UPDATED Grant-Writing Guide

Tips and Opportunities for Funding Your K–12 STEM Projects

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Introduction

Education in the US is funded primarily at the state and local levels, with some federal funding. However, a wide range of public and private resources are also available to fund specific projects and initiatives. Some of these funding opportunities involve grants for teachers, departments, schools, districts, or a combination of these groups to pay for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects that might not otherwise be funded.

Vernier Software & Technology has developed this guide to support educators seeking alternative funding for Vernier offerings and STEM initiatives. Our goal is to provide an overview of available funding, as well as links to some specific opportunities. You will also find information about preparing a grant proposal and useful tips once the status of a proposal is known. We hope you find this resource helpful.

Note: We'll be updating this guide—and including even more opportunities—as back-to-school preparations begin in summer 2022.

Sources for STEM Education Grants

Grants to support educational projects can come from a variety of sources. The most common sources include

- Federal grants
- State grants
- Corporate or company-sponsored funding
- Community foundations
- Private foundations
- Local organizations, such as the PTA

Federal Grants

Federal grants supporting STEM education tend to come from the US Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. However, funding is sometimes also available from other sources, such as the US Navy.

Some federal funding for education goes out to states and districts as formula grants. These are allocated across the country based on a formula that takes population and need into account. Districts and states may have some discretion in determining how to use the funding—within parameters set at the federal level.

Other federal funding is allocated through competitive grants. The agency holding the competition determines the grants' focus and criteria. These change over time, so it is crucial to closely follow the current instructions for any grant competition.

Some recipients of competitive grants are eligible to apply to extend their funding for a specified amount of time. However, this varies across different grants.

Corporate or Company-Sponsored Foundation Funding

Some corporations and companies create charitable foundations to donate to causes and communities that matter to them. These foundations are legally separate from the parent company, although they often maintain close ties. Corporate foundations usually receive regular contributions from the parent company and may also raise money from other donors.

It is common for corporate foundations to provide funding aligned to corporate priorities and topics of interest. In addition, corporate foundations tend to make donations in the regions where they have the most employees. For example, an energy-focused corporation with its headquarters in Texas may fund projects related

to chemistry, physics, and energy use for students in Texas. Of course, in some cases, topics and geographical constraints vary, so it is worth learning more about corporate foundations' priorities.

Some well-known corporate foundations that fund education projects include the Boeing Foundation, the AT&T Foundation, and the Toyota USA Foundation. See the "Upcoming Grant Opportunities" table on p. 12 for more information.

Community Foundation Funding

Community foundations are philanthropic institutions that engage a variety of donors with the goal of carrying out charitable interests for the benefit of residents of a defined geographic area (e.g., a city, metropolitan area, or state). Many community foundations sponsor donor-advised funds, which serve as a vehicle for donors to make irrevocable, tax-deductible contributions to a philanthropic/charitable organization, such as a community foundation. Donors may specify how funds are granted through the sponsoring foundation.

Some well-known community foundations that support education projects include The Chicago Community Trust, Communities Foundation of Texas, and the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Look for more information about opportunities from community foundations in our Back-to-School funding guide.

Private Foundation Funding

Sometimes, individuals or families set up their own nonprofits dedicated to supporting charitable, educational, artistic, or civic activities, primarily through grant making. Like corporate foundations, these nonprofits may focus on specific areas of interest and/or certain geographic locations.

Some well-known private foundations include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and The Wallace Foundation.

Some foundations hold grant competitions annually, others accept proposals on a rolling basis, and some invite specific organizations to submit proposals and will not accept unsolicited proposals. See the "Upcoming Grant Opportunities" table on p. 12 for more information.

Writing a Successful Grant Proposal

This section walks you through the process of planning and writing a grant proposal to fund your STEM purchases. The process consists of the following steps:

1. Clarify your needs.
2. Identify potential funding sources.
3. Create a proposal-writing plan.
4. Prepare your proposal.
5. Write and submit your proposal.

Clarify Your Needs

Whether you are considering a comparatively small technology purchase or a comprehensive restructuring of your science program, you will need to make some decisions about what exactly you are planning to invest in. Most important, you will want to develop a clear statement about why this investment matters. How will it improve student learning? What critical difference will it make? What is your vision of learning once the change is implemented?

