

Identifying Grant Opportunities for Your School or District

If your district budget can't support the cost of implementing a new curriculum, you may wish to consider applying for outside funding. Your options include the following:

- National foundation grants
- Community foundation grants
- State grants
- Federal grants
- Support from local businesses

Getting Started:

Never applied for a grant before? Edutopia offers an hour-long, archived webinar: **"The Fundamentals of Funding: How to Identify, Write, and Submit Grants for School and Program Initiatives."**

The Foundation Center also offers free webinars on such topics as **"Grantseeking Basics,"** **"Finding Funders"** and **"Proposal Writing Basics."**

Identifying Grant Opportunities:

A number of organizations aggregate STEM grant opportunities on their websites:

- **The Foundation Center** has a host of resources for grant-seekers, including the Foundation Directory, a searchable database of prospective funders..
- **Houghton Mifflin** offers educators a **searchable grants database** with many local and regional resources.
- **GetEdFunding** is a grants database that focuses on support for STEM education. (You do have to sign up for a free account.)
- **Grant Wrangler**, a grant listing service offered by Nimble Press, includes some STEM grant opportunities.
- **STEMGrants.com** offers a free downloadable guide to STEM educational grants for K-12, educational non-profits, and universities.
- **100Kin10 Partners** can use the project's registry to apply for funds to support their 100Kin10 commitments.

National Foundations

Many foundations specify that they support education initiatives, but not all such foundations support the implementation of a specific STEM curriculum (such as EiE). Here are some foundations that may support your curriculum implementation. Please note that foundations update their funding guidelines frequently, so review guidelines carefully before approaching a foundation for support.

Alcoa Foundation supports educational initiatives for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

American Honda Foundation supports youth education with a specific focus on the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Halliburton Foundation makes direct donations to US-based elementary and secondary schools. Preference is given to areas where Halliburton has a presence.

Motorola Solutions Foundation supports programs that encourage science, technology, engineering, and math education in the U.S. and globally.

NEA Foundation makes grants to public school educators to enhance teaching and learning.

Prudential Foundation invests in academic programs that increase problem-solving, creative and critical thinking.

RGK Foundation makes grants for formal K-12 education programs (particularly mathematics, science, and reading) and teacher development, among other funding priorities.

Texas Instruments Foundation funds programs that emphasize math and science education, including STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teacher effectiveness.

Community Foundations

Community foundations can be a great match for curriculum initiatives. These foundations engage in charitable giving at the local level, they often make education a priority, and the funds come from members of the local community.

The **Community Foundation Locator** maintained by the Council on Foundations can help you identify the community foundations that serve your area.

The Foundation Center also allows you to **search for community foundations** in your area.

State Grants

Grant opportunities at the state level vary widely. Check your State Department of Education website to see if support is available for curriculum implementation.

Support for STEM education initiatives may also be available from state agencies with STEM missions. Check these agencies/offices in your state to see whether they have programs that support schools:

- Agriculture/State Cooperative Extension
- Health/Mental Health/Prevention
- Museums, Libraries
- Information Technology/Technology
- Business and/or Economic Development
- Natural Resources/Forestry
- Energy
- Transportation/Ports/Waterways/
Marine Resources
- Environment
- Wildlife/Fisheries

Federal Grants

The website [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) allows you to electronically find (and apply for) competitive grant opportunities from federal agencies. The site encompasses over 1,000 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies.

Support From Local Businesses

The [Scholastic](https://www.scholastic.com) website includes a list of national corporations that support education initiatives at the community level. See if one of the corporations on this list has a presence in your town.

[Afterschool Alliance](https://www.afterschoolalliance.org) is the nation's leading voice for afterschool programs. The organization's website offers a useful set of tools for identifying local sources of funding for education programs.

Other Opportunities

The [Association of American Educators](https://www.aea-net.org) awards small grants (up to \$500) for professional development and classroom materials.

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