



Bellingham Educational Foundation - 2016 Grants Grant Writing 101

1. Great Ideas

What tools can help your students succeed in learning that you don't currently have now? Projects can include items such as technology, curriculum support tools, STEM based tools, class room infrastructure, and tools that can be used outside. At the end of the day think, if I only had funding to get _____ then I could help my students to increase their knowledge or their ability to learn. To create the ideal learning environment what tools would you need that are not currently available to help support a student's ability to learn and grow. You may have a colleague in another district that has an idea that you can replicate. Think about innovation!

2. Do Your Research

Type in innovative ideas for ____ (insert the subjects you want to teach and their age or grade). Talk to other teachers in our district and across the country. Find the people that are doing great things and replicate their success. You do not always have to reinvent the wheel.

3. Details, Details, Details

You might have a great idea but the grant reviewer must understand the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. The more details the better. Don't forget to include pictures or images of your ideas to help the reviewer understand your vision. The more time you spend researching and planning what you are going to do when you are funded you are fully prepared to execute.

4. Measurable

How will you prove your grant is successful? What simple tool will you use to measure success? 25 students will increase their knowledge of the Aztec culture by 33% based on a 3 question pre & post lesson survey.

5. Reporting

Your project will be successful now it is time to brag about it. Think about the show Shark Tank. If you were investing your own money in someone's project what would you want them to tell you to prove that their project worked? What are you going to tell your Principal to show your project was successful? Pictures, stories, testimonials, data, stats/facts? Surveys can be as simple as "If you feel this new tool helped you to learn the information better circle the smiley face if not put an X through the smiley face." You could use this data to report a statistic such as 50% of students indicated they thought our new tools helped them to learn the information in the curriculum. Measure both outputs (numbers) and outcomes (change in knowledge or behavior).