Example

In recent years, enrollment in advanced physics and chemistry has fallen precipitously in our district. Informal interviews with students have shown us that part of the problem is the lack of opportunities to make these subjects seem interesting and relevant to students' future plans. We are investing in new technology and teacher professional development, with the goal of creating a maker lab in every high school in the district. We envision a creative, inspiring science experience for students that will double enrollment in advanced science courses over the next five years.

As you develop your "what" and "why," talk to your colleagues and get their insights and perspectives. In addition, it can be helpful to review the research on the change you plan to propose so that you understand what it takes to make the change and how it is likely to affect your students. You will probably need this information for your grant writing, so why not draw on it while you are still in the early stages of developing your plan?

As you start to home in on exactly what you would like to do, start to think about the implementation of your idea. Can it be done in a month? A year? Over five years? Who would need to be involved? What preparation might be necessary?

Be sure to talk this through with the necessary administrators, curriculum coordinators, and/or professional development leaders. In addition, you'll want to add up the costs of any materials, technology, consumables, and professional learning involved so that you have a sense of the size of the grant you will be requesting.

Identify Potential Funding Sources

Potential funding sources include federal and state government agencies, foundations of various sizes, large corporations, local companies, community organizations, and perhaps even your PTA. Your job is to find the sources that are interested in funding projects of your size and that share your purpose.

To do this, you need to learn the goals and priorities of different funders. Depending on the size of your project, you may want to target more than one potential funding source.

Some agencies offer webinars to review grant requirements and discuss the types of projects that are funded. You or another member of the grant-writing team should attend any webinars and take notes to ensure you understand all the requirements.

Note: It is acceptable—and even recommended—that you contact the funder directly before you put together your proposal. Many funders will want to hear your ideas and will be able to tell you whether your project is the type they are interested in funding. In addition, they may suggest ways to refine or reshape your proposal to help increase your chances of obtaining funding.

Create a Proposal-Writing Plan

Once you have identified a grant opportunity that appears to be a good fit for your proposed project, you'll want to sit down with your team to create a proposal-writing plan.

Map out the requirements. Take the time to thoroughly review the grant requirements and what you will need to include in your proposal. Although proposals often include similar sections, they can also differ greatly; be sure you understand exactly what information or responses you are being asked to provide.

After you have finished your review, take the following steps:

- Create an annotated outline, noting how long each section needs to be and what has to be included.
- Record any formatting requirements so that you will adhere to them from the beginning.
- Determine the appropriate format and limits for the budget, which may not mirror the way you typically track budgets.
- Note if you will need letters of agreement from project participants or partners.

Ideally, you should complete this task early so that you have time to submit questions to the funders if you need clarification about anything.

Assign responsibilities. If you are lucky enough to have a team to work on the proposal, you will want one person to lead the work. Let's call this person your proposal coordinator. It can be a person in your district who is regularly responsible for this task, or it can be a fifth-grade teacher leading her grade-level team. In other words, it is not about the person's official job—it's the role they play in this specific project. The proposal coordinator is responsible for organizing and managing the entire grant process from the kickoff meeting to proposal submission.

You will also want a grant writer. This might be the same person as the proposal coordinator, or it could be someone else. For larger proposals, if you have grant development funding, you may wish to hire an experienced grant writer. If several people will be writing parts of the grant, you will need a lead writer to oversee the sections and ultimately ensure all the pieces fit together.

For proposals that involve a significant amount of coordination with university, community, or business partners, you may also want someone who is in charge of these relationships, including specifying the roles of partners and obtaining letters of support. Be sure to allocate sufficient time to collaborate with partners from the onset so they can help shape your project.

Make a timeline. Having a timeline is often crucial to your success. Most organizations have a firm deadline for proposal submission, and late proposals are automatically disqualified. Be sure to allocate time for multiple people to review your proposal before it is submitted.

