

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025 Issue

All,

The Office of Grant Development (OGD) is happy to share with you our February edition of the newsletter. Please see below for small grant opportunities, literary resources, and Donorschoose match offers.

Note: Formal central office "approval" to apply for any of the grants listed is not needed, but it is very important that you communicate with your principal about any resources you are hoping to bring into your school. We strongly encourage you to contact us in the Office of Grant Development if you are considering applying for a grant. Our team of experienced grant-writers can help you by discussing strategy or reviewing drafts. You can email us at grants@philasd.org, or find more resources on our webpage: <https://www.philasd.org/grants/>

Good luck in your pursuit of additional funding for your school community.

Sincerely,
Michael Sonkowsky,
Deputy Chief, Office of Grant Development

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Grant Opportunities

NOTE: Funders may change their mission, strategy, and target recipients at any time. The OGD has reviewed all of the opportunities to ensure that all are still accepting applications as of February 1st and are appropriate for our audience, however, it is possible that changes were made after our review. Please be sure to carefully review the funder's policies and practices before beginning any application and reach out to OGD with any changes you find.

Upcoming Deadlines

Opportunity: McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation

Due Date: Application is open January 15 until April 15 *OR before they reach 350 application submissions.*

Eligible Applicants: K-12 teachers

Purpose: The Foundation provides both academic enrichment grants and teacher development grants. The Foundation sponsors proposals that enhance student learning and educational quality, paying particular attention to those that best serve the at-risk and under-funded, including: curriculum that excites and challenges; inquiry projects that promote reflection and growth; and after-school programs that enrich and inspire. The Foundation partners with individuals to expand educational opportunities for America's youth that inspire students by nurturing their curiosity about the world and their place in it.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$10,000 for a maximum budget of \$20,000 over 2 years

Website: <https://mccartheydressman.org/>

Opportunity: BioLEAP Classroom Grant

Due Date: February 28, 2025

Eligible Applicants: Teachers & School Administrators

Purpose: The BioLEAP Classroom Grant is designed to help educators fund the use of humane anatomy models in their classrooms to replace animal dissection. Awards are for the purchase of advanced learning tools such as 3D digital models, synthetic specimens, and other innovative products.

Estimated Range of Awards: 25-30 grants of up to \$1,000

Website: <https://bioleap.org/classroomgrant>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant Program

Due Date: March 5, 2025

Eligibility: K–12 Schools or Non-Profit Organizations in U.S./Canada that engage at least 10 students in the garden regularly

Purpose: The Garden Grant program supports new or existing edible educational gardens located at K–12 Schools in the U.S. or Canada. The aim is for schools to turn outdoor spaces into powerful hands-on learning gardens that connect kids with food, spark their curiosity and support classroom curriculum. Whole Kids prioritizes awarding applicants encountering barriers to accessing healthy food and nutrition education resources and opportunities, including situations of acute crisis.

**Each garden project must have the participation of a partner organization from the community that will help to bring long-term sustainability to the initiatives. Examples include a local non-profit, a local farm, a hardware or garden store, a garden club, or a restaurant. Please note: a school's PTA/PTO does not qualify as a community partner.*

Estimated Range of Awards: \$3,500

Website: <https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/programs/school-gardens-grant/>

Opportunity: Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants

Due Date: OPENS March 6th. DUE April 3rd.

Eligibility: Schools and nonprofit organizations who help students who are below grade level or having trouble reading are eligible to apply. Must be located within a state that Dollar General Corporation operates in and that is within 15 miles of a Dollar General store.

Purpose: Grant funding is provided to assist in the following areas: implementing new or expanding existing literacy programs; purchasing new technology or equipment to support literacy initiatives; and purchasing books, materials or software for literacy programs.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000-\$4,000

Website: <https://www.dgliteracy.org/grant-programs/?#youth-literacy-grants>

Ongoing / Rolling Basis

Principals ONLY - Grants from Elected Officials

We highly encourage principals to reach out to your state representatives to request funding. If you receive a link to apply to a state grant, please reach out to OGD for assistance. The state application may be difficult to complete and our grant-writers can guide you through the process.

Find your PA Legislator:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>

Opportunity: Karma for Cara Community Service Youth MicroGrant Program

Due Date: April 1st, July 1st, October 1st, & January 1st

Eligible Applicants: Students 18 years of age and under. Must have a teacher/adult advisor for their project.

Purpose: Students may apply to complete service projects in their communities throughout the United States.

Estimated Range of Awards: between \$250-\$1,000

Note: They do not fund stipends, facility rentals, or transportation costs.

Website: <https://karmaforcara.org/microgrant-application>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Leveling the Playing Field

Due Date: Rolling Basis

Eligible Applicants: K-12 schools and nonprofits serving economically disadvantaged youth

Purpose: Leveling the Playing Field furnishes schools and community organizations with free new and gently-used sports equipment enabling those groups to provide affordable and accessible youth sports activities for their children who otherwise would not have such opportunities.

Estimated Range of Awards: Access to their warehouse space to take new and gently-used equipment on a continuous basis

Website: <https://www.levelingtheplyingfield.org/apply-for-equipment/>

Opportunity: Lovett Fund for Elementary Drama

Due Date: Rolling basis, beginning in August of each school year

Eligible Applicants: Elementary Educators, 501c3s

Purpose: Funding is available for the production of plays and musicals performed by elementary school students (grades 1–5) in a school program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$300

Website: <http://lovettfoundation.org/elementaryDramaFund.html>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Philly Book Bike

Due Date: Ongoing

Eligibility: Must be located in West Phila, South Phila, or Center City

Purpose: Free Library Book Bikes provide mobile outreach services to schools, to community organizations, and at events throughout the city.

