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Citizens Advisory Committee

Best Practices for Identifying and Securing Alternative Funding Mechanisms

GRANT WRITING/GRANT WRITER

Grant writing is one way to increase funding at the classroom level. Teachers benefit as well as their students.

Grant Writing refers to the act of writing a proposal to approach foundations, philanthropists, banks or other funding bodies to seek grants in order to pursue training and skills or obtain other tools that will add value to instruction.¹

Teachers throughout the Westlake School District have succeeded at achieving grant money. Their excitement at the classroom level is vital to an effective grant proposal.

We are suggesting that the district continue to support teachers with grant writing by training them as well as by providing them with resources. It would also be helpful to create a system to track grants submitted and awarded.

Teachers could be trained by online resources such as the ones listed at the end of this report and/or by each other. Once you know who has been successful at winning grants, ask them to share their knowledge with everyone else.

Since many grant proposals contain a section that is specific to the district, we suggest that the Admin office maintain a website for the staff that includes data that they would need for writing grants such as size of district, number of free and reduced lunches, etc.

We keep hearing that there is money out there to be given. Empower your staff to go out and get it!

Another option to pursue would be to either hire a grant writer or utilize volunteer grant writers. This may be more effective for large district wide grant proposals. The district would still need to ensure that the teachers who would be receiving the grant money are heavily involved in the grant process. We were told that teacher buy-in is important when receiving grant funds.

Online Resources:

<https://k12teacherstaffdevelopment.com/tlb/why-should-teachers-learn-to-write-grants/>

<https://www.neafoundation.org/for-educators/grant-resources/writing-tutorial/>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/teachers-get-grant/>

<https://www.teachhub.com/top-12-grant-writing-tips-teachers>

<https://www.ssw.com/blog/grant-writing-for-teachers-why-you-should-apply/>

Works Cited

¹ *Why Should Teachers Learn to Write Grants?* (n.d.). Retrieved from Professional Learning Board:
<https://k12teacherstaffdevelopment.com/tlb/why-should-teachers-learn-to-write-grants/>

