**Tips to Writing Grants**

There is lots of free money out for the taking...you just need to know how to ask and how to clearly state your needs, especially why it is important to your students. Don’t just ask for stuff. Spend the time to research your problem, the solution you have come up with, how a grant directly impacts students and community, and how you will measure success of the received grant. Here are a few tips that might help.

### **1 - State Your Need**

* Clearly state the problem being addressed and how your team plans to solve the problem using donated resources. Team focus is not simply on a shopping list of what you want to buy, but thoughtful solution to an existing problem. . Document students’ struggles with identifying investigating, designing, and funding solution to problem. Put together a plan for how your team will use new donated materials to boost their student literacy and .
* Identify the need, and address how this grant will specifically address meeting the need.
* Make sure grants written clearly that outline measurable success. Ensure the donor that money will be spent wisely.
* Be sure to show how this grant will fund these students/community specifically.

### **2 - Start Small**

* Keep your proposals small.
* Don’t try to get everything in one grant.
* Be patient

### **3 - Do Your Homework**

* Do your research on the grant funder. What/Who do they represent?
* What is most important to the funder?
* What have they funded in the past?”
* Make sure your proposal is the right fit for the organization’s mission

### **4 - Collaborate With Others**

* Seek other teams to use to throw ideas around
* Be open to both positive and negative feedback

### **5 - Document with Data**

* Show your donor the results of your proposal, especially to show how students have grown from this process.
* Use the pre-post assessment given prior to the unit to document how much students have grown in their understanding of the problem statement
* Track data before during and after the lesson. Take advantage of data collection, including tables, drawings, videos, photos, and letters from parents and students.

### **6 - Keep it Simple and Correct**

* Grant applications need to be free of typos, convention mistakes, or distracting fonts.
* A grant application must make a positive impression.
* Have an eagle-eyed friend or family member read through your grant before you submit it.
* Don’t be afraid to obtain feedback.

### **7 - Build Relationships**

* Paint a picture with words on the impact a grant would have on student success and your community.
* Take photos of whatever the funding will provide
* Invite donors to the school to see the results of their contribution.

Even if a funder rejects your grant, continue to cultivate the relationship. Ask for feedback and inquire about working together in the future. “Don’t see ‘no’ as the end of the conversation,” Lewallen says.

### **8 - Don’t Give Up!**

* Expect rejection the first time.
* Use it as a learning experience, and reapply move on to the next grant.