If you are competing for a federal grant, be aware that these grants tend to be highly competitive—as are some foundation and corporate grants. Although requests for applications (RFAs) are typically released 60 to 90 days before proposals are due, federal grants are generally announced in the *Federal Register* six to 12 months ahead of time. Begin planning your proposal even before the RFA is available and expect to work on it over several months.

If you are applying for several grants, put the deadlines in your calendar and set multiple reminders for weeks (or even months) before the grants are due.

Prepare Your Proposal

Before you start to write your proposal, spend some time fleshing out your ideas. Ideally, you should engage in this activity with a team of colleagues; collaboration will help ensure you think through all the pieces.

Return to the outline you created and make notes or bulleted lists to develop the ideas you will use to answer the questions in the proposal. Think through the details the funders will want to know and research any issues you don't already know how to describe (such as how you might deal with any limitations in your school's current technology system).

Some proposals will ask you to provide a simple version of your **theory of action or logic model**. Even if this is not required, it can be helpful to create a logic model to guide your own thinking. It is also useful to create a project timeline and to check that it fits realistically with the timing of funding and the flow of the school year.

During this period of preparation, it can be helpful to clarify the mission and vision of your proposal. Your mission is the goal of your project (e.g., helping educators use new technologies, improving teacher retention, enhancing eighth-grade success in algebra). Your vision is what student learning or achievement will look like once your project has been successfully implemented.

Example

Our goal is to train 300 district teachers over the next 12 months and then provide them with an additional year of coaching to support implementation of the hands-on science curriculum. We envision improvements in student engagement (measured by student surveys) and achievement (measured by grades and end-of-year assessments).

Often, funders will want to know how you will know if your project is successful, that is, how you will measure whether you have achieved your goals. The amount of detail required varies tremendously from grant to grant, so be sure to carefully review the expectations for measuring the outcomes and impact of your project. Build the expense of any data collection and analysis into your budget.

Some funders will be very interested in the experience and expertise of the staff members who will be leading or implementing your project. If requested, provide the resumes (or short professional biographies) of these individuals. Rather than paste in a generic summary of experience, rewrite each resume or biography to highlight the pieces that are most relevant to the specific grant you are applying for.

This is also a good time to think about how your project might be sustained after grant funding has ended. Including these considerations in your proposal can help convince reviewers that your project is a good investment.

As you plan the project in detail, refer to the budget you started creating earlier (when you were clarifying your needs). It is risky to write your proposal first and create a budget afterward—you may find that you have described a project far too expensive for the scope of the grant. Take the plan you are developing and check that the cost of any technology, materials, professional development, or other components fits within the allowed budget. If not, you can adjust your plan before you have written the proposal. Alternatively, you may decide to look for additional funding to make up the difference.

Write and Submit Your Proposal

When it is time to begin writing, one of the most important things you'll want to keep in mind is that you are writing to your reviewers. These individuals may not have the same type of educational or technical expertise you have, so they need to have terms explained in plain language. Further, reviewers will often be reading multiple proposals in a short amount of time, so you want to make it easy for them to understand exactly what your need is and how you are proposing to meet it. Ideally, you also want to make it interesting so that even if your proposal is the last of many they read, the reviewers feel engaged and pay close attention to your project.

How do you do that? The following standards for clear informational writing can help:

- Write in an active rather than passive voice as much as possible.
- Avoid generalities about the state of education.
  - Instead, write very specifically about your problems and your proposed solution.
- Use section headings and subheadings to guide the reader through your text.
- Keep your paragraphs short and leave plenty of white space on each page.
  - This is less tiring for readers' eyes.
- Make sure your paragraphs have clear topic sentences.
- Organize information into bulleted or numbered lists.
  - For example, you might list the three stages of your project first and then follow the list with three short paragraphs describing each stage.
- Use clearly labeled tables, charts, and graphs to display quantitative data.
- Adhere to any word limits (for specific sections or the entire proposal).
- Number your pages and include headers or footers as appropriate.

In addition, have several people read your proposal. If the funder has shared scoring guidelines for proposals, have your readers use it. Their feedback can show you where you might want to strengthen your proposal before submitting it.

