

GAR FOUNDATION

Educator Initiative Grant Guidelines *(updated January 2012)*

Please read through all of the information below before submitting an application.

What types of projects are eligible for funding?

The Educator Initiative Grant Program offers funding to “**support teacher-initiated, classroom-based projects and methods that demonstrably impact student academic achievement.**” Preference is given to projects that utilize teams of K-12 educators working together to develop, implement, and assess instructional strategies that will (1) help their students meet Ohio’s academic standards (2) help their schools achieve goals identified in their school improvement plans (3) and incorporate 21st Century Skills.

Who may apply for an Educator Initiative Grant?

Only teams of educators from public, nonprofit private, and parochial schools in Summit County may apply for Educator Initiative Grants. These teams must consist of at least two K-12 classroom teachers. Administrators may also be team members but should submit applications only in concert with a group of teachers who will share responsibility for implementing the project for which funding is requested.

All applications must be endorsed by the appropriate building principals (*i.e.*, by the principals of all schools that will be directly affected by the project) and, in the case of public schools, by the appropriate district superintendents (*i.e.*, by the superintendents of all districts that will be directly affected by the project). One superintendent must also accept fiscal responsibility for any grant resulting from the application.

How much funding is available through an Educator Initiative Grant?

Educator Initiative Grants of no less than \$1,000 and no more than \$5,000 are available for projects designed to improve achievement in one or more classrooms. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for entire departments, grades 7 through 12. For projects designed to have school-wide impact, \$15,000 grants are available.

Do Educator Initiative Grants cover all types of expenses?

Ordinarily, applicants for an Educator Initiative Grant should not request funding for teacher stipends, refreshments, furnishings, incentives, rewards, T-shirts, and standard school supplies.

Funding for equipment will be considered only if the equipment is instrumental in achieving the goals of the project as outlined in the application. No more than fifty percent (50%) of the funds requested may be designated for the purchase of computer hardware, scientific instruments, and other equipment.

Funding for conferences and other professional development opportunities will only be considered as part of a more comprehensive project with clearly articulated objectives, expected outcomes, and assessment plans. No more than 10 percent (10%) of the funds requested may be used to subsidize the hiring of substitutes.

Are multi-year grants available?

Applicants should request funding for one year only but may apply for additional funding in subsequent years if their project is successful. Ordinarily, applicants should not expect more than three (3) years of funding for a particular project.

How can I apply for an Educator Initiative Grant?

Educators who meet the criteria outlined in these guidelines can apply for an Educator Initiative Grant by taking the following steps:

1. Identify the individual who will serve as the primary contact person for the grant application and have them complete the online **Educator Initiative Grant Application**.
2. Obtain from the principal of each school involved in the project a completed **Principal's Endorsement Form**.
3. Obtain from the superintendent of each public school district involved in the project a completed **Superintendent's Endorsement Form**. Make sure that one of the superintendents involved accepts fiscal responsibility for the grant.
4. Upload these signed attachments as .pdf files to your online application (see the website for instructions) at <http://www.garfoundation.org/educator-initiative-grants> OR you may send the original signed hard-copy [paper] versions via U.S. mail to the address below. (Only attachments will be accepted via mail; the application must be completed and submitted online.):

The GAR Foundation
Andrew Jackson House
277 East Mill Street
Akron, OH 44308-1735

What is the deadline for applying for an Educator Initiative Grant?

GAR Foundation's Distribution Committee will consider applications for Educator Initiative Grants once a year at its May meeting. ***In order to be considered at the May distribution meeting, an application must have been received by GAR no later than the Friday following Presidents Day in February.***

To whom should prospective applicants direct questions?

All questions about the Educator Initiative Grant program or the application process should be directed to:

Jolene Reinhart
Educator Initiative Grant Program Manager
jdgrehart@gmail and/or 330.815.0116

What criteria will be used in evaluating requests for Educator Initiative Grants?

Please refer to the Educator Initiative Grant Application Evaluation Rubric for a list of criteria that will be used in evaluating requests for Educator Initiative Grants.

Principal's Endorsement Form
(This form must be submitted with your application.)

