

Grants for Innovative Teaching Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

A. Any Dallas ISD educator.

Q. What is meant by "innovative?"

A. We are looking for projects that reach beyond traditional curriculum. The project could incorporate technology in a new way, address an issue or weakness in students' understanding in a creative way, offer students subjects or experiences beyond those provided in a typical school day, or enhance learning through hands-on or experiential learning. The possibilities are endless!

Q. A group of teachers at my school would like to apply for similar projects, so that students across the grade in our subject area can all benefit. Is this allowed?

A. Yes, this is allowed, as long as each teacher completes a separate application. However, the committee evaluates applications separately, not as groups. If similar applications are received, teachers should know that one, more, or none might be funded.

Q. Can I apply for funding from GFIT to purchase technology such as iPads or a SMART Board?

A. The purpose of *GFIT* is to bring innovative programs and projects to classrooms. Requested technology must therefore be part of a project or program that includes lesson plans, goals, and evaluation plans. *GFIT* does not fund technology-only grants. For example, a request for iPads for daily use in the classroom would be considered technology-only and would not fall within the funding guidelines of *GFIT*.

Q. The application requests my summer phone number and email address. Is it important to provide my personal information?

A. Yes. The committee reviews and evaluates applications during the summer months. If questions arise, a committee member will contact the teacher. The ability to reach a teacher and his/her responses provided to these questions can significantly impact the outcome of a grant application. All personal contact information provided by teachers is kept confidential.

Q. My project exceeds the \$2,000 funding limit. Can I still apply?

A. GFIT will fund up to \$2,000. If a teacher can explain the guaranteed sources of additional funding, the project will be considered. If GFIT funding is not sufficient and no other sources of funding are available, the project cannot be considered.

Q. When will I hear if my grant application has been selected?

A. Applicants will be notified no later than August 31, 2019 if their application has been accepted or rejected. Please note that the committee may notify applicants on a rolling basis and not all applicants may be notified at the same time.

Q. I have never applied for GFIT funding before. Does that hurt my chances?

A. No. We do encourage all applicants, and especially those who have never applied before, to access the available resources on our website www.jld.net/gfit. An online Grant Writing Workshop and examples of successful grant applications with comments are available. The GFIT Chair is also available to answer questions by email at gfit@jld.net. Emails will be responded to within 48 hours.

Q. Do I need to use Dallas ISD approved vendors?

A. Yes! Ensuring that your grant application only lists items from approved Dallas ISD vendors increases the likelihood of the project being funded. Submitting a budget worksheet that includes a quote(s) from a non-Dallas ISD vendor or a vendor that is unwilling to take the steps necessary to become a Dallas ISD vendor may impact your project, timeline and budget.

Q: Is there a list of approved Dallas ISD vendors?

A: Yes. To view a list of approved Dallas ISD vendors or to search the vendor database, follow the instructions below:

- Visit: <http://www.dallasisd.org/Page/355>
- Click on the box labeled "Database of Vendors Registered with the District"
- View the [List of all Vendors](#) (xls format) **OR**
- [Search Vendor Database by Vendor Name](#)

Q: What if the vendor is not an approved Dallas ISD vendor?

A: The vendor **MUST** be willing to become an approved Dallas ISD vendor before supplies are purchased. For non-Dallas ISD vendors, the grantee **MUST** be willing to assist the vendor through the vendor application process. We encourage you to begin this process as soon as possible by following the instructions below:

- The grantee must send an email to suppliers@dallasisd.org and request the vendor application. *NOTE: The grantee should "CC" the supplier and include the suppliers contact name, phone and email address in the body of the email.*
- To obtain vendor application status or vendor ID number the grantee must follow-up with procurement or email: suppliers@dallasisd.org.