



S.F.D.R.C.I.S.D.
**Education
Foundation**

**Innovative Teaching Grants
Application Guide
2026**

Innovative Teaching Grants 2026 Timeline

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|---------------------|---|
| Mon. March 2 | Application Release Date |
| Fri. June 26 | Grant Application Deadline <i>(Due by 5 p.m. - no extensions, no exceptions)</i> |
| Fri. July 10 | Grant Proposals submitted to ITG Selection Committee |
| July (TBD) | ITG Selection Committee Reviews Applications |
| July (TBD) | Education Foundation Board of Directors approves recommendations from ITG Selection Committee |
| Aug (TBD) | Announcement of Grant Awards |

Innovative Teaching Grants

Guidelines for Grant Applications

Purpose:

Innovative Teaching Grants are designed to encourage, facilitate, recognize and reward innovative and creative instructional approaches to the accomplishment of program objectives. The San Felipe Del Rio CISD Education Foundation is offering teachers and other educators the opportunity to apply for grants to support innovative programs or projects with the resources and tools needed to impact student achievement within SFDRCISD. The goal is to directly support the needs of teachers and educators alike by funding unfunded projects that bring innovative creative, original, and out of the box learning practices into the learning environment.

Access to the ITG Application:

1. Blank application forms will be available upon request from the campus principal.
2. Blank application forms can also be accessed online on the SFDRCISD Education Foundation web page.

Note: Teacher initiated applications must be reviewed and authorized by the campus principal for alignment with District/Campus initiatives and programming.

Applications may be delivered in person or via inter-campus mail to:

SFDRCISD Innovative Teaching Grant Selection Committee
c/o Melissa Hughes
Student Performance Center & Administration Building

Eligibility:

Individual, partner, or educator teams employed by SFDRCISD who provide instruction or any related support services that directly benefit students may apply for the ITG Grant.

Eligible Proposals:

Proposals for the Innovative Teaching Grant must clearly describe innovative instructional approaches or projects designed to spark and support student learning. Proposals should include a detailed description of activities and expenses. Projects must be implemented during the school year in which the grant proposal was awarded, and grant funds must be used solely for the purpose intended. All proposed projects must be completed by the last school day of the grant year.

Prior grant recipients may be eligible for continued funding; however, the applicant must re-apply and submit a proposal for an extension of the original grant project. The grant proposal will be reviewed by the ITG Selection Committee using the same selection criteria as a new grant proposal. Submission of a proposal for an extension does not guarantee award of funds.

Selection Process

The ITG Selection Committee is made up of appointed Education Foundation Board of Directors and may include other appointed reviewers as determined by the Board. The Innovative Teaching Grant Selection Committee will review applications using the following process:

1. Applications will be reviewed and scored by the ITG Selection Committee using the selection criteria established by the Education Foundation Board of Directors using the ITG Scoring Matrix.
2. Eligible applications and proposals with the highest ranking scores based on the selection criteria will be recommended to the Education Foundation Board of Directors for final review and approval.

Selection Criteria:

All applications will receive a weighted score based on the following criteria:

- a. *Innovativeness*
- b. *Purpose*
- c. *Need and alignment with District/Campus initiatives*
- d. *Sustainability*

- The degree to which the grant supports an innovative approach to student learning.
- The degree to which the grant models learning goals and objectives as described in the most current District Improvement Plan and Campus Improvement Plans; and is specifically designed to address an area of need substantiated by campus data.
- The degree to which a student's social, emotional and/or academic development and growth is emphasized.
- The degree to which the proposal represents a creative or innovative approach using resources that are not generally funded by the District.
- The degree to which the proposal is clear and logical, including
 - A reasonable timeline of events and activities that lead up to the completion of the grant project.
 - A detailed description of how and when grant funds will be used (budget proposal); and
 - A detailed description of the instructional procedures, student involvement and community involvement you will incorporate into the project.
- The degree to which an evaluation procedure is incorporated in the proposal.

| Criteria | | | | Weighted Amount | Weighted Total |
|--|---|---|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| The proposed project is innovative and sparks student learning. | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 3 | |
| The project need is clearly stated and supports both school district and campus goals. | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 3 | |
| The objectives for the project are specifically stated and measurable. | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 | |
| A timeline of activities/procedures is clearly stated and relate to the purpose and objectives of the project. | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 | |
| The proposed project includes an evaluation strategy that will determine success of the project (relevant to student performance). | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 | |
| The proposed budget is complete, realistic, appropriate and allowable. | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 2 | |
| The applicant explains plans for future sustainability of the project. (How will the applicant continue supporting the project's needs after ITG grant funding has ended?) | | 1 | 0 | X 1 | |
| The proposed project includes participation and support of parents, community and/or business partners. | 3 | 2 | 1 | X 1 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | |

Note: The Education Foundation will not consider funding for proposals for the following:

- Projects that request supplies and/or materials that can be provided through school district funds.
- Projects that request technology devices that can be provided through school district funds.
- Projects that will provide grant funds to other non-profit organizations.

Award of Funds:

Grants will be awarded to educator-initiated programs or projects at the elementary, middle, and high school level. Grants may be awarded to individual educators, partners, or teams. The number of awards given will depend on the amount of funds available during the grant year. Applicants will be notified of their grant award on a date specified by the committee.

The Innovative Teaching Grant Selection Committee will review each application to determine if the applicant's proposed budget is reasonable and allowable, and would not otherwise be funded by public school funds. The ITG Selection Committee will gather all eligible proposals and present them to the Education Foundation Board of Directors for final recommendation in July. The ITG Selection Committee may make a recommendation to fund a grant proposal in whole or in part. Final approval of funds is granted by the Education Foundation Board.

Innovative Teaching Grant funds must be expended no later than May 15th of the grant year. Any unused grant funds will be returned to the SFDRCISD Education Foundation.

Other Responsibilities:

- Grant awardees will be responsible for monitoring their budget based on the final grant award.
- Grant awardees will be required to update the Education Foundation Board on the progress of their project (including the use of grant funds) throughout the grant year.
- Grant awardees must be prepared to showcase their projects to Education Foundation Board members or sponsors during campus visits or fundraising events such as Adventure on the Creek or The Annual Dinner & Auction.