

Evaluation Criteria for Open Grant Proposals

Open Grant proposals will be evaluated on the impact that the quality of teaching and/or the depth of learning experiences will have on students.

The following criteria serve as a guideline for organizations submitting proposals and for the Foundation to select qualified applicants to receive funding. Proposals are not required to meet all eleven of the defined conditions. Please use them as a tool for framing ideas regarding your proposal.

1. Characteristics of Excellent Teaching

- Project's goals and objectives contribute to excellent teaching
- Project specifically addresses criteria attributed to excellent teaching: motivation of students, connection of concepts to personal experience, and creation of learning environments that promote high levels of learning
- Proposal identifies the target population of teachers and explains how the project will enhance "the art" of teaching.
- Project, if focused on professional development, is job-embedded and includes an appropriate evaluation process

2. Characteristics of Deep Learning for Students

- Project's goals and objectives contribute to deep learning
- Project specifically addresses problem solving, decision-making, multi-disciplinary thinking, multiple levels of analysis and/or experiential learning
- Proposal identifies the target population and explains how the project will address relevant learning gaps by keeping in mind the needs of underserved students
- Project enhances students' intellectual curiosity and self-directed learning
- Proposal aligns with the characteristics of excellent teaching

3. Innovation and Creativity

- Project has a clear element of originality relative to the school district or the non-profit organization
- Project reflects creative, innovative, and/or effective use of practices, tools, personnel, or other resources to achieve desired outcomes

4. Assessment of Outcomes

- Project's goals and objectives are clearly defined and measurable where appropriate
- Proposal includes a specific evaluation plan to determine the extent to which objectives were achieved and the impact of the outcomes on student achievement or growth
- Evaluation plan includes appropriate methods of formative and summative assessment

5. Research Basis

- Project is clearly based on existing research related to deep learning and/or excellent teaching
- Project involves teacher and/or staff participation in systematic inquiry/action research

6. Achievable Implementation

- Timeline includes realistic starting and ending dates
- Project will be evaluated within 12 months based on grantee determination of the timeline
- Proposal identifies clear staff roles and responsibilities for each aspect of implementation
- Project has a reasonable action plan to achieve the goals and objectives

7. Collaboration

- Project shows evidence of broad stakeholder involvement, including a specific commitment of support from the organization's leadership
- Project involves parents where appropriate
- Project includes partnerships and/or connections within the organization and outside the organization

8. Alignment

- Proposal reflects an alignment among the objectives, activities, evaluation, and desired impact
- Proposal identifies alignment to state standards and district's strategic or continuous improvement plan

9. Budget and Cost Effectiveness

- Proposal reflects efficient use of existing organization resources in addition to the requested resources and states why Jennings funds are necessary
- Total grant request is commensurate with identified program requirements
- Proposal budget indicates specifically how Jennings funds will be allocated

10. Sustainability

- Proposal includes an explicit discussion of post-grant sustainability and future funding sources, if needed
- Proposal explains how changes in practice will impact learning over time

11. Dissemination

- Proposal includes appropriate methods to identify what new ideas and effective practices were learned and the impact achieved on student learning
- Proposal includes a specific plan to disseminate the outcome results, the new ideas, and the effective practices from the project to applicable populations

Tips for a Successful Grant Proposal

- Study the [Deep Learning](#) and [Excellent Teaching](#) grant categories and make sure there is a clear focus on the theme(s).
- Allow adequate time for the review process
- Complete the grant proposal accurately
- Provide a clear explanation of how budget items relate to specific educational needs
- Proofread the grant request for spelling and grammatical errors
- If applying for a consecutive year of funding, incorporate the learning from your [Final Education Project Report Form](#) into your proposal.

