



**KERRVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION GRANTS FOR  
INNOVATIVE TEACHING**

**TIPS & TOOLS**

**March 2023**

# About Grants for Innovative Teaching

- **Core Belief:** Many innovative ideas that enrich student learning come from the experiences and critical thinking skills of classroom teachers and campus leaders.

- **Competitive Process / Maximum Award in 4 Categories:**

Individual: up to \$2,500

Team: up to \$5,000

Campus: up to \$10,000

District: up to \$10,000

- **Applicable Content Areas:**

Science

Mathematics

English/Language Arts

Bilingual/ESL

PE

Social Studies/History

Pre-Kindergarten

Technology

Fine Arts

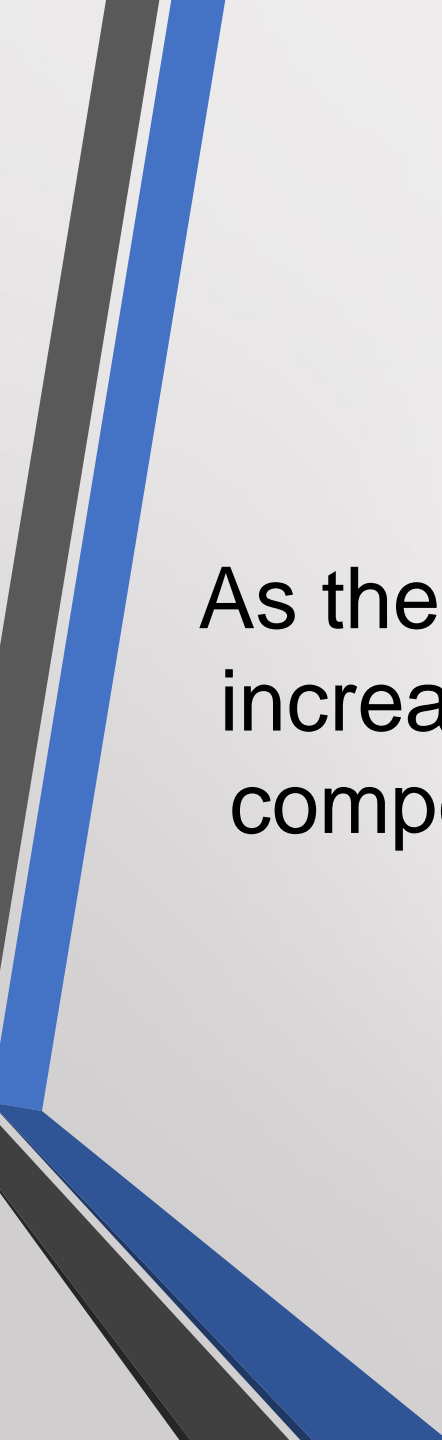
Special Education

STEM

Career & Technology

**KPSF Mission: to mobilize the community and its resources to further academic excellence for all students of Kerrville ISD.**

KPSF has a responsibility to consider the mission as we strive to be good stewards of **EVERY DOLLAR** our community invests.



As the number of innovative grant requests increases and the process becomes more competitive, the committee asked that we share some keys to success.

# “Innovative” Means:

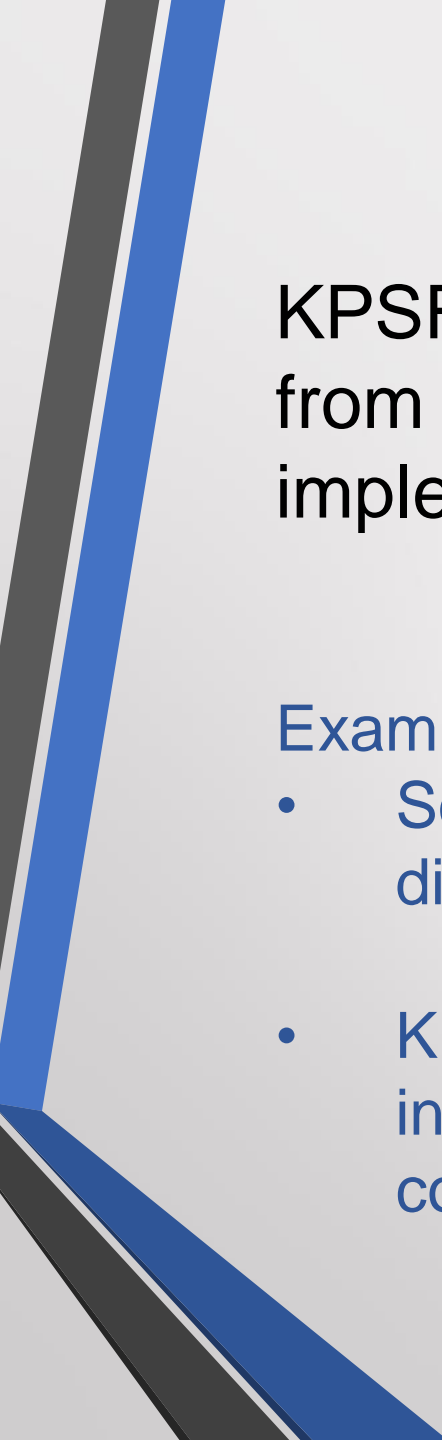
- NEW or FORWARD THINKING
- A creative idea you have brainstormed or have learned about and want to pilot in your classroom or campus.
- Scaling a small project to a larger one (i.e., classroom to campus to district).
- Utilizing resources and technology to broaden, deepen, or creatively improve a project currently taking place in your classroom.
- Utilizing technology in a way that genuinely aligns with your purpose or curriculum.
- Field trips or professional development directly aligned with a larger project you have developed.

