

Dedication to Special Education (DSE)

Grant Guidelines

Purpose:

Our goal is to provide the sparks for innovation and progress - to encourage new thinking and access to quality education for all students.

Eligibility:

All applicants must be educators serving Marin County public school students.

General education teachers/staff may ONLY apply for 'inclusion' grants.

Special educators are eligible to apply for all three grants (classroom grants, inclusion grants, and site innovation grants) with a separate application for each grant request.

Classroom Grants: for special educators

Award amount:

- Up to \$2500 per educator
- Awards are distributed in the form of reimbursements to districts after processing of receipts

Guidelines:

Applications are reviewed by the Dedication to Special Education grants committee which includes several parent volunteers who have professional expertise in grants, finance and early childhood education settings. Your application, including a clear explanation of benefits for your students, should be written to a general audience.

Incomplete applications, or those in which the purpose or benefit to students is not clear will not be funded. Please write in complete sentences and avoid abbreviations and acronyms.

New technologies and innovation are encouraged.

Classroom Grant Categories: Review descriptions below to determine the appropriate category. Requests may include a new, one-year subscription to products that support

the grant request. DSE does not pay for subscription renewals or multi-year subscriptions. You may request in one or both categories if desired.

- *Technology*: Includes all technology requests and supporting subscriptions. Applicants must ensure that the requested technology is both supported by their district/site and compatible with existing classroom technology.
- *Teaching tools*: Includes specific materials, equipment, and subscriptions.

We will not fund the following:

- Major construction
- Equipment/ technology that is considered standard for classrooms. This includes replacement of old equipment and equipment that is included in any student's IEP. These should be provided by the district, as required by law.
- Student specific/low-incidence tools that should be directed towards Medi-Cal or other channels.
- Subscription renewals
- Gift cards (with the exception of Apple gift cards specifically for approved app purchases)
- Teachers Pay Teachers
- Classroom furniture
 - *Specialized furniture/equipment/classroom supplies which help meet students' sensory (or other special needs) **will be considered.***

Inclusion/Inclusive Practices Grant: open to all educators

Award amount:

- Up to \$2500 per educator
- Awards are distributed in the form of reimbursements to districts after processing of receipts

Guidelines:

Applications are reviewed by the Dedication to Special Education grants committee which includes several parent volunteers who have professional expertise in grants, finance and early childhood education settings. Your application, including a clear explanation of benefits for your students, should be written to a general audience.

Incomplete applications, or those in which the purpose or benefit to students is not clear will not be funded. Please write in complete sentences and avoid abbreviations and acronyms.

Grants submitted by general education teachers should clearly describe how the grant will promote the inclusion of children receiving special education services in the school community or broader community.

Applicants may request funds towards services or equipment (i.e., projects, presentations, books, materials, etc.) that will **encourage and facilitate the inclusion of students with disabilities** and/or encourage disability awareness among the school community.

Examples of Potential Grant Requests (Inclusion category):

- Books about characters with disabilities
- Adaptive playground or PE equipment
- Materials needed for creating an inclusive student/friendship club
- Special Guest/Speaker/Workshop/School Assembly
- Class projects

New technologies and innovation are encouraged.

We will not fund the following:

- Major construction
- Equipment/technology that is considered standard for classrooms. This includes replacement of old equipment, and equipment that is included in any student's IEP. These should be provided by the district, as required by law.
- Student specific/low-incidence tools that should be directed towards Medi-Cal or other channels.
- Gift cards (with the exception of Apple gift cards specifically for approved app purchases)
- Teachers Pay Teachers
- Subscription renewals (new subscriptions are an accepted category)
- Classroom furniture
 - *Specialized furniture/equipment/classroom supplies which help meet students' sensory (or other special needs) **will be considered.***

Site Innovation Grant: open to School(s) and/or District(s) Teams

Award amount:

- Up to \$75,000 per project.

Purpose:

The goal of this program is increased collaboration and wider adoption of technology, curriculum, or tools that increase the potential for student achievement. Awards are made to a team in recognition that innovations of this scope require support beyond the classroom.

DSE looks to:

- pilot alternative, innovative tools and curriculum
- leverage new tools to increase academic and social emotional success
- broaden the scope and depth of the curriculum presented to students who process information differently
- increase learning opportunities by providing alternative curriculum delivery systems

Guidelines:

Applications are reviewed by the Dedication to Special Education grants committee which includes several parent volunteers who have professional expertise in grants, finance and early childhood education settings. Applicants who reach the final round of consideration should be available to present to the DSE grant committee and answer questions about your proposal. Factors that we will consider when evaluating grants primarily reflect facets that may affect wider adoption/implementation:

- Breadth of reach – range of disabilities and quantity of students served
- Scalability/distribution – cost and logistics
- Effective implementation – how well the team can demonstrate their ability to implement the project and evaluate it effectively
- Potential for long term benefit, adoption, or implementation

We will not fund the following:

- Major construction
- Equipment/ technology that is considered standard for classrooms. This includes replacement of old equipment, and equipment that is included in any student's IEP. These should be provided by the district, as required by law.
- Student specific/low-incidence tools that should be directed towards Medi-Cal or other channels.
- Subscription renewals (new subscriptions are an accepted category)
- Classroom furniture
 - *Specialized furniture/ equipment/classroom supplies which help meet students' sensory (or other special needs) **will be***

considered.

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