

BEYOND THE BOOKS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

2017 ~ INFORMATION FOR ALL GRANT APPLICATIONS

The mission of Beyond the Books Educational Foundation is to fund innovative enrichment programs for the students of McLean County Unit District No. 5 and Bloomington District 87 Public Schools.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be **employees** of District 87 and/or Unit 5 (Pre-K through grade 12). **Both certified and support staff are eligible to receive grant awards.**
- In the event the recipient relocates to another position, school, or out-of-district, the grant may be withdrawn. However, if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Foundation that the project will be carried out as envisioned, the grant may be retained on a case-by-case basis.
- Grants will be awarded without regard to an applicant's school district, race, age, creed, gender or national origin.

TYPES OF PROPOSALS THAT MAY BE FUNDED

- **"BEYOND THE BOX"** ~ One grant of **\$10,000 (no more ~ no less)** will be awarded in this category for an exceptional proposal. The **\$10,000** award is given by a private foundation to Beyond the Books Educational Foundation and BTBEF selects the winner.
- **"STANDARD"** ~ Grants awarded in this category are limited to requests for **\$401 to \$5,000**.
- **"MINI"** ~ Grants awarded in this category are limited to **\$400 or less**.

GUIDING CRITERIA FOR ALL GRANT PROPOSALS

- **All applications (Mini, Standard, and Beyond the Box) will be scored using the same criteria ~ see the Rubric.**
- **Use of names of district, school(s), employee(s), or other identifiers will result in an application's disqualification.**

BUDGET

- The Estimated Budget **MUST** describe the items by the requested amount (in whole dollars).
- Salaries of district employees and substitute staff are not funded; outside personnel (such as honorariums) may be considered.
- Professional training may be funded provided there is a direct link to student benefit. Travel, lodging, food and like expenses of district employees will not be funded.
- Food should not be a major element of the grant. Include food only if it is essential to the success of the project and explain why.
- Technology that is requested should be used in innovative ways, and/or have significant impact on student achievement. Technology should be a tool to support (or an integral part of) a well defined project.
- Funding for consumable supplies/materials or one-time experiences should be justified.

FOUNDATION EXPECTATIONS

- The grant is to be used solely for the purpose described in the application. Funds must be used during the 2017-2018 school year or during summer of 2018; otherwise, funds may be forfeited.
- The Foundation will forward funds to each district. The district will administer the disbursement of grant dollars. Grant winners are to request funds from the business office of their district.

- All tangible property or publications resulting from work carried out under the grant shall specifically acknowledge the support of the Foundation.
- Project Evaluation ~ Recipients of “**STANDARD**” grants must submit an evaluation to the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the project in the manner **prescribed in the award letter**; “**MINI**” grant recipients are not required to submit an evaluation. The “**Beyond the Box**” recipient must, by **September 15, 2018**, submit a complete report of the grant work and outcomes to BTBEF as provided in the award information. This report will be forwarded to the private foundation that sponsors the award.
- **Photographs of any grant ‘work-in-action’ are welcome.**
- Public acknowledgment (such as a letter to the editor, article in the school newsletter, remarks to a parent or other organization) regarding the benefit to students and financial support for the grant by the *Beyond the Books Educational Foundation* is appreciated by the Board of Directors.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Grant readers are diverse individuals and not educators. The application should contain terms that are easy to understand. Having someone else critique it for readability is suggested.
- Examples of some funded grants may be found at: <http://BeyondtheBooksBN.com>

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Completion

- Competition for available dollars is keen. To avoid having your application **disqualified**, please follow directions completely.
 - **Any** reference by name in the application to an individual, school, or district will disqualify it (applications are evaluated by a BLIND REVIEW process beginning with page 2 of the application; page 1 is not provided to grant readers).
 - Do **not exceed twenty (20) words** to describe the proposal.
 - Do not include **copies** of catalog pages, web links, pictures and/or drawings.
 - **Do not exceed the number of pages** specified in the application (Mini = 3 pages; Standard = 4 pages; Beyond the Box = 5 pages).
- Applicant **must** use the following fonts: Arial or Calibri. Font size: 11
- Application **must** be saved as a Microsoft Word document for submission.
- A proposal **must** have approval from **each** appropriate principal(s)/administrator(s) in the district(s) to affirm that it meets State regulations and District requirements. This affirmation includes District support and maintenance of equipment.

Submission

- **The principal/administrator must submit by email** the completed application by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017** to beyondthebooksef@gmail.com
 - Applicants **must email** the completed form to their **principal/administrator for review and submission**.
 - It is the **applicant’s responsibility** to provide the principal/administrator with sufficient time to review and submit the application.
- **PLEASE NOTE - Applications submitted by USPS, facsimile or other means will NOT be accepted.**