



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools 2011 Grants



INTRODUCTION

The Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools (SFES) is an educational foundation that provides support, beyond the tax-supported School budget, for innovative and exceptional programs and opportunities that benefit Suffield students. Each year, the SFES Board reviews proposals for grants designed to achieve this mission. This Request for Proposal (RFP) outlines the grants process for 2011.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

Grant proposals are welcome from Suffield Public School personnel, including teachers, administrators, or other school staff members, as well as students, individual Suffield citizens, or other organizations. The SFES operates without discrimination as to age, race, religion, gender, or national origin in the selection of its Directors and in the consideration of grant requests.

CRITERIA

Grants should have clearly defined and realistic goals, as well as a specific and detailed method of implementation. When evaluating a grant proposal, the Foundation will consider whether a project meets the following criteria:

Is It Innovative? Does it enhance and enrich the current curriculum, offer students a unique learning opportunity, represent a creative and unconventional means of learning, and/or motivate students?

Is Its Value Significant? Does it ensure consistency with school and district educational objectives, and/or is it in line with district curriculum or approved materials?

Is Its Impact Broad? Does it benefit a substantial number of students, encourage significant student participation, have collaboration between schools or community groups, and/or can it be replicated or shared with other Suffield schools or classrooms?

Is It Sustainable? Does its potential impact extend well beyond the grant period?

ELIGIBLE FUNDING

Granted moneys will be used to fund innovative educational projects that fall outside of the normal school budget and are not presently funded by other sources. Funding may be used for: (1) tuition, training, or travel expenses; (2) stipends for extraordinary efforts that go beyond the normal set of teacher responsibilities; (3) consultants, guest speakers, artists, or performers who assist with a project's implementation; or (4) **new** educational technology, including equipment, materials, and supplies (all items purchased with SFES funds become the property of the Suffield Public Schools).

INELIGIBLE FUNDING

Grant funds are not intended to replace or relieve existing responsibility for public funding of school programs, nor are they intended to substitute for normal budget growth and maintenance. With rare exceptions, grants will not be awarded for salaried positions, substitute teacher stipends, recurring expenditures, regular school activities and programs, retroactive compensation, furniture and fixtures, replacement or upgrade of existing equipment. No grants that result in personal financial benefit will be awarded.

INITIATIVES FOR 2011

The Foundation continues to encourage proposals for innovative and sustainable projects that involve collaboration of faculty across grades, schools, and departments. In 2011, SFES will give special consideration to grant proposals that concern:

- Socially-responsible and environmental initiatives.
- Creation or enhancement of community connections.
- Cross-curricular projects.
- Multi-cultural experiences for students.
- Improvement of education in the arts.
- Encouragement of personal financial responsibility.

Although proposals that make innovative use of existing technology in these efforts are encouraged, other technology-focused grants that do not have an extraordinary innovative aspect will be granted only in extraordinary cases.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All grant proposals must have the approval of the School's principal and therefore grant writers are urged to discuss ideas with the Principal prior to preparing a proposal. Grants with technology components must also be reviewed by Rebecca Osleger, Technology Director, prior to submission.

The SFES appreciates carefully researched, complete, and precisely written proposals. The grant application, and other resources to assist with innovative idea generation and grant preparation may be found at: www.SFES.org.

DEADLINE

Completed applications should be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools (350 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078) for review by **February 11, 2011**. Prior to its submission to the Superintendent's office, each application must be approved by the School's principal.

APPROVAL & NOTIFICATION

During the proposal evaluation process, the SFES pays close attention to each project's potential long-term benefit to the children of Suffield citizens. Typically, some worthy proposals for grants cannot be approved due to the limited availability of funds.

Applicants will be notified about the disposition of their applications in mid-May 2011. Grants must be expended within the semester or school year designated, although a written extension may be requested.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Grantees will be expected to document the progress of their project (including photographs of the grant in action) and complete a post-grant evaluation form in early 2012. Grantees are expected to make themselves available periodically to help promote awareness of the SFES and its activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments about the SFES, its activities, and the grants program are welcomed (visit www.SFES.org for a comment link). Questions about the grants process should be e-mailed to John Maleyeff (Grants Committee Chair) at maleyeff@cox.net.