Finally, allocate time for submission—and try to submit your proposal before the last possible day. Things can go awry, so a buffer is tremendously valuable! If many people are submitting proposals online on the same day, servers sometimes slow down, which is another reason that getting your proposal in early can be helpful.

After You've Submitted

Once you've completed all that work, you've earned the right to celebrate! But don't forget a few final touches:

- Clean up your digital files.
- Get rid of old drafts that are no longer relevant.
- Label your final version clearly and file it somewhere where you and your colleagues can locate it.

Also, keep copies of the RFA, staff members' biographies or resumes, any literature review you conducted, your budget estimates, and any other helpful information you used in the proposal-writing process. You never know when pieces of your hard work can be reused for future proposals.

If you do receive the grant: Congratulations! Now it's time to begin thinking about implementation. Also, depending on the funder, you may have requirements for progress reports, data collection, and/or reporting on outcomes. Sometimes, continued funding is even contingent on your interim reporting, so don't let these requirements slip—and get them on the calendar from the beginning.

If you aren't funded: It's disappointing not to be funded, but it happens to everyone sometimes. Don't let the experience end your dreams of strengthening your STEM initiatives. Instead, use it as a learning experience. Many funders will provide feedback on your proposal. They might send you the ratings and comments of the reviewers who read your proposal. Sometimes, they will talk to you on the phone and help you understand why you were not funded and what you might do better in a future proposal. This feedback can be invaluable if you decide to resubmit to the same funder (or even to another agency) at a later time.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Districts across the country received Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, which can be used for specific purposes—including helping address pandemic-related learning disruptions. The majority of these funds must be spent by fall 2024, and they can be used to purchase Vernier technological solutions. In many cases, districts have not yet used these funds, so it makes sense to talk to your district decision-makers about the availability of ESSER III money.

In addition, federal FY22 education funding includes an increase in Title I and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) funds, both of which can be used to purchase Vernier solutions. More information about these funds and how they might be used, as well as state and regional funding opportunities, will be provided in an updated version of this guide in late summer 2022.

The table below lists upcoming grant opportunities that could help fund technology, related materials, and/or teacher professional development in STEM.

Table: Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
AAUW Community Action Grants	Projects focused on encouraging girls to select, before entering college, careers in the physical sciences or engineering	Individuals, local AAUW branches and chapters, US-based nonprofits or universities	$3,000 to $10,000	December 1, 2022
AFCEA International Gravely & Paige grants for STEM teachers	Activities that promote STEM to students	Elementary and middle schools for activities inside or outside the classroom, such as robotics clubs, cyber clubs, or other STEM-related activities	Up to $1,000	Not published, but past deadlines have been in July

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
AIAA Foundation **Classroom Grant Program**	Projects connected to science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), with an emphasis on aerospace	K–12 classroom teachers Funding for STEM demonstration kits or supplies, math manipulatives, supplies for robotics or making flying objects	Up to $500	August 31, 2022
American Chemical Society **ACS–Hach High School Chemistry Classroom Grant**	Ideas that enhance classroom learning, foster student development, and reveal the wonders of chemistry	High school chemistry teachers in the US and US territories Grants can support laboratory equipment and supplies, instructional materials, professional development, and/or student-conducted field studies.	Up to $1,500	June 1, 2022
American Electric Power **Teacher Vision Grants**	Projects with an academic focus and a goal to improve student achievement will be considered, especially in science, math, technology, the study of energy and a sustainable environment, and energy efficiency. Highly regarded projects will incorporate matching funds, community resources, and interdisciplinary or team-teaching projects.	Pre-K–12 teachers who live or teach in the AEP service area or in communities with major AEP facilities	$100 to $500	Fourth Friday in February each year for the following school year

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Avantor Foundation Grants	Projects that advance science education in underserved communities	Nonprofits	Not specified	No unsolicited proposals are accepted, but letters of intent that are under two pages are accepted on a rolling basis.
The Awesome Foundation Micro-grants	"Awesome" projects include initiatives in a wide range of areas, including arts, technology, and community development. Many awesome projects are novel or experimental and evoke surprise and delight. Awesome sometimes challenges and often inspires.	People and groups working on "awesome" projects	$1,000	Rolling
The Chisholm Foundation Grants	Projects compatible with the foundation's mission to support education, especially new or demonstration projects that can be expanded with support from other funders	Tax-exempt organizations	Not specified	September 1, 2022 March 1, 2023
ClassWish	Classroom projects	Teachers who post wish lists of supplies needed for classroom projects; parents and community members may choose to fund the projects	Varies	Rolling

