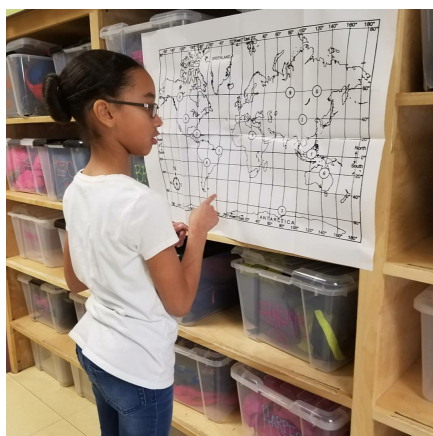# Getting to Know the Arlington Education Foundation's Innovations in Education Grants
An application guide for teachers

We are thrilled you are considering applying for an Innovations in Education grant and are eager to support you as you strive to engage students and reach them in new and exciting ways. Over 65% of all AEF grant applications have been accepted in the past -- we want yours to be one of them in the future!

Overview

Innovations in Education Grants support innovative and creative teaching and learning projects in the Arlington Public Schools. Successful projects will be new to the teachers and students involved and will transform learning in specific and visible ways. We are particularly interested in supporting "pilot" efforts that can be adopted later by a wider audience, as well as "enrichment" projects that enhance curriculum and/or community at the classroom, school, grade, department, or district level.
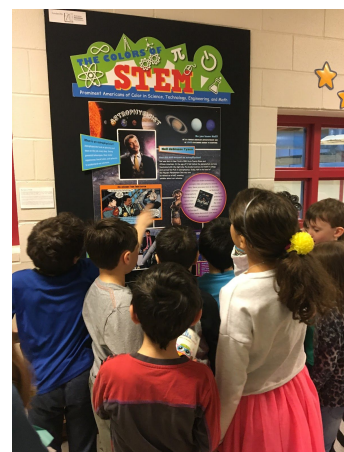
Who can apply

Arlington Public Schools staff parents, or community members are all eligible to apply. Non-school-based applicants must partner with the Arlington Public Schools. **Please consult with your AEF school representative bef**ore submitting a grant application.

Grant Amounts: $250-$3,000

Key Guidelines

- The project must be completed within 18 months from the date of grant approval.
- A final report on the project and documentation of all expenses are required.
- Grant recipients should be prepared to help AEF publicize their grants, for instance by attending AEF events or submitting press materials and publishable photos.
- Any proposals for technology must be approved by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction of the Arlington Public Schools.

- Grant applications may include professional development and teacher training, but AEF grants will not fund standard classroom supplies, equipment, or videos.
- Additional AEF grant guidelines can be found at: www.aefma.org/innovation

Deadline for Applications

Applications must be postmarked no later than November 15 (for fall grant review cycle) and April 15 (for spring grant review cycle).

How We Evaluate Applications

The board of AEF reviews each and every application very carefully, using the five categories below to guide our evaluation.

ENRICHMENT:
- What are this project's goals and expected outcomes?
- How will the project enhance curriculum and instruction?

INNOVATIVE/CREATIVE:
- Is this project based on a new idea and/or method?
- Is this project different than other programs or techniques that have been tried before? While direct duplication of a previous grant is discouraged, we welcome new, fresh "spins" on previously-tried techniques.

REACH:
- Does this project benefit many students, in multiple classes, grades, subjects and/or schools? Over what timeframe? [NOTE: Grant applications can be submitted in partnership with a school's PTO in an effort to provide greater reach, but this is not a requirement].

SCALABILITY:
- Could this project be replicated or scaled by teachers, classrooms, or other schools in Arlington?

LONGEVITY:
- Can this project provide a lasting benefit to Arlington's schools?
- How will the learnings from this project be shared?

Your School Rep is Here to Help!

The Arlington Education Foundation school representatives are available to offer advice and to answer questions about the grant application process. Your rep will be your spokesperson at the grant application review meeting where winning grants are selected. Please use your rep as a resource, as they can help set you up for success and advocate for you!

How to apply:

Ready to apply? Download the application at www.aefma.org/innovation (the link is half way down the page).

With the permission of past grant recipients, on the following pages, we are providing three sample applications that were successful. We hope they are helpful to you as you prepare you application.

GOOD LUCK!

Sample Application 1: Ukulele Hero

Sample Application 2: Thermal Imaging Project

Sample Application 3: CO$_2$ Car Race