



21st Century Skills Grant Application Guidelines

Purpose

DEF awards 21st Century Skills Grants in order to help our local schools implement best practices to better prepare students to meet the global, technological, and socio-economic demands of the 21st Century. Grants in any amount up to \$2000.00 are intended to fund an innovative approach to helping students develop 21st Century Skills.

Eligibility

- ★ Grant applications may be submitted by staff, patrons, and students of Dare County Schools and must be implemented in conjunction with a Dare County elementary, middle or high school program.
- ★ Projects eligible for funding are those that are not fully funded through Dare County Schools.
- ★ Projects eligible for funding are those that are not currently being implemented or are expansions of current projects.
- ★ Projects eligible for funding are those that show promise to help students develop 21st Century Skills.

Funding Priorities

Grant applications will be accepted for projects that have potential to impact student learning through the following key elements of 21st Century learning. Projects that have broad impact, effecting learning for large groups of students, a school, or the district will be given priority.

Only projects that combine one or more of the following Content Areas (see below) with one or more of the following Learning and Skill Mastery Areas (see below) will be considered for funding.

Content Areas

- ★ Content and Skill Mastery of Core Subjects Via Learning and Thinking Skills – The core subjects are still the core subjects. They are English/language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government and economics, arts, history and geography.
- ★ 21st Century Content – The following content areas are critical to success in communities and workplaces and must be emphasized in our schools: global awareness, financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy, civic literacy, and health and wellness literacy.
- ★ Life Skills Content – To prepare students for success once they leave the classroom, schools must deliberately, strategically, and broadly incorporate the following content: leadership, ethics, accountability, adaptability, personal productivity, personal responsibility, people skills, self-direction, and social responsibility.

Learning and Skill Mastery Areas

- ★ Learning and Thinking Skills – Students must know how to continue learning and make effective and innovative use of what they know. Students must graduate with the following learning and thinking skills: critical thinking and problem-solving skills, communication skills, creativity and innovation skills, contextual learning skills, and information and media literacy skills.
- ★ ICT Literacy – Information and Communications Technology literacy is the ability to use technology to develop 21st Century content knowledge and skills. Students must be able to use technology to learn so that they know how to learn, think critically, solve problems, use information, communicate, innovate and collaborate.

Application Process

Persons interested in submitting a grant application must first:

- Carefully review these grant application guidelines.
- Interested applicants are required to contact DEF's Executive Director and discuss the project prior to submitting an application. The purpose of the contact is to help the applicant develop a good idea or project into a successful and fundable application.

Then,

- Grant Applications are submitted on-line through the Dare Education Foundation website at www.dareeducationfoundation.org.
- The grant cycle follows the academic year. Grant applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and are awarded on merit and availability of funds. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application on or before July 1 for the upcoming school year as the DEF Grant Committee meets in July to award grants for the upcoming school year. After the July meeting, based on availability of funds, the grant committee will meet on an as-need basis.
- Applications must be submitted prior to the start of the project.

Grant Awards and Payment

- ★ Grants are awarded in an amount up to \$2000.00.
- ★ Grant funds are not typically awarded for incentive items, food and travel expenses/field trips.
- ★ Applicants will receive a letter by mail indicating whether the project is funded. Award letters will include the terms of the grant award.
- ★ Grant recipients are required to sign and return the Grant Contract included with the award letter.
- ★ It is our procedure to pay bills as they accrue. Original invoices or proof of payment of expenditures as approved in the grant award should be mailed through interoffice mail to DEF c/o the Central Office or to: Dare Education Foundation, PO Box 959, Kitty Hawk, 27949. Unspent monies will be reallocated to other projects.
- ★ Grants are intended to be spent during the school year in which they are awarded. If the project is delayed, the award recipient should contact DEF's Executive Director. In some cases, an extension to the next school year can be made.

Reporting

- ★ Grantee is to submit project photos and information when requested by DEF. DEF will use the photos and information to inform the public about the project.
- ★ Grantee also agrees to submit a completed project evaluation form at the end of the school year the project was implemented. Grantee will receive the evaluation form when the grant is awarded.

Required Project Support

Individual School Projects: Applicants for single school projects must receive support for their project and approval to apply through the school's principal. This support and approval must be in the form of a letter of support emailed from the principal to the Dare Education Foundation. Emailed letters of support should briefly state the project's potential value to the school, its impact on 21st Century Skills, and how the school will support the project's implementation.

Multiple School/District-Wide Projects: Applicants for multiple school or district-wide projects must receive support for the project and approval to apply from all principals where the project is proposed. This support and approval must be in the form of emailed letters of support from every school principal involved in the proposed project and sent to the Dare Education Foundation. Letters of support should briefly state the project's potential value to the school, its impact on 21st Century Skills, and how the schools will support the project's implementation.

****All Projects** – Once the school Principal approves the application, s/he should seek approval for the submission of the application to the Dare Education Foundation from either the Director of Elementary Instruction or the Director of Secondary Instruction. *Applications that have not been approved by one of the aforementioned Director's will not be considered for funding by the Dare Education Foundation.*

*** Letters of Support should be emailed to amy@dareeducationfoundation.org.**