



Student Success Grants Program

Purpose and Eligibility: The Belchertown Education Foundation (BEF) welcomes teacher- (including specialists and counselors), program head-, coach-, and administrator-initiated applications for innovative and creative projects that stimulate and nurture the whole child including academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits of students enrolled in the Belchertown Public Schools.

Funding Cycle and Term: The Student Success Grants Program's 12-month award cycle runs from July 1st – June 30th, to coincide with the district's fiscal year. No-cost extensions will be considered under exceptional circumstances. The BEF typically funds individual projects for just one 12-month period. However, requests for additional funding will be considered if the new request includes an expansion of the initial project and the applicant(s) can demonstrate successful outcomes from the initial award. It is expected that no individual project will be funded for more than three years.

The BEF's Board of Directors reserves the right to solicit, accept, and fund off-cycle grant applications in order to support unexpected opportunities or counteract unanticipated losses.

Grant Awards/Number of Grants: The BEF typically funds projects with costs ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Applications for projects with costs in excess of \$5,000 will only be accepted with prior approval of the BEF's Board of Directors. To discuss submission of such an application, please contact the grants program's chairperson (Sarah Poissant at 413-519-3498 or by email at info@BelchertownEducationFoundation.org). The number of annual grant awards made will depend upon the merits of the proposals and available funds; partial funding may be awarded.

To Apply: Completed applications are to be submitted via email to info@BelchertownEducationFoundation.org (please use "Grant Application" as the subject of the email). Applications are due by April 17th. Prior to submission, all proposals must be approved and signed by the principal of the school(s) at which the grant activities will be carried out.

Ineligible Expenses: The BEF cannot fund salary (aside from costs associated with substitutes needed for release of teacher(s) for project-related activities) or provide support for general operating expenses. Professional development activities, books/materials, and technology upgrades are also ineligible expenses unless they serve to support a new initiative that is also part of the same grant proposal.

Review Process: Grant applications will be reviewed and scored by the BEF's Board of Directors and awards will be announced by the end of May.

Priority Considerations: While applicants are free to propose any project that they feel will enhance the academic, artistic, or athletic experience of students, the BEF is particularly interested in funding projects that

- serve large numbers of students
- make a very large and important difference for students, regardless of the number of students served
- result in lasting benefits, extending beyond the grant cycle

Reporting Requirements: Grantees are required to submit a Final Grant Report by September 30th following the end of the grant period.