Student Excellence Grant Procedures and Review Criteria:

The Student Excellence Foundation offers **Student Excellence Grants** to CUSD200 staff members who work directly with students. These grants have funded classroom materials, books, flexible furniture, technology, and professional development. We work closely with CUSD200 to ensure that our support is effectively targeted to advance educational needs consistent with District and school goals.

Student Excellence Grants are funded by donations from businesses and individuals, including educators (via the WWEA) and parents.

We encourage applications whose purposes relate to any of the following categories:
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Literacy
- Physical Education and Fine Arts
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Social Emotional Learning
- Social Studies

The Basics:
The minimum grant amount is $500. Grants typically range up to $2,500; a larger amount will be considered if the project will provide a significant benefit to a greater than average number of students.
- Materials provided by the grant become the property of CUSD200.
- Unused funds will be retained by the Student Excellence Foundation.
- We do not fund:
    - Supplies*, except for unique supplies necessary to support a specific educational initiative
    - Subscriptions, where the materials or information will become inaccessible or no longer usable after the grant period*
    - Transportation costs for field trips*
    - Technology or equipment that are not supported by CUSD200
    - Technology that is routinely provided by CUSD200.
    - Textbooks, except for small quantities for innovative/pilot programs
    - Teacher stipends or salaries
    - Expenses that are within normal school operating budgets
    - Reimbursement for expenditures made prior to the award of the grant
      * May be eligible for funding through a Fund-A-Classroom Campaign

Process and Timeline:
- We offer two grant rounds:
    - Applications for fall grants are accepted shortly after the beginning of the school year. The submission deadline is during the last week in September (check the website for specific date).

- - Applications for spring grants are accepted shortly after the beginning of the second half of the school year. The submission deadline is during the last week in February (check the website for specific date).
- We've partnered with Kaleidoscope, an online software platform, to host our grants and other programs requiring an application. To begin a grant application, sign up at https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/scholarships/StudentExcellenceGrants
- Sign in and begin your application. Remember to save your work as you go. You can return to your application at any time. Once complete, click on submit.
- After you submit your application on Kaleidoscope, it's reviewed by your principal and a District administrator to ensure consistency with District policies and confirm the project falls outside of the normal operating budget.
- After approval by your principal and a District administrator, the Foundation's Grant Review Committee reviews your application.
- The final decision is made by the Foundation Board. You'll be notified about 2 months after the submission deadline.
- Implementation for fall grants should occur during the second half of the same school year
- Implementation for spring grants should occur during the first half of the following school year
- The Foundation requires an evaluation report at the conclusion of the initial grant period: For fall grants, before the end of the school year; for spring grants, before winter break. Please include any available photos, videos, student and parent comments, and other information about how the grant was implemented and how it benefited students.

Review Criteria:

The Grant Review Committee uses the following scoring scale, except as otherwise indicated:

3 = Excellent: *Response includes nearly all necessary information and is clear and detailed. Provides convincing evidence or backup.*
2 = Satisfactory: *Response includes most necessary information, and is generally clear and detailed. Provides reasonable evidence or backup.*
1 = Weak: *Response to the item includes some necessary information, but is generally vague and lacks detail. Provides little evidence or backup.*
0 = Absent: *Response to the item is missing or is unresponsive to the question, or the item is not applicable*

Project Goals:

1. Students benefited by the grant would be able to learn, accomplish or experience something significant and beneficial that they otherwise wouldn't.
   - 3 Excellent
   - 2 Satisfactory
   - 1 Weak
   - 0 Absent

2. Supports Academic Excellence Strategies and/or Operational Excellence Strategies based on **CUSD200's Vision 2026:** *(the applicable Vision 2026 strategies are listed in the application)*
   3 Excellent
   2 Satisfactory
   1 Weak
   0 Absent

3. The proposed purchases listed in the grant budget support the goals stated by the applicant.
   3 Excellent
   2 Satisfactory
   1 Weak
   0 Absent

Innovation:

1. The grant proposes something new, different, or innovative in terms of instructional approach, materials or equipment; where available, confirming research is cited.
   3 Excellent
   2 Satisfactory
   1 Weak
   0 Absent

Student Characteristics:

1. Number of students who would directly benefit from the grant when it's first implemented
   3 An entire school
   2 Most students in 2 or more classrooms
   1 50 - 100% of students in one classroom
   0 Fewer than 50% of students in one classroom

2. Number of students who would directly benefit from the grant in subsequent school years
   3 More students than were benefited at first implementation
   2 About the same number of students benefited at first implementation
   1 Fewer students than were benefited at first implementation
   0 No students will benefit after first implementation

3. The applicant demonstrates how the grant would support the educational achievement of special populations of students.
   3 Excellent
   2 Satisfactory
   1 Weak
   0 Absent

Timeline:

1. The number of years the grant will directly benefit students
   3 6 years or more

        2 3-5 years
        1 1-2 years
        0 1 year or less

<u>Project Evaluation:</u>

1. Outlines an evaluation plan with measurable outcomes that can be provided in a report to the Foundation approximately one year after the grant award.
    - 3 Excellent
    - 2 Satisfactory
    - 1 Weak
    - 0 Absent

<u>Qualitative Judgment:</u>

1. Considering the entirety of the proposed grant and available funding, would you say that it:
    - 3 Definitely should be funded
    - 2 Should be funded if money is available
    - 1 Should be revised and resubmitted at a later grant round (e.g., good concept but needs more support)
    - 0 Should not be funded

For more information, contact us at Grants@StudentExcellenceFoundation.org