Contact: Please email bookbike@freelibrary.org for inquiries and find them on social media using #FLPBookBike

Website: <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/programs/book-bike/>

Opportunity: Philadelphia Zoo Free Wild Connections

Eligible Applicants: K-12 educators

Purpose: The Philadelphia Zoo has a number of free programs that are available to School District of Philadelphia teachers and students.

1) Live Monthly Webinars- Invites many K-12 students and classes (even from different schools!) to a 45-minute storytelling session with Zoo educators and animal guests! Webinars are held at 10:30am once per month, each on a different topic. Sign up [Here](#).

2) Private Virtual Classes- A live 45-minute interactive virtual program with Zoo educators and animal guests, focused on science topics. These classes are targeted for individual K-4 classes to ensure students have the opportunity to interact and ask questions. Sign up [Here](#).

For questions, please email community@phillyzoo.org.

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: The Awesome Foundation

Due Date: Ongoing - every other month on the second Tuesday

Eligible Applicants: Anyone

Purpose: To support anyone working on a project to improve their community in Philadelphia

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1000

Website: <https://www.awesomefoundation.org/en/chapters/philadelphia>

Opportunity: Toshiba America Foundation

Due Date: Ongoing

Eligible Applicants: Teachers of grades K-12

Purpose: Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) grants fund the projects ideas and materials teachers need to innovate in their science, technology, engineering and math classrooms. TAF is interested in funding innovative projects designed by teachers or small teams of teachers for use in their own schools and classroom. Applications must be for project based learning.

They do not consider requests for computer hardware (including computers, laptops, and tablets). Summer programs, after-school projects, and independent study projects are not eligible for funding.

Estimated Range of Awards:

GRADES K-5

Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 10/1.

GRADES 6-12

Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 3/1, 6/1, 9/1, & 12/1

Applications for grants of more than \$5,000 are due 5/1 and 11/1.

Website: <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp>

Literacy Resources for Teachers

****Please note that some resources require memberships****

1) The Philly Book Bank

<https://phillybookbank.org/>



The Philly Book Bank is located inside Martin Luther King High School and helps educators get books and resources for their students. Educators can get up to 400 books per school year, as well as supplemental classroom supplies, with a combined value of over \$4,000. **Membership is FREE. Sign up [HERE](#) to be a member.** Book Bank is open on Wednesdays from 3-6pm or by appointment (email anne@phillybookbank.org).

2) Book Smiles

<https://www.booksmiles.org/>



BookSmiles, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, promotes literacy and the joy of reading by giving books to children throughout New Jersey and Greater Philadelphia. Teachers register for a \$25 yearly subscription to pick up books for their classrooms and students at 7300 N. Crescent Blvd, #10 in Pennsauken. **Register [HERE](#).**

3) Tree House Book Visits

<https://www.treehousebooks.org/visits-to-the-tree-house-1>



Tree House is a Community Literacy Center headquartered in North Philadelphia on 1430 W. Susquehanna Ave. Tree House is excited to welcome local schools to enjoy a dynamic, customizable field trip experience at their Giving Library. Students participate in fun games, reading exercises, arts and crafts, and more! Plus, every child gets FREE Books to add to their home library. **Sign up [HERE](#) to set up a visit.**

4) Pride and Less Prejudice

<https://www.prideandlessprejudice.org/>



If you would like to receive free LGBTQ-inclusive books (PreK - 3rd Grade) for your classroom, **please fill out [this form](#).** You may only receive books for free once.

School-Based Staff ONLY:

DonorsChoose

“Introduction to Donorschoose” Virtual Workshop on 2/7

The Office of Grant Development will be holding a virtual workshop entitled “Fundraising for Public Schools: Introduction to Donorschoose” during the upcoming District-wide PD Day on 2/7 from 2:25-3:25pm. Learn how to most easily harness individual generosity with DonorsChoose to bring in extra resources for students, classrooms, and schools. Common projects include curriculum-specific student project materials, afterschool programs, books, furniture, and Professional Development. Please register on PowerSchool.

February Match Offers

Make sure to check out this month's DonorsChoose Match Offers for Pennsylvania!

Click here to view offers: <https://www.donorschoose.org/match-offers>

- 1) Classroom Basics Projects for Never-Before-Funded Teachers in Grades 6-8th
- 2) 2x Match on New Donations to Projects Requesting Period Products
- 3) Mazda North American Operations is supporting Warmth, Care, & Hunger projects from Never-Before-Funded teachers at Equity Focus Schools

*****Please note that match offers change frequently*****

Additional Resources

Policy 702

https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2019/07/702_Gifts-Grants-Donations-and-Student-Fundraising_Policy_May.pdf

Policy 702.2

<https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2018/07/Policy-702.2.pdf>

Philly Fundamentals (Principals ONLY)

<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/TheFundfortheSchoolDistrictofPhiladelphia>

DonorsChoose (Teachers & School-facing Staff)

<https://www.donorschoose.org/>

Contact us for more information.

**440 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130**

**Phone: 215-400-4150
Hours: M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Email: grants@philasd.org

Website: <https://www.philasd.org/grants/>