

Somerset ISD Education Foundation Programs

Innovative Education Grants

Sometimes a small investment of funds can power a big change in how a teacher conveys a lesson, how a student experiences new material, or how a principal inspires a faculty. *Innovative Education Grants* are designed to encourage, facilitate, recognize and reward innovative and creative instructional approaches to the accomplishment of program objectives. The education foundation offers teachers, administrators and staff the opportunity to apply for grants to support innovative programs or projects to support higher levels of student learning. The grants must enhance student achievement, improve performance and support the objectives, goals, and initiatives of the Campus/District Action Plan.

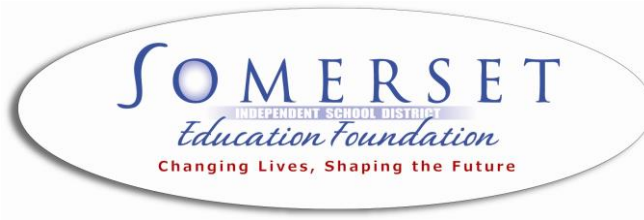
The Foundation will make funds available to Somerset ISD educators to create new and innovative educational programs that are not normally accommodated in the school budget. The Foundation will provide funds for creative, innovative, and research-supported proposals that create exciting learning environments. Teachers can be catalysts for change leading to improved outcomes for students; to that end, the Foundation seeks to support innovative learning opportunities for teachers and students alike. The Education Foundation gives teachers and staff the opportunity to design projects that cultivate student curiosity and challenge minds. One or more of the following criteria are used to award grants:

- The degree to which the grant supports the District goals and the Campus Action Plan and is specifically designed to address an area of need substantiated by data.
- The degree to which student academic achievement and performance is emphasized.
- The degree to which sound evaluation procedures are incorporated in the proposal.
- The degree to which the proposal represents a creative or innovative approach to the accomplishment of objectives. Funds are not typically available for recurring programs/projects. (The proposal should address a new project as opposed to one accomplished or under way.)
- The degree to which the proposal is clear and logical, including (a) specificity of objectives; (b) clarity of description of instructional procedures, methods or treatments; and (c) correspondence among evaluative procedures, objectives and treatments.

Grants from \$200 to \$3,000 will be awarded to individual teachers, campus teams, principals, or departments. The number of awards will be determined by the Education Foundation Board of Directors.

Innovative Grant Timeline

March 1, 2021	Call for Grants (applications will go out)
April 12, 2021	Reminder of Deadline for Grant Submission
May 14, 2021	Grants Due
TBD	Grants submitted to Grant Selection Committee
TBD	Grant Committee Meeting – Grant Review/Recommendations
TBD	Grants submitted the Somerset ISD Board of Trustees
September 2021	Surprise Patrol!
March 1, 2022	Funds must be expended or encumbered
May 20, 2022	Grant evaluation form due



Innovative Grant Process

GRANT DEVELOPMENT

Programs Committee

The Program Committee is responsible for outlining the Innovative Grants Program. All or part of the Program Committee serves on the Grant Review Committee along with other representatives.

The committee will:

- Establish criteria for grant selection
- Approve grant application packet
- Determine timeline

Teacher and Staff

Once the grant application, criteria and process is established, a “Call for Grants” is made to encourage teachers and staff to apply for funding. The teachers submit their grant application. Grant applications must be approved by the campus administrator and technology (if applicable) in advance.

SELECTION

Grant Review Committee

The Grant Review Committee is comprised of members of the Programs Committee, board members, district staff and volunteers from the community. The review committee reviews and scores all grant applications. The committee then recommends grants to be funded based on their cumulative scores and the amount of funds available to be awarded.

GRANT AWARD

Foundation Board Approval

After an extensive and “blind” review process, the review committee recommends a set number of grants to the board of directors for funding. The board approves the committee recommendations. The grants to be awarded are kept secret until the Surprise Patrol.

ISD Board of Trustees Acceptance of Designated Funds

Grant funds are given to the school district in total as “designated funds”. The grant winner utilizes the districts standard purchasing process and all resources become the property of the school district.

The donation of designated funds to the school district must be approved by the ISD board of trustees. This is an excellent opportunity to increase awareness of the foundation and its mission. Ideally, foundation board members present a “check” to the board of trustees during a regularly scheduled board meeting.

Surprise Patrol

Grants should be awarded with great fanfare.