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Computers for Learning	Excess and secondhand computers for the cost of shipping, handling, and any necessary refurbishing	Schools and educational nonprofits	Not specified	N/A
Digital Wish Grant Awards	Classroom technology tied to unique and creative lesson plans	Teachers	Varies	15th of each calendar month
DonorsChoose	Classroom projects	Teachers who post wish lists of supplies needed for classroom projects; parents and community members may choose to fund the projects	Varies	Rolling
Future of School Innovative Educator Prize	Creation and implementation of digital learning programs	Teachers and counselors who have demonstrated excellence in education in blended and online settings Preferential consideration for proposals that seek to provide personalized learning support in reading strategies, math interventions, English language learning/English language arts, and special education	Up to $10,000	May 31, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Halliburton Foundation Granting Programs	Projects in technical programs associated with science, technology, engineering, math, or geosciences that demonstrate excellence in preparing students with advanced technological skills for the oil and gas services industry Projects in accounting programs that demonstrate excellence in preparing students with skills and knowledge necessary for the international oil and gas services industry Projects in math, science, and geosciences that expose females to career opportunities in the oil and gas industry Projects in math, science, and geosciences that expose students enrolled in K–12 or higher education schooling to career opportunities in the oil and gas industry Projects that are geographically aligned with Halliburton facilities and operations or company goals	Schools, municipal organizations, and nonprofits Strong preference is given to organizations in areas where Halliburton has a significant presence, as measured by facilities, employees, and customers.	Not specified	Rolling, with applications considered quarterly

