

BRIGHT IDEAS CLASSROOM GRANTS PROGRAM

Grant Guidelines

Please read through all sections before beginning your application.

Brevard Schools Foundation invites all Brevard County Public School teachers to apply for classroom grant funding to support initiatives and programs in support of improving instructional practice that align with the BPS Vision of Excellent Instruction (found in Additional Information section) and increasing student achievement. The intention of Brevard Schools Foundation is to encourage teachers to implement innovative projects in areas of need where school budgets fall short or tax dollars cannot be used.

NEW:

The Bright Ideas Classroom Grants Program supports innovative, hands-on learning experiences that help students apply academic concepts to real-world challenges, explore careers, engage with community and industry partners, and develop durable workforce skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving. Therefore, five (5) Career-Connected Learning Incentive points will be awarded to projects which, as an example:

- Include hands-on, experiential learning
- Connect classroom learning to real-world applications
- Introduce students to careers and industries
- Include interactions with professionals, businesses, or community partners
- Develop employability/workforce skills
- Incorporate project-based learning
- Solve authentic community problems
- Expose students to STEM, healthcare, skilled trades, entrepreneurship, public service, or emerging industries
- Include student-created products, presentations, or demonstrations

These are competitive grants that will be awarded highest to lowest score in each category applied for - one per school - until the funding runs out, the objective being to award grants to as many schools as possible. If additional funding is available, it might be possible for more than one grant to be awarded to a school. **All grants are contingent upon availability of funding.**

These grants are funded in part by the sale and renewal of "Support Education" specialty license plates and through the generous sponsorship of many businesses and individual along with the support from the Legislature's State of Florida School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program through the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF). Brevard Schools Foundation is pleased to dedicate the funds to invest in young minds through these grants.

Instructions and Policies:

- Schools may submit multiple different projects; however, only one application per teacher may be submitted. For team, grade-level or schoolwide projects, one lead teacher must be designated as the grant contact and person responsible for reporting and outcomes.
- We invite you to view specific criteria of all sponsored grants in the Grant Opportunities–Description. Meeting sponsored grant criteria will improve your chances of receiving a grant.
- The Bright Ideas Classroom Grants Program supports innovative, hands-on learning experiences that help students apply academic concepts to real-world challenges, explore careers, engage with community and industry partners, and develop durable workforce skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving.
- All applications will be reviewed by at least three reviewers and must indicate what specific outcomes will be measured. Reviewers will consider 1) Project Need **(10 pts.)**, 2) Learning Plan Activities **(10 pts.)**, 3) Timeline **(5 pts.)**, 4) Project Evaluation **(10 pts.)**, 5) Alignment with School Improvement Plan **(5 pts.)**, 6) Budget **(10 pts.)**. 7. Bonus Points (5)
- Reviews will score applications on a maximum of 50 points for the required sections and Five (5) possible bonus points. Applications scoring below 35 points may not be considered for funding. Preference will be given to applicants that have not already received funding in the past year. The recommendations for funding are brought for final approval to the Foundation’s Board of Directors.
- Any projects involving curriculum or content should be standards-aligned.
- Per FDOE guidelines, projects teaching Critical Race Theory are not allowed. [Here](#) is the actual State Board of Education Amendment that mentions CRT for your reference and here are links to Florida’s standards: BEST Standards in [Mathematics](#), [ELA](#); and [Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science](#).
- Grant recipients from the 2025-2026 academic year must have submitted a final evaluation to be eligible to apply for the 2026-2027 academic year. Failure to meet reporting requirements from the previous school year will make a teacher ineligible to receive a grant in the current school year.
- **Please note that applications that are clearly copy-and-pasted from AI-generated sources, without thoughtful personalization, may be disqualified or result in point deductions.**

Grant Reporting and Fiscal Documentation:

- The Foundation will provide your bookkeeper with a copy of your grant award letter. You should provide them with a copy of these grant instructions. These are also available on our website brevardschoolsfoundation.org under the Programs button, then Bright Ideas Grants in the drop-down menu.
- All grant funds received and deposited into a school’s internal accounts must be administered following Internal Accounts Procedures as the highest level of authority for purchasing and accounting processes. All Internal Accounts policies are to be followed, and grant language does not supersede those procedures. Grantees should review their proposed budget and source of

purchases with their school bookkeeper to ensure that you are following the policy. If your bookkeeper has questions about technology purchases, these can be directed to Wil Henzmann, Henzmann.William@Brevardschools.org or 633-1000 ext. 11623.

- Grant funds and the materials/equipment they purchase must remain at the school where they are received. Any technology equipment purchased with the grant must be tracked and inventoried according to Brevard Public Schools Policies and Procedures.
- Unspent funds must be returned to the Foundation. When you accept a grant award, you are expected to carry out the project. If there are changes preventing grant implementation, you must notify the Foundation and return the funds within 30 days.
- Non-allowable expenditures include general administrative expenses, food/beverage/entertainment, support of interscholastic athletics, capital improvements, decorative items, awards/incentives, fundraising, pre-award costs, PDAs/cell phones.
- Documentation must be submitted with your final report showing how you spent the funds. Examples of acceptable documentation include: paid detailed invoices/receipts and copy of the check, bank statements, and/or procurement documentation.

Additional information:

Bright Ideas Classroom Grants - (2026-2027 school year)

- Grant recipients are expected to be notified and checks issued by October 31, 2026.
- Timeline:
 - Nov. 1, 2026 – May 14, 2027 Project period
 - February 2, 2027 Mid-Year Progress Check Due
 - Friday, May 21, 2027 Final project reports due

Connection Innovation Initiative (applications not open at this time)

- Grant recipients are expected to be notified and checks issued by August 2026.
- Timeline:
 - Sept. 14, 2026 – May 19, 2027 Project period
 - February 2, 2027 Mid-Year Progress Check Due
 - Friday, May 19, 2027 Final project reports due

Questions? Contact Linda Filippini at filippini.linda@brevardschools.org