



Classroom and Building Minigrants available!



Grand Rapids
community foundation
For good. For ever.

From the *Good Classrooms for Grand Rapids Program*
Apply here: www.goodschoolsforgr.org

Applications must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 24, 2011.

GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP/OPEN HOUSE will be held on Thursday, October 6 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, 185 Oakes SW (corner of Oakes and Grandville). Learn what makes a winning proposal and get hands-on training in the online system. Bring your laptop for one-on-one support, or use our laptops while they last! Refreshments will be served and we will give tours of the GRCF offices (which is a former Anheuser-Busch "Icehouse"). **RSVP to Jill** at 454-1751 or jtiefenbach@grfoundation.org.

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation's Good Classrooms Minigrants are intended to support **innovative practice in instruction** and **innovative strategies to engage parents and caregivers**.

2011 Priority Areas: This year, we seek to fund projects which:

- Support innovative strategies to engage parents and caregivers.
- Build capacity for the effective use of technology in instruction.
- Support innovative strategies to integrate Science and Social Studies into elementary English Language Arts curriculum.
- Support innovative instructional practice in arts, music, special education, and STEM instruction.
- Build capacity for the use and support of the Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS).

Mini-grants will be awarded for:

- **SINGLE CLASSROOM MINIGRANTS OF UP TO \$1,500** for single classroom projects or activities which address at least one of the priority areas listed above.
- **MULTIPLE CLASSROOM MINIGRANTS OF UP TO \$3,000** for multi-classroom projects or activities that show evidence of cooperative planning and teaching and address one of the priority areas listed above.
- **BUILDING OR DEPARTMENTAL MINIGRANTS OF UP TO \$5,000** for projects or activities that affect one or more buildings, departments, Center of Innovations or GRPS Hubs, and address one of the priority areas listed above.

Who is eligible?

- All teachers in the Grand Rapids Public Schools, Grand Rapids Diocesan Catholic Schools, Grand Rapids Christian Schools, and Public School Academies located **within the City of Grand Rapids**.
- Teachers in pre-K, special education, music, art, technology, and physical education are eligible.
- GRPS Hubs, Centers of Innovation, and departments across buildings are eligible.

What makes a winning proposal? The criteria used by the Selection Committee are listed on the back of this page. Attendance at the Grant-writing Workshop (details above) is strongly recommended for first-time applicants.

Restrictions and requirements: Grant funds may be used only for the project for which funds are awarded. Grant funds cannot be used for capital supplies that are not related to a project or program. Grant applications seeking funds for student field trips will not be considered unless the field trips are part of a planned educational unit and essential to the successful completion of that unit. Grantees will be expected to report on the outcome of funded projects at the end of the school year.

Timeline: Applications will be reviewed and screened by a selection committee representing the public and private schools in the City of Grand Rapids. Awards will be announced in November and funds will be available after that time.

Application forms must be submitted online by 5:00 p.m. on October 24, 2011 at www.goodschoolsforgr.org.

Questions regarding applications should be directed to Cris Kooyer, 454-1751 x 118, ckooyer@grfoundation.org. Technical assistance for the Online Grant System is available from Jill Tiefenbach, 454-1751 x112, jtiefenbach@grfoundation.org.

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Selection Committee Criteria for Good Classrooms Minigrants

Total possible points:

- 70 for Single Classroom
- 80 for Multiple Classroom
- 90 for Building/Department

Project Overview – 20 points total

- **The Good Classrooms Minigrant program is designed to support innovation.** The project demonstrates innovation in *instructional practice* or an innovative strategy to *engage parents and caregivers*.
- Project activities, participants and objectives are clearly defined, and the project is well planned.
- There is a reasonable expectation that this project or activity can be completed within the current school year.
- The project is nested within a larger educational context.
- The project leverages, expands, or enhances existing resources or initiatives.

Priority Area – 20 points total

- Sound rationale is provided which supports the assumption that the project will affect the priority area.
- The approach is innovative and can build capacity related to the priority area. It represents a change from status quo, or from “business-as-usual.” It is a potential game-changer.
- This project or activity will lead to better outcomes for students.
- If successful, the project has potential for replication, or can inform the practice of other teachers.

Effect on Students, Staff, and Instructional Program – 20 points total

- This project or activity will have significant effect, in terms of either breadth or depth, on the classroom or school community.
- Clear rationale supports the assumption that the project will affect the identified population(s) as described.
- Authentic or significant involvement of various affected populations (i.e.; parents, students, teachers) is evident.
- The evaluation plan is clearly articulated and aligns with the stated purpose and design of the project.
- There is potential for sustained impact beyond the current year.
- A plan for broadly sharing the learning that occurs as a result of this project or activity is articulated.

Cooperative teaching/planning (Multiple Classroom and Building/Department only) – 10 points total

- Authentic engagement of more than one teacher in this project is evident.
- A mechanism for effectively sharing learning is described.
- There is potential for this project or activity to change school culture.

School Culture (Building/Department only) – 10 points total

- It is evident that this project or activity will authentically engage a broad population within the building or department.
- It is evident that this project or activity can change school culture.

Budget – 10 points total

- The budget lists specific costs for specific program activities.
- The costs are reasonable (durable goods are preferred, but consumables are allowed).
- If the project depends upon raising additional funds from other sources, there a plan in place to do so.
- The school/district has or will invest resources in this project or activity.