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Knowles Teacher Initiative **Teaching Fellowship**	Teacher inquiry, professional community building, professional development, and mentoring to support teacher development	Early-career high school math and science teachers	$150,000 over five years, in the form of stipends, funds to purchase classroom materials, and professional development	Not listed, but teachers can indicate their interest **here**
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematic **Action Research on Mathematics Teaching Practices Grant**	Action research conducted as a collaborative by university faculty, pre-service teacher(s), and classroom teacher(s) seeking to improve their teaching of math in pre-K–12 classroom(s)	Primary applicant must be a teacher in a pre-K–12 classroom, a math coach, or a university math educator Participating pre-service teacher(s) must be in a certification program. Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM	Up to $6,000 Funds may be used to support project expenses to plan and implement the action research, including books, supplies, and other expenses related to achieving the project goals.	May 1, 2022
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics **Engaging Students in Learning Mathematics Grant (6–8)**	Projects that actively engage middle school students in experiences to deepen and connect their content knowledge by using innovative classroom materials	Individuals who currently teach math in grades 6–8 at least 50 percent of the school day or small groups of teachers collaborating in one grade or across grade levels Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM	Up to $3,000 Funding may be provided for books, visual or audio displays, computer software, or other hands-on materials for mathematical exploration—but not calculators, computers, or related equipment.	November 1, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics **Enhancing Student Mathematics Learning through the Use of Tools and Technology Grant (pre-K–12)**	Projects that encourage the innovative use of technology and other tools to help teachers and students visualize and concretize mathematics abstractions	Individuals currently teaching math in grades pre-K–12 at least 50 percent of the day or full-time math coaches Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM	Up to $3,000 Funding may be provided for books, calculators, tablets, computers, or related equipment, as well as professional development in the use of the designated tools and technology.	May 1, 2022
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics **Equity in Mathematics Grant (6–12)**	Projects that incorporate classroom materials or lessons that will improve the achievement of student groups that have previous records of underachievement, sometimes identified by race, gender, region, or culture	Individuals currently teaching math in grades 6–12 at least 50 percent of the day or small groups of teachers collaborating in one grade or across grade levels Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM or teaching in a school with a current membership	Up to $8,000	November 1, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics **Improving Students' Understanding of Geometry Grant**	Projects that develop activities that will enable students to better appreciate, understand, and apply some aspect of geometry that is consistent with adopted standards and connects to a context outside of math The developed activities should include applications of geometry (for example, to art, literature, music, science, architecture, nature, or some other relevant area).	Individuals currently teaching at the pre-K–8 level Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM	Up to $4,000 Activities may use published materials and/or may integrate the use of technology into the teaching of geometry. Any acquisition of equipment or payment of personal stipends must be critical to the grant proposal.	November 1, 2022
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics **Teacher Professional Development Grant (pre-K–5)**	Professional development to improve the competence in the teaching of math of one or more classroom teachers	Current pre-K–5 classroom teachers with at least three years of teaching experience in the classroom Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM	Up to $3,000 Although this grant does not fund the purchase of technology, proposals may include professional development involving the use of technology to enhance student learning. Any acquisition of equipment must support the proposed plan but not be the primary focus of the grant.	November 1, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics **Teacher Professional Development Grant (6–8)**	Professional development to improve the competence in the teaching of math of one or more classroom teachers	Current classroom teachers of grades 6–8 with at least three years of teaching experience in grades 6–8 Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM	Up to $3,000 Although this grant does not fund the purchase of technology, proposals may include professional development involving the use of technology to enhance student learning. Any acquisition of equipment must support the proposed plan but not be the primary focus of the grant.	November 1, 2022
Mathematics Education Trust and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics **Teacher Professional Development Grant (9–12)**	Professional development to improve the competence in the teaching of math of one or more classroom teachers	Current classroom teachers of grades 9–12 with at least three years of teaching experience in grades 9–12 Primary applicant must be a current member of NCTM	Up to $3,000 Although this grant does not fund the purchase of technology, proposals may include professional development involving the use of technology to enhance student learning. Any acquisition of equipment must support the proposed plan but not be the primary focus of the grant.	November 1, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation **Academic Enrichment Grants**	In-class and extracurricular projects that improve student learning Opportunities for students from low-income households to deepen their knowledge, foster their understanding, and expand their awareness of the world around them	Individuals who are employed by schools or nonprofits (e.g., community centers, museums) and who work directly with students from low-income households in grades pre-K–12	Up to $10,000 per year for a maximum of three years	Applications are accepted from January 15 to April 15, until 350 applications are received. Applying early is beneficial.
Mobile Beacon **Connect for Success**	Projects to address inequities in internet access	Schools and school communities with digital inequities in 50 cities across the US Funds may be used for a mobile learning lab, to support teacher professional development, a hotspot lending program, or other innovative projects.	Up to 25 laptops and 4G LTE devices with free mobile LTE high-speed internet service for 12 months	Rolling

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
National Education Association (NEA) Foundation **Student Success Grants**	Project-based and deeper learning to support the development of skills and dispositions contributing to success and fulfillment in a changing world	Educators, specialized instructional support personnel, and education support professionals Grant funds can be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, or technology. Although some funds may be used to support the professional development necessary to implement the project, a majority of grant funds must be spent on materials or educational experiences for students.	Two levels of funding: $1,500 and $5,000	May 1, 2022, for grants beginning in July September 1, 2022, for grants beginning in November

