



Helping Akron become  
**smarter, stronger, and  
more vibrant.**

## Educator Initiative Grant

### 2025-2026 Applicant's Guide

### Who Can Apply

- Individual classroom teachers or teams of K-12 Summit County educators in public, private, parochial or not-for-profit charter schools.
- Individual classrooms are eligible for up to \$5,000, and teaching teams (two or more classrooms) can receive up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Priority is given to the following:

- Projects/programs that help students meet or exceed Ohio's learning standards, especially those related to [social emotional learning](#).
- Projects/programs that help teachers and students become aware of and achieve equity and inclusion.
- Projects that demonstrate support for keeping learners on track for college and career readiness, as demonstrated by progress along six key transition points on the [cradle to career journey](#).

### How to Apply

Follow these six steps:

1. **Identify a Team Leader:** Identify the educator who will serve as the primary contact for your team and school. Team leaders are not permitted to lead more than one project.
2. **Read the Rubric:** Review the Educator Initiative Grant [evaluation rubric/checklist](#) to ensure you're meeting all of the guidelines.
3. **Download the Application Template:** View the [blank application form](#) to prepare for the questions.
4. **Obtain the Necessary Signatures:** Make sure to allow enough time to obtain both your Principal's and Superintendent's signature on the [endorsement form](#) that accompanies your application for your project.
5. **Complete the Project Budget:** Use the [project budget spreadsheet](#) template provided to itemize and tally the total expenses for your project. Please ensure you complete the rationale section for each of your line items, and that the total on your project budget matches the amount requested in your application. Submit this form with your completed application.
6. **Apply Online:** Complete the online application form on [GAR's website](#). The application period traditionally opens on December 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

## Misc. Info

- No attachments will be accepted other than your project budget and endorsement form.
- You **do not** need to complete a Letter of Inquiry for an EIG application.
- All applications must be submitted online to GAR Foundation no later than ***Friday, February 21, 2025 by 5:00 pm.***
- Notification of awards will take place in May.
- Any questions or requests for guidance or help should be directed to:

**Lucille Esposito**  
EIG Program Manager  
[espolucille@gmail.com](mailto:espolucille@gmail.com)  
(330) 550-6661

## Budget

If your project is focused on:	Then the maximum amount of funding available for your proposal is:
Improved achievement in one classroom	Up to \$5,000
Improved achievement in two or more classrooms	Up to \$10,000

### Budget Expense Guide

Category	Budget Expense	Notes
Technology	Up to 40%	Technology is often integral to the success of the entire project. However, it should not exceed 40% of the budget.
Substitutes	Up to 10%	No more than 10% of requested funds from GAR Foundation may be used for substitutes.
Teacher stipends	0	Not eligible for funding
Refreshments	0	Not eligible for funding
Furniture or capital improvements	0	Not eligible for funding
Incentives or rewards for students	0	Not eligible for funding
T-shirts or clothing	0	Not eligible for funding
Standard school supplies	0	Not eligible for funding

## Evaluation Rubric

The following rubric reflects how the EIG Evaluation Team will assess your grant application. Use this as a guide when writing your proposal.	100 Total Points Possible
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Project Overview</b></p> <p>A succinct, two-sentence description of your project and desired outcome. (Required)</p>	0
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Project Description</b></p> <p>The project description clearly conveys the need for the project, and goals for student achievement. Specific <a href="#">standards</a> that are addressed by the project are identified, and the project is demonstrably innovative and creative.</p>	20
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Compelling Story</b></p> <p>The proposal articulates teachers' sincere belief in why the project will support student achievement or learning. The reader is compelled by specific data or practices that support the assertions.</p>	20
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cradle to Career Continuum</b></p> <p>The proposal indicates that the applicant has identified how the project supports students' learning on the <a href="#">Cradle to Career Continuum</a>. It is clear that the applicant understands their work as part of a larger continuum of learning for each student.</p>	5
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal advances social emotional learning for all students, and links directly to identified <a href="#">Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Emotional Development</a>.</li> <li>• The proposed project integrates the use of <a href="#">culturally relevant practices</a>, whenever the project addresses building student empathy, connecting students to different cultures, improving classroom climate, self-regulation or discipline.</li> <li>• The project identifies if different groups or cultures beyond the classroom are introduced to students, or reinforced as an expansion of their current cultural understanding.</li> </ul>	20
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sustainability and Replicability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal indicates how educators will promote and communicate the project. See <a href="#">here</a> for an example.</li> <li>• The proposal identifies ways that other teachers can be inspired to join in the project, and/or replicate or model the project in their own classrooms or buildings.</li> <li>• The proposal indicates how educators will sustain the work and continue to develop their own learning as a result of the project.</li> </ul>	20
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal indicates the need for technology and how it will be integrated.</li> <li>• If technology is not used, the applicant has explained how the project will achieve their stated goal without the use of technology.</li> </ul>	15



## Endorsement Form

By signing this Endorsement Form, you acknowledge that the proposal meets the focus of the School's or District's mission and supports your school improvement plan. The district also accepts fiscal responsibility for any grant resulting from this request.

I/we endorse the applicants' request for \_\_\_\_\_  
(Project Name)  
in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Amount Requested)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School

\_\_\_\_\_  
School District

### Superintendent or Head of School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date