



## THE FUND FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

# GOOD TO GREAT MINI GRANTS

for Philadelphia District Elementary Schools

Does your school need up to \$75,000 to improve literacy?  
Apply for one of The Fund for the School District of  
Philadelphia's Good to Great Literacy Mini Grants!

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CEO OF THE FUND

In 2015, the nation's largest and most comprehensive effort to advance early literacy was launched by the School District of Philadelphia. The Fund for the School District of Philadelphia was a supporter in this effort through its Right Books campaign which raised over \$7 million for leveled libraries in every K-3 classroom in the District. Good progress has been made with gains in third grade reading proficiency that outpace the growth of students in other districts across the state.

While proud of this progress, none of us can be content—not until *all* 8-year-olds are reading at or above grade level. In adhering to our mission of identifying, coordinating and connecting philanthropic resources to leverage investments in local public schools, we are thrilled to announce this new grant opportunity for our elementary schools.

Funded by the William Penn Foundation, one-time mini grants are available and call for expanded training, coaching and other related resources, focused on pre-K through third grades. The mini grant opportunities also call for supporting new ideas from those who know their school best: principals and school leadership teams.

The Fund seeks projects that can propel school wide gains and take the good progress achieved thus far to the next level. Proposals should range in focus, from furthering instructional practices to addressing root causes of and barriers to early literacy. We encourage outside-the-box thinking; submissions should apply school data, leverage lessons learned, and include collaboration with diverse stakeholders. Are you up to the challenge of moving from good to great? If so, submit your ideas to The Fund.

Sincerely,

**Sheldon M. Bonovitz, Board Chair**

*The Fund for The School District of Philadelphia*

**Donna Frisby-Greenwood, President & CEO**

*The Fund for The School District of Philadelphia*



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PHILADELPHIA

**Action Plan**

## **ANCHOR GOAL 2**

100% of 8-year-olds  
will read on or above  
grade level.

## WHO CAN APPLY

School District of Philadelphia elementary schools that have shown clear progress in literacy, with majority CPEL ratings in the 2-3 range, with few 1s (for 1s provide clear explanation of changes impacting scores, and/or cite some increase in student achievement levels for K-3 literacy). The Principal of those schools will submit their applications via The Fund's Foundation GIVE website at: <https://foundationgive.com/foundations/15/PhillyFUNDamentals>. The school must register first at: [www.FoundationGIVE.com/register](http://www.FoundationGIVE.com/register).

## GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Grants are administered by The Fund for the School District of Philadelphia, and made possible through a generous grant from the William Penn Foundation. Signed grant agreements to awardees will detail all reporting requirements and financial procedures, including grant payments and required documentation of expenses. Selected schools will receive a mid-grant site visit to check in on interim progress.

## 17 MONTH GRANT AWARDS

Each grant award will range from \$10,000 to \$75,000, and the term will run from April 2019 to August 2020.

## IMPORTANT DATES

February 4, 2019 – Applications due in FoundationGIVE

March 8, 2019 – Awards announced

April 1, 2019 – Project implementation begins

## SELECTION PROCESS

A selection panel will review all applications and invite finalists to provide a brief presentation the week of February 25th, 2019. Reviewers reserve the right to make awardee selections to ensure educational equity across all our K-3 schools.

## FOUNDATION GIVE

Grant applications will be submitted in our online system FoundationGIVE at [www.FoundationGIVE.com](http://www.FoundationGIVE.com). Instructions can be found both at the end of these instructions and on our website, [www.thefundsdp.org](http://www.thefundsdp.org). The school must register first at [www.FoundationGIVE.com/register](http://www.FoundationGIVE.com/register).

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Lauren Cawley, Grants Manager, at [lcawley@thefundsdp.org](mailto:lcawley@thefundsdp.org) or 215-979-1108.

# GRANT APPLICATION

## PART 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW

### 1. Why are you applying for this grant? (375 words maximum)

Please describe as specifically as possible what gap, area of growth, or barrier you are seeking to address with this project.

Who will be the primary beneficiaries of the project?

Please identify the specific instructional practices, student/teacher needs, and/or student/teacher subpopulations (including which grades, if not all K-3) that need attention.

### 2. What evidence did you use to identify this gap or area of growth? What is the rationale for the project you are proposing? (375 words maximum)

Please reference key data from the CPEL and/or K-3 student assessments (e.g., PSSA, AIMSweb, DRA, Independent Reading Growth). Reviewers will have access to your full data reports, so please only provide highlights. How does this align to your school-level plan?

### 3. Describe your proposed Early Literacy Improvement Project (1,500 words maximum). Which of the following best characterize the K-3 literacy improvement project you are applying for? Choose all that apply from the list below.

I am applying for funding for:

Teacher PD/teacher training

Technology (iPads, smartboards)

Curriculum or curricular resources

Classroom environment (manipulatives, center furniture or supplies)

Other (please specify)

Describe how you will use the requested funds to carry out your project. Include an overview of the project and elaborate on the components selected above. Why this investment now?

### 4. Choose the PRIMARY CPEL domain that you are targeting with your K-3 literacy improvement project (choose only one):

- Literacy Environment
- Classroom Culture
- Read Aloud
- Shared Reading

# GRANT APPLICATION

- Independent Work Time
- Guided Reading
- Independent Reading/Reading Workshop
- Writing Workshop
- Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, and Phonics
- Writing

## **5. Choose UP TO TWO additional CPEL domains that you expect will improve as a result of this project (choose up to two):**

- Literacy Environment
- Classroom Culture
- Read Aloud
- Shared Reading
- Independent Work Time
- Guided Reading
- Independent Reading/Reading Workshop
- Writing Workshop
- Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, and Phonics
- Writing

Please describe how you collaborated with school leaders, teachers, or District support staff (DELS, etc) in selecting this project [open ended]

## **6. Who will be involved? (500 words maximum)**

Please describe who will lead the work and who will participate in this project if you are selected for a grant. How will teachers and partners be involved?

## **7. What would success look like? (375 words maximum)**

Describe how your K-3 literacy improvement project will address the gap/area of



# GRANT APPLICATION

growth/barrier(s) identified in Question 1 above. What are the expected outcomes?

What AG2 outcome goal does this project best align to? Note which is most appropriate:

- At least 70% of Kindergarten students and 50% of 1st and 2nd grade students will score at target on the Spring AIMSweb assessment.
- At least 60% of Kindergarten students and 75% of 1st and 2nd grade students will make at least one year's worth of growth, as evidenced by their Independent reading level from Q1 to Q4.
- No more than 25% of 3rd grade students will score below basic on the 3rd Grade PSSA-ELA assessment.

## **8. What are potential obstacles or barriers to project success, and how would you address them? (375 words maximum)**

## **9. Goals and Key Activities (375 words maximum)**

State up to three goals, and for each activity tied to a goal, specify the projected timeline of milestones and completion dates.

## **10. Budget / Finances**

Use a reasonable estimate to list off all of the items that you will need to purchase to complete your project. A total need amount will be calculated for you based on the items you enter. Expenses may include expenses tied to: consultants / contractors, professional development and training, books, materials, supplies and equipment, and other indirect costs. Keep in mind, as a one-time grant opportunity, this request cannot include ongoing personnel expenses.

**Note that your application will not be considered complete until you complete the survey, which can be accessed by clicking <https://www.research.net/r/litgrants>.**

## **FOR MORE IDEAS AND RESOURCES**

The School District of Philadelphia and The Fund for the School District of Philadelphia are proud lead partners of Read by 4th. For more ideas and resources, check out [readby4th.org](http://readby4th.org).