

# Grant Writing Tips for Teachers

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In times of such tight budgets, it is hard to find enough resources to teach. One of the easiest ways to afford science equipment or field trips is through grant writing. Not all grants are competitive or take a long time to write.

Realizing teachers do not have the time to write grants, the quickest way to find the money to get what you need is to begin with the end in mind.

Let's assume a teacher wants to increase the use of technology in the classroom and wants to start small by buying a couple sets of science lab probes. This is a good idea because they can become part of lab stations and the teacher can "pilot test" this equipment before making a large purchase which may not be utilized.

**Step 1:** Call the company or peruse the company website for grants listed. The company wants to sell you this equipment, so they are motivated to help you find the resources to do so. Some companies have now even begun to employ grant writers or reviewers to help you find the money to purchase the equipment and in some instances even have grant fund matching.

**Step 2:** Follow directions. Once you have a grant application in front of you, be sure to follow all the directions. Ask a colleague to read your grant once you are done (directions in hand) to be sure you did everything asked. Believe it or not, this is the number one reason for a grant not being funded!

**Step 3:** Do research. You are a science teacher after all, so do some research! You can find samples of grants which have been written on the web in addition to lists of grantees and abstracts of grants which have been funded in the past from various organizations. Be sure what you are asking for fits the type of projects funded in the past by the organization. Check local resources and partners in education to find funding sources. Often, these are the easiest to receive and sometimes they do not even require an application! Some examples are local stores, restaurants, home improvement warehouses, power companies, foundations, chamber of commerce, other utilities and charitable clubs and organizations.

**Step 4:** Break a large grant project into parts. Although a large project can be funded, it is easier to find funders for less amounts of money. Be careful not to **supplant** current funding. Supplanting means that you have received funding from somewhere else for the same project. This can be an issue with schools being funded by the government including Title I, other grants and sometimes district or state funds.

**Step 5:** Celebrate! Just like in our classrooms, we forget to celebrate our success. In grant writing, this is even more critical. Be sure to write thank you notes to the grantor and to give them positive press by showing the equipment being used by students. Asking the newspaper to write an article about your grant, or sending the article in yourself sometimes leads to more funding from the same source or others who read about what you are doing and are interested in helping. If you receive a large grant, sometimes you will be recognized by your board of education, so be sure to tell those in your district about your success.

**Step 6:** Become a mentor. Help others on your team, subject area, or grade level to receive grants too. Again, this is often a step left out of grant writing. It helps even more students in your school and if your colleague receives equipment too, you can share and double your grant writing efforts.

**Note about field trips:** It is difficult to find funding for field trips, but possible. The steps are about the same as listed above with the exception you will be contacting the place where you wish to take your field trip to discuss funding options including forgotten “group rates” or negotiable rates if you do have a large group. Specifically, Target has a grant designated for field trips. Link for more information:

<https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants/field-trip-grants> (Note the application window is open from August 1<sup>st</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup> for a field trip which should be taken between January 1 and the end of the school year). Be sure to contact your local district office for field trip rules and cutoff dates.

### *Resources for Grant Writing*

#### *Texas Instruments*

One of the most helpful online grant resources for teachers has been written for both large and small grant writing projects by Texas Instruments (whether or not you plan to apply for a grant for calculators and other TI equipment). Specifically, be sure to download the “Guide to Winning Small Grants from Community Sources” and the “Grant Writing Guide for Large Scale Grants.” <http://education.ti.com/grants>

#### *The Foundation Center, Atlanta*

There are only five foundation centers across the US and there is one in our state! This is an invaluable resource for teachers because there are free workshops, seminars, online training, an online library and even in-person training for grant writing. Free online training: <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/training/online/>. To see some sample grant proposals, click here: <http://grantspace.org/tools/sample-documents>

There are also grant seeking basic courses offered in a classroom setting on various dates: <http://grantspace.org/training/online/introduction-to-finding-grants-online>

Training and information specifically toward Education Grants: <http://grantspace.org/Subjects/Education>

Education Funding Watch Free email subscription for teachers: <http://foundationcenter.org/newsletters/>

#### *Education World Grant Writing Resources*

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/profdev/profdev039.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev/profdev039.shtml)

#### *Large Grants through the US Department of Education*

<http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>

*Get Ed Funding Free Website:* <https://www.getedfunding.com/c/userreg.web?s@r154IQFuyrlto>

1. Register
2. After login is successful – go to SEARCH
3. Participants will search a grant opportunity that they have an interest.
4. Support will be available for questions.