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
National Museum of Mathematics **Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching**	Awards for exceptional math activities to share with math teachers around the world The winning activity will be innovative, engaging, hands-on, original, replicable, and designed for students in grades 4–8.	Educators who regularly teach math, mathematicians, or individuals whose primary full-time career is focused on math outreach Applicants need not teach in a regular school setting but must be able to demonstrate their lessons with a classroom group of at least eight middle school students, should they be selected as a finalist.	Up to $25,000 for the single best activity, as well as five additional monetary awards for other innovative activities The winning teacher(s) will have the opportunity to share their innovative activities with educators around the world.	May 15, 2022 Finalists will be asked to provide additional supporting materials in fall 2022.
National Science Foundation **Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)**	Projects that engage students in technology-rich experiences that 1. Increase awareness and interest of STEM and information and communication technology (ICT) occupations. 2. Motivate students to pursue appropriate education pathways to those occupations. 3. Develop STEM-specific disciplinary content knowledge and practices that promote critical thinking, reasoning, and communication skills.	Collaborations among university researchers and schools	Up to $3,000,000 for five years, depending on the type of project	August 19, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
National Science Foundation **Research Experiences for Teachers in Engineering and Computer Science**	Projects that foster authentic, reciprocal exchanges of expertise between K–14 educators and research faculty members and (when applicable) industry mentors Educators will enhance their scientific disciplinary knowledge in engineering or computer science and translate their research experiences into classroom activities and curricula to broaden their students' awareness of and participation in computing and engineering pathways. The hosting research faculty members will deepen their understanding of classroom practices, current curricula, and pedagogy.	Institutions of higher education in the US, with K–14 educators participating	Varies; maximum is $600,000 total for three years	October 12, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Rural Technology Fund	Projects that teach students about computer science, robotics, engineering, and design or to solve real-world problems using computer technology	Schools in rural or high-poverty areas	Varies	Rolling
Sony Grants for education	Projects focused on the arts, culture, technology, and the environment, with a particular emphasis on education in each of those areas	Nonprofits	Not specified Grants are for a single year only	Rolling
Tomberg Family Philanthropies Education grants	Up to three years of support for pilot programs, new programs, capacity building, and evaluation; often funding part of a larger project	Public schools and universities, as well as 501(c)(3) organizations	$5,000 to $15,000	Letters of inquiry for the 2022–2023 funding cycle will start being accepted in summer 2022.
Toshiba America Foundation Grants for Grades K–5	Innovative ideas for project-based learning activities that improve science, technology, engineering, and math learning in the classroom	Teachers of grades K–5 Grants do not fund the purchase of computers, laptops, or tablets.	Up to $1,000	October 1, 2022

Agency and grant program	Types of projects or topics funded	Eligible grantees	Funding level	Proposal due date
Toshiba America Foundation **Grants for Grades 6-12**	Innovative ideas for improving science, technology, engineering, and math learning	Middle school and high school teachers or small teams of teachers to implement project-based learning ideas, in their own classrooms in public or private nonprofit schools Grant requests may not be solely for computers.	Up to $5,000	Applications are due June 1, September 1, December 1, and March 1 each year. In addition, grant requests for more than $5,000 are reviewed twice a year and are due November 1 and May 1 each year.
Vernier/NABT **Ecology/ Environmental Science Teaching Award**	Successful demonstration of an innovative approach to the teaching of ecology/ environmental science and has carried a commitment to the environment into the community	Secondary school teachers	$1,500 ($1,000 in Vernier technology and $500 toward expenses to attend the NABT Professional Development Conference, as well as a one-year complimentary NABT membership)	March 15 annually
Voya **Unsung Heroes Award**	Effective and innovative projects that improve student learning	Full-time teachers, paraprofessionals, classified staff members, or principals in accredited K–12 public or private schools in the US	$2,000 50 finalists will receive $2,000. In addition, three top winners will receive between $5,000 and $25,000.	April 30, 2022

Other Upcoming Opportunities

Siemens STEM Day holds a sweepstakes for $5,000 for STEM projects. There will be a random drawing in May 2022, and teachers can enter daily between now and then.

The National Science Foundation sponsors the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program for effective K–12 STEM teachers to become teacher-leaders in high-need districts. Applications are due August 30, 2022.

Useful Links to Monitor

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Boeing Foundation
- Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
- GEAR UP
  - This federal program supports efforts to increase the number of low-income students who obtain a secondary school diploma and prepare for and succeed in postsecondary education.
  - New funding was appropriated for GEAR UP in March 2022, but it is not yet clear whether there will be a new round of competition.
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- US Department of Commerce, Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program
  - This program awards grants to support efforts to achieve digital equity, promote digital-inclusion activities, and spur greater adoption of broadband among underserved populations.
  - Districts, although not individual schools, are eligible to apply, as are states, tribal organizations, and nonprofits.
- US Department of Education, STEM grants
- The Wallace Foundation

If you have questions about information in this guide, please contact Olga Vargas at ovargas@vernier.com.