



Statement of Purpose

The Binghamton City Schools Grant Program provides funding for teachers, staff members and students who submit a proposal for an educational program, project or activity that complements and supports the initiatives of the district and enhances the educational experiences of students in the Binghamton schools.

Grant Funding Timeline

First Application Cycle 2019-2020

Projects funded in this cycle are to be completed during the 2019-2020 school year.

November 19, 2019	Grant Applications Available
February 7, 2020	Grant Applications Due
Immediately Following Award Notification	Funding Checks Issued to Projects Selected*

*Checks will be deposited into a school account and made available for building secretaries to create Purchase Orders through nVision.

Grant Review and Evaluation Process

The Grants Committee will first conduct a preliminary evaluation of all applications, during which time the Committee may contact applicants for further information. Please remember to include any supportive information such as: copies from catalogs, detailed listing of supplies, photos, etc.

The Grants Committee will then select the most worthy applications (see grant criteria section) for approval by the Board of Directors. One member of the Binghamton City Schools Foundation Board of Directors will serve as a liaison for each funded project. Foundation liaisons will be acquainted with their sponsored projects and will obtain a short written progress update. A final written report will be submitted six (6) weeks after completion of the project.

This report should include an overview of the completed project, an accounting of allocated monies, a summary of whether stated goals were met, and any other information that would be relevant and pertinent.

Grant proposals not selected for funding may be resubmitted. The Grants Committee may offer suggestions for improvement and encourage re-submission of promising proposals not funded in their initial year.

New for the 2019-2020 School Year: The Legacy Fund

An additional \$4,000 has been made available to qualifying applicants who meet the criteria of the Legacy Fund Grant. See the last page of this document for further details. All other guidelines and requirements for Legacy Fund Grant Applications are the same as those for Foundation Grant Applications, found within this document.

Grant Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used in evaluating grant proposals:

- **Scholastic Impact:** To what extent will knowledge and skills of students and staff be enhanced?
- **Innovation:** Will the grant introduce new teaching methods, technologies and approaches to the school curriculum?
- **Extent of Benefit:** How many students will benefit from the project and for how long?
- **Inter-school:** Does the project involve students and staff from more than one school?
- **Interdisciplinary:** Does the project involve cooperation among departments? Will it encourage students to use concepts from more than one discipline or curriculum area?
- **Cooperation:** Does the project involved broad collaboration and involvement of teachers, school staff/administration, students and members of the community?
- **Social Impact:** To what extent would the project expand the social awareness and participation of students in the community? To what extent would the project benefit the community?
- **Strategy:** Does the proposal have a clear strategy and timetable for implementing the project?
- **Adaptability:** How, if at all, could the project be applied elsewhere or on a larger scale?
- **Cost:** What are direct and indirect costs? Are there any combined funding efforts or matching funds to be considered? If a proposal is submitted to supplement other funding efforts for a specific project, funds will be expected to be raised within one year.
- **Expansion:** Does the project expand on, or continue at a more substantial level, a previously funded program?
- **Evaluation:** How will performance and progress be monitored and how will it be measured?



Program Areas Funded

The Binghamton City School District Foundation will consider grant applications from all program areas, but encourages those from among the following:

- **Technology:** This may or may not include instruments, software and other programs to enhance learning, especially for improvements in teaching of mathematics and science.
- **Innovation:** Novel approaches in teaching and learning.
- **Professional Development:** Support for teachers to pursue training and curriculum development opportunities.
- **Arts:** Programs in music, visual arts and drama that will promote understanding and enjoyment of the arts (including equipment and materials).
- **Multi-cultural Initiatives:** Projects involving teachers and students that expand knowledge and awareness of the ethnic, social and cultural heritage of our global society.

Projects will be of greater interest to the Foundation if:

- There is little or no indirect expense (general and administrative) charged to the Foundation.
- The cost to the Foundation per student served is relatively low.
- The project involves cost sharing, use of Foundation funds to match other grant requirements or brings substantial volunteer or in-kind resources to the effort.
- The project is of a nature that the public school system is unable or unlikely to provide funds.
- The funds are not requested to pay scholarships or tuition, except as an incidental component of the project.

- They include a plan to use the funding only as a pilot or start-up and will seek other sources of funding to continue the project.

The Binghamton City School District Foundation will not fund projects:

1. Which involve lobbying or efforts to influence the political process.
2. Which involve religious instruction or have a significant religious component.
3. Whose primary purpose is to purchase equipment that is not related to a specific educational project or activity.

All decisions concerning the funding and management of projects shall be solely at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

Liaison with Foundation Board During Your Grant Project

District requests that grant recipients send letter of thanks to Foundation in the month of December following their project implementation, together with brief update on the implementation of your project to date. Meanwhile, the Foundation Grants Committee “advocate” for the winning grant will also maintain a “touch-base” conversation with the teacher at least once during the grant project duration.