MOST questions.

1 - Request includes vague support for the project. Some questions may lack adequate answers.

**POINTS EARNED and TOTAL
SCORE**

Evidence of Need

Expected Outcomes

Payroll Deduction

Creativity/Innovation

Measurable Impact

Overall Quality

**TOTAL SCORE (out of
100)**