

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

MARCH 2025 Issue

All,

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

The Board of Education recently adopted an updated Policy 702 and Administrative Procedures which outlines the protocols and procedures for the acceptance of Grants, Gifts, and Donations. Previously, there was a separate policy known as 702.2 which addressed online fundraising. It has been incorporated into the new Policy 702 and the only 2 approved vehicles for online fundraising are still Philly FUNDamentals for schoolwide projects and Donorschoose for individual classrooms/teachers. If you would like to view the policy documents, please see Page 11 - “Additional Resources” where links are provided. Please email grants@philasd.org you have any questions or concerns.

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

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

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/>

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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 March 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: Hersey Heartwarming Young Heros Youth Grant

Due Date: March 16, 2025

Eligibility: Youth changemakers between the ages of 5 and 25. *If you're a teacher or leader at a nonprofit who has a group of youth interested in applying, please ask your youth changemakers to select one of their peers to complete the application.*

Purpose: Grants for Youth Service Month & Global Youth Service Day 2025 projects to create meaningful connections with their peers, caring adults, and community partners, while developing social awareness and relationship skills. *Projects must take place during Youth Service Month (April 11-May 11, 2025), with some activity on Global Youth Service Day (April 25-27, 2025) strongly encouraged.*

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250 to \$500 youth grants

Website: <https://ysa.org/grants/hershey/>

Opportunity: Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants

Due Date: April 3, 2025

Eligibility: Schools & 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 be 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>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation

Due Date: April 15, 2025 *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: ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Classroom Grant

Due Date: June 1, 2025

Eligible Applicants: High school chemistry educator teaching in the U.S.

Purpose: Since 2008, over 700 high school chemistry teachers received ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Classroom Grants to support ideas that enhance classroom learning, foster student development, and reveal the wonders of chemistry. Grants may fund laboratory equipment & supplies, instructional materials, professional development, and student-conducted field studies.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$1,800

Website: <https://www.acs.org/funding/grants/acs-hach-high-school-chemistry-classroom-grant.html>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Penn Treaty Special Services District Grant

Due Date: Next grant opening is at the June 18, 2025 meeting. Grants will resume in September.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofits and community groups based in Fishtown, Northern Liberties, Old Richmond, and/or South Kensington. Schools must have a registered 501(c)(3) apply on their behalf such as a PTA, “Friends of” group, or HSA.

Purpose: To improve the quality of life within the boundaries of the Penn Treaty Special Services District (PTSSD) and support any other activities which may lessen community tensions, combat community deterioration, and improve the community as a place to live and work.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000-\$30,000

Note: The Board generally considers 3 Grant Requests per month and the applications are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The Board meets in the evenings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. (except for July and August).

Grant applicants are required to attend the PTSSD Board meeting and give a 15-minute presentation about their organization and the nature of their request.

Website: <https://penntreatyssd.org/grants-2/>

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: \$1,000

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

Match Offers for March:

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) Tony the Tiger and Kellogg's Frosted Flakes® matching donations on middle school sports projects

Please note that match offers change frequently

Additional Resources

Policy 702 - Grants, Gifts, Donations, and Fundraising

<https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2025/02/Policy-702.pdf>

Policy 702 Administrative Procedures

<https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2025/02/Policy-702-Procedures-1.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/>