Please indicate your endorsement of this application by responding to the questions below and signing this form.

1. How do you expect this project to promote goals identified in your school improvement plan?

2. What other strategies is your school employing to achieve these same goals?

3. Are there any circumstances (*e.g.*, district policies or practices, union contract requirements) you know of that could impede completion of project activities or fulfillment of project objectives identified in this grant application?

4. What will you do to help ensure successful completion of this project?

I endorse the applicants' request to GAR Foundation for \$ _____ .

Signature of Principal

Print Name

School

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

Date

Email Address

Superintendent's Endorsement Form

(This form must be submitted with your application.)

Please indicate your endorsement of this application by responding to the questions below and signing this form.

1. Are there any circumstances you know of that could impede the completion of project activities or fulfillment of project objectives identified in this grant application?

2. In your judgment, what is the likelihood that this project will generate new information or insights that will help inform decisions made by the district? Please explain.

3. Do you have access to or are you aware of alternate sources of funding for any expenses listed in the project budget?

The district endorses the applicants' request to GAR Foundation for \$_____ and has made the applicants aware of relevant district policies and practices relating to the application for and administration of grants. The district also accepts fiscal responsibility for any grant resulting from this request. Yes / No (circle one)

_____ Signature of Superintendent	_____ Print Name
_____ School	_____ Address
_____ City, State, Zip Code	_____ Telephone
_____ Date	_____ Email Address

Educator Initiative Grant Evaluation Rubric

Checklist of Components <i>(use this checklist to assure you have remembered all components of your application)</i>	
a)	These components are included in the application: <input type="checkbox"/> Principal form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent form completed <input type="checkbox"/> Online application completed and submitted
b)	The following guidelines are observed: <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for equipment does not exceed 50% of amount requested. <input type="checkbox"/> Sources of other funding are documented. <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for conferences and professional development is requested as part of a more comprehensive project. <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for substitutes does not exceed 10% of the amount requested. <input type="checkbox"/> Funding requested does not exceed \$5,000 unless the project has a school-wide impact.

The following criteria will be used in evaluating requests for funding:

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Project Purpose and Methods	8	
a) The project description clearly conveys the components and goals of the project. (0 to 3 points)		a. _____
b) The timeline established reflects a logical sequence of project activities and indicates clearly when each major activity will start and end. (0 to 3 points)		b. _____
c) Data provided substantiate the need for the project. (0 to 2 points)		c. _____
		Total _____
Educational Impact	40	
a) The potential for significant impact on student achievement is evident and includes the integration of technology. (0 to 10 points)		a. _____
b) The project is aligned with identified academic standards inclusive of 21 Century Skills. (0 to 10 points)		b. _____
c) The project will help the team members' schools meet goals established in their improvement plans. (0 to 10 points)		c. _____
d) The application identifies and clearly explains reasonable means that will be used to evaluate project outcomes. (0 to 10 points)		d. _____
		Total _____
Teacher/Student Leadership and Collaboration	16	
a) The project promotes collaborative effort and professional development among a group of educators. (0 to 10 points)		a. _____

b) The project clearly reflects teacher leadership in effecting school improvement and it promotes student choice, cooperative learning and higher order thinking. (0 to 10 points)		b. _____ Total _____
Best Practices		21
a) The project is developmentally appropriate and shows evidence of creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, and the integration of technology. (0 to 7 points)		a. _____
b) The project encourages use of “best practices.” For example, it is interdisciplinary integrating 21 st Century Skills into content areas. (0 to 7 points)		b. _____
c) The project includes career consideration and/or learning about life skills. (0 to 7 points)		c. _____ Total _____

Endurance and Sustainability		15
a) It is likely that the project will have an enduring impact. (0 to 5 points)		a. _____
b) It is likely that the project can be sustained by applicants and replicated by others after GAR funding is exhausted. (0 to 5 points)		b. _____
c) The project is likely to generate information that will be useful to other educators. (0 to 5 points)		c. _____ Total _____

Grand Total _____

Comments:

Recommend approval _____ or denial _____

Updated 01/02/12