



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): 2026 Classroom Grant Application

1. Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

All faculty members employed by Watauga County Schools are eligible to apply. This includes:

- Certified teachers (PreK-12)
- Principals and assistant principals
- Guidance counselors
- Social workers
- Media specialists
- After-school site directors

Joint applications from multiple teachers or schools are welcome, but one individual must be the designated lead applicant.

2. How much funding is available through the grant?

The maximum award amount for a single grant is \$2,000. However, the majority of grants awarded will be for amounts less than this. Each project is funded for one year, and a school may generally receive funding for the same project no more than twice.

3. What types of projects can be funded?

Grants are designed to fund **innovative and creative projects** that:

- Directly benefit students
- Supplement, not replace, state and local funding
- Cannot fund salaries, benefits, or professional development/training expenses
- Consumable supplies (e.g. t-shirts, food, awards, etc.) specifically tied to the project may be funded up to \$200.

4. What expenses cannot be funded?

The following expenses are not eligible for grant funding:

- Salaries and benefits
- Professional development or training/conference expenses
- Substitute teacher costs
- Transportation or admission fees
- Honorariums or speaker fees (beyond the \$200 limit)

However, if you need professional development funding, you may want to apply for the **Price Deverick Scholarships** for that purpose.

5. How are applications reviewed and selected?

The Watauga Education Foundation (WEF) Allocations Committee, in collaboration with community members, evaluates applications. They assess proposals based on:

- Student need
- Specific goals and objectives
- Project description and implementation plan (including timeline)
- Expected student impact and the number of students affected
- How the project will be evaluated
- Budget clarity and completeness
- Creativity and innovation of the project

The final funding decisions are made by the WEF Board of Directors.

6. How do I apply for a grant?

1. Review the guidelines and selection criteria before beginning your application.
2. Complete the application form (typed submissions are recommended).
3. Obtain your principal's signature on the application form.
4. Submit the completed application:
 - By mail:
Watauga Education Foundation
c/o Watauga County Schools Central Office
175 Pioneer Trail, Boone, NC 28607
 - In person to the Watauga County Schools Central Office
 - By email: wef@wataugaschools.org
5. The application deadline is 4:00 pm on March 6, 2026. Late submissions will not be considered.
6. You will receive email confirmation once your application is received.

7. When will grant recipients be notified?

Grant recipients will be notified by mid April 2026. Notifications will be sent in writing, and principals will be notified via email.

8. What happens after I am awarded the grant?

Once you are notified, you will receive an award contract. The contract must be signed and returned before grant funds can be disbursed. Funds will typically be distributed at the beginning of July.

Additional conditions include:

- Items purchased with grant funds are the property of the school and must remain at that school unless authorized by WEF to be moved.
- Unused funds must be returned to the Foundation by February 14, 2027.
- You must complete an evaluation of your project by February 28, 2027.
- Grant recipients must also write two thank-you letters to donors selected by the Foundation.

9. Can I apply for funding for professional development or training?

No, the Classroom Grant cannot fund professional development or training expenses. However, you may apply for funding through the Price Deverick Scholarships if you need support in that area.

10. What are the reporting and evaluation requirements?

All recipients are required to:

- Participate in a site visit during project implementation.
- Complete an evaluation form by February 28, 2026.
- Provide two thank-you letters to WEF donors.
- Assist students in learning about philanthropy through writing thank-you notes to donors.

Failure to meet these requirements will disqualify you from future grant eligibility.

11. Can I apply for funding if my project involves more than one school or grade level?

Yes! Projects involving multiple schools or grade levels are encouraged and eligible for additional funding. Be sure to outline how the project will be implemented across these different groups.

12. Can I request funding for transportation or field trips?

While some funding for field trip-related expenses (e.g., transportation, admission fees) may be considered, it must be related to the educational objectives of your project and cannot exceed \$200. Other items like food or honorariums cannot be funded.

13. Can my project be funded more than once?

Typically, grants are limited to one year of funding, and the same school can only receive funding for a project twice. If your project has been funded before, it must demonstrate significant new developments or expansion to be considered for additional funding.

14. Who can I contact if I have more questions?

For any further questions or clarifications, please contact the Watauga Education Foundation at **wef@wataugaschools.org**.