# “Innovative” Does NOT Mean:

- Requesting funds to maintain a project you have been doing for several years.
- Projects that are a basic part of your curriculum – not innovative in content – that simply have a budget deficit.
- Purchasing materials that are not written into the curriculum in a substantive way. For example, KPSF does not fund technology as a replacement for paper and pen without a meaningful project strategy behind it.
- Field trips or professional development that are not part of a larger, creative project or program you have developed.

# Tips & Tools for Success!

- Choose a catchy project title.
- Demonstrate why the project benefits your students.
- Provide a way to measure success. Explain how you will evaluate the benefit(s) of the grant. This can be more creative than standardized test results.
- Be concise, but persuasive. Paint a descriptive picture of project activities and innovative aspects. Use bullet points where appropriate.
- Dream big but be a realist. Write a project plan that you can fulfill by the end of the school year.
- Let your LOVE for teaching and your students show through! KPSF wants to fund as many quality projects as possible.




KPSF can't fund grants that require funding from outside parties to ensure their successful implementation.

Examples:

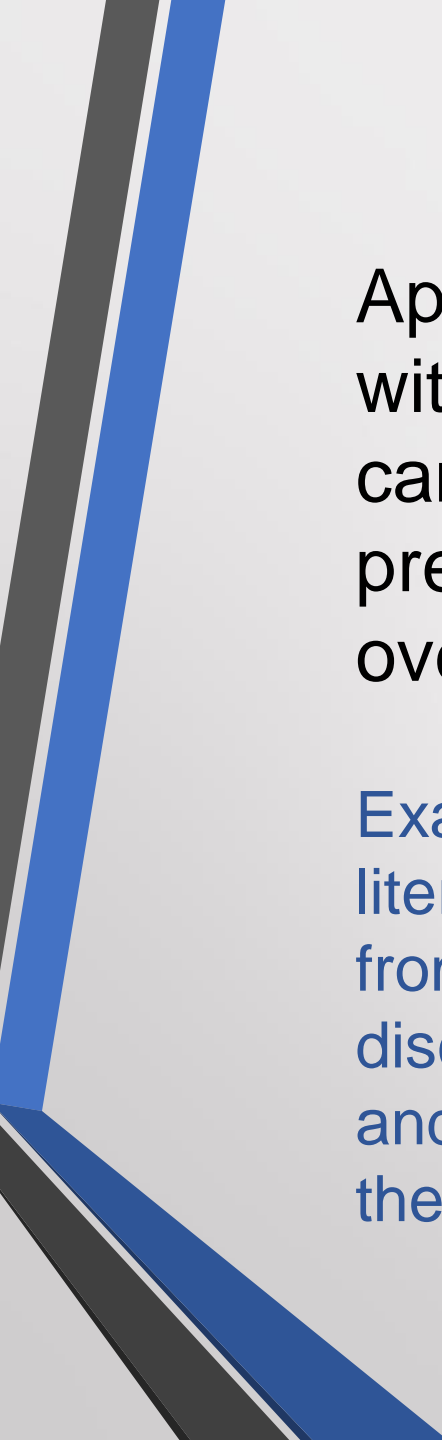
- Some companies will offer a match as part of a discounted bid.
- KPSF-funded projects need to function independently and not depend on other parties for completion.





The majority of grant requests come from teachers; however, we recognize that principals, administrators and specialists also have campus needs and innovative ideas.

We encourage requests that are for instructional purposes in a traditional and nontraditional classroom setting.



Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with your team and other teachers on your campus when writing your grant. This helps prevent duplicate requests and program overlap.

Example: Last grant cycle had **THREE** different literacy-related projects from one campus that were from various positions at that school. Collaborative discussion would have benefited the entire school and helped KPSF prioritize which project best met the needs of that campus.

# With limited funds to distribute, the BUDGET is critical

- Only include expenses relevant to the project without adding nonrelated line items to get to the maximum amount allowed.
- Have an itemized budget that includes all related expenses, including shipping.
- Examples of unacceptable budget descriptions from past years include:
  - Assorted books = \$2,500
  - The contractor can complete the project for <\$10,000
  - Here is a link to my Amazon cart

## Not sure if your idea works:

- Review past grants at [www.KPSF.net](http://www.KPSF.net).
- Brainstorm with colleagues.
- Run it by your administrator or the KISD curriculum director.
- Ask someone with KPSF.

## Last, but not least...

- Please make KPSF aware of any special circumstances because we absolutely want to understand and take that into consideration.
- Please don't cut and paste your colleague's verbiage. If it is a collaboration, please submit it under the team category unless there are special circumstances as noted above.
- An appointed or volunteer writer for multiple grants is not okay.

# QUESTIONS? IDEAS?

Contact your Principal and/or KPSF  
Executive Director, Jen Wittler

[kpsf@kerrvilleisd.net](mailto:kpsf@kerrvilleisd.net)

(830) 257-9282

KPSF looks forward to hearing from you!