*Grants Alert Education Grants Database*

<http://www.grantsalert.com/grants>

*Digital Wish Grants for Technology for Teachers*

<http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/home>

*Computers for Learning – used Government Computers for Schools (requires setup and NCES number and IRS tax ID as listed below*

<https://computersforlearning.gov/>

*NCES District and School Numbers to apply for grants*

[http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/school\\_list.asp?Search=1&County=Cobb%20County&State=13](http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/school_list.asp?Search=1&County=Cobb%20County&State=13)

*Other Popular Education Grants:*

1. *Target Grants for Field Trips:* <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants/field-trip-grants>
2. *Dollar General Literacy Grants:*  
[http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant\\_programs.aspx](http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant_programs.aspx)
3. *Ward Science Grant Writer (also includes grant matching):*  
[https://www.wardsci.com/store/content/externalContentPage.jsp?path=/www.wardsci.com/en\\_US/teacher\\_resources\\_grant\\_services.jsp](https://www.wardsci.com/store/content/externalContentPage.jsp?path=/www.wardsci.com/en_US/teacher_resources_grant_services.jsp)
4. *Waffle House:* <http://www.wafflehouse.com/waffle-house-foundation/>
5. *Georgia Mineral Society Mini Grants (to buy rocks, minerals, fossils):*  
<https://www.gamineral.org/docs/170110%20GMS%20MiniGrant.pdf>
6. *Walmart Matching Grants Program (schools may request a local Sam's Club or Walmart to match funds up to \$2000 raised through the store manager):*  
<http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving>
7. *Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) Grants (up to \$1000):*  
<http://pv.gae2.org/content.asp?CatId=449&ContentType=ForYou>
8. *Georgia Environmental Grants:* <http://eeingeorgia.org/core/item/topic.aspx?tid=85010>
9. *Costco:*  
[https://www.costco.com/wcsstore/CostcoUSBCCatalogAssetStore/Attachment/Warehouse\\_Donation\\_Request\\_090214.pdf](https://www.costco.com/wcsstore/CostcoUSBCCatalogAssetStore/Attachment/Warehouse_Donation_Request_090214.pdf)
10. *BJ's Adopt A School (includes field trips):* [https://www.bjs.com/adopt-a-school.content.about\\_adopt\\_school.A.about\\_community2](https://www.bjs.com/adopt-a-school.content.about_adopt_school.A.about_community2). *In kind donations including gift cards:*  
[https://www.bjs.com/local-giving.content.about\\_local\\_giving.A.about\\_community2](https://www.bjs.com/local-giving.content.about_local_giving.A.about_community2)
11. *Sam's Club Community Grants (\$250-\$2500 with up to 25 stores which can be included)*  
[http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display\\_question?x\\_gm\\_id=2797&x\\_quiz\\_id=4503&x\\_order\\_by=1](http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/quiz.display_question?x_gm_id=2797&x_quiz_id=4503&x_order_by=1)
12. *Set up your school through Amazon to allow .5% of the amount spent to go directly to your school:* <http://smile.amazon.com/>

13. *Best Buy Teens in Need Technology after school (including volunteers coming from your local Best Buy to help \*Note grant period is April through end of May for 2018):*  
<https://corporate.bestbuy.com/community-grants-page/>
14. *CVS Gift Card of \$50 (then click on Pharmacy Gift Card Program):*  
<https://www.cvshealth.com/social-responsibility/our-giving/local-community-support>
15. *Verizon Foundation STEM grants (must email local community relations manager first since they don't accept grants on a rolling basis):* <http://www.verizon.com/about/responsibility/verizon-foundation>
16. *American Eagle \$25 gift card for high school student:*  
<https://doublethedonation.com/forms/american-eagle-donation-requests.pdf>
17. *Nike product donation:*  
[http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/ao\\_login.login?x\\_gm\\_id=2883&x\\_proposal\\_type\\_id=10054](http://www.cybergrants.com/pls/cybergrants/ao_login.login?x_gm_id=2883&x_proposal_type_id=10054)
18. *Nordstrom Cash Donation for 2017:* <http://shop.nordstrom.com/c/nordstrom-cares-apply-for-a-grant>
19. *STEM Activities and Resources free for K-12:* [http://www.bp.com/en\\_us/bp-us/community/STEM-programs/resources.html](http://www.bp.com/en_us/bp-us/community/STEM-programs/resources.html)
20. *Disney free 1 day park hopper pass to be used for raffle or give away (\$160 value)*  
<https://ditm-twdc-us.storage.googleapis.com/Charitable-Giving-Guidelines.pdf>
21. *Broad list of donation items for raffle or fund raising to schools:*  
<http://www.fundraiserhelp.com/fundraising-auction-donations-sources.htm>
22. *Cox Foundation for primary grades:* <http://www.coxenterprises.com/corporate-responsibility/giving/foundations.aspx>
23. *Kids in Need (primarily school supplies)* <http://www.kinf.org/>
24. *Donors Choose (as featured on Oprah Winfrey)* <http://www.donorschoose.org/>
25. *Lowe's Outdoor Education Grants* <http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/grants.html>
26. *Eschool News Funding* <https://www.eschoolnews.com/grants-and-funding/>
27. *NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) Search keyword "grants"* <http://www.nsta.org/>
28. *GSTA Grants (click on awards) Note: New grant applications will be out in late spring with an October/November deadline for application* <http://www.georgiascienceteacher.org>