



## 2016 Grant Guidelines

### **Mission Statement**

The Bellingham Educational Foundation is an independent, community based, non-profit organization, which fosters academic enrichment and excellence throughout the Bellingham Public School System. The Foundation, with the help of the community and business alliances, will offer support for innovative and sustainable projects, which motivate students to be lifelong learners. Our goal, through collaboration with educators, parents, and community based resources, is to bridge the gap between adequate and excellence in order to invest in the full potential of all students.

### **What is the purpose of the Bellingham Educational Foundation?**

The Bellingham Educational Foundation's purpose is to fund grants throughout the school district. These grants are intended to supplement, rather than supplant the educational programs that are funded by the Bellingham School Department budget.

### **Who should apply for a grant?**

Grant applications are welcome from any Bellingham School system professional staff members. Collaboration across classrooms, grades, and schools is highly encouraged.

### **What are the criteria for funding grants?**

During the evaluation process, the Bellingham Educational Foundation will consider the following criteria:

- is not funded by the school department budget
- demonstrates evidence of innovation, creativity, and excellence

- has a direct and immediate impact on the largest number of students by enhancing student achievement
- yields materials that will benefit future students and shows potential beyond the grant period
- supports the development of study skills, including inquiry, self direction, and critical thinking
- supports teachers in their efforts to improve their teaching of the curriculum
- has goals that are clearly defined, measureable, and realistic
- includes specific methods of research based implementation and evaluation

### **What types of grants will not be funded?**

The Bellingham Educational Foundation is committed to enhancing and enriching the education of all our students. Grants will not be provided as a means to relieve or replace the responsibility for normal school budget funding nor to supplement normal budget growth and maintenance. Funding is awarded on a year-by-year basis and needs to be reapplied for each year. At this time, the BEF is not funding field trips.

### **What is the grant application and award process?**

- Endorsement: Review your proposal idea with your school principal and colleagues to ensure that it is cohesive with school goals and objectives.
- Collaboration: Consult with other classroom teachers, team leaders, department heads and/or other school professional personnel who may add to or benefit from your proposal.
- Complete grant application: Submit your application by **February 24, 2016**.
- Notification: All applicants will be notified of funding decisions approximately six weeks after the due date.

\* The Bellingham Educational Foundation reserves the right to re-evaluate and adjust the application process each year.