WHO CAN APPLY

Any employee of the Maize USD 266 School District can apply. This includes teachers, principals, counselors, para-professionals, bus drivers, maintenance and custodial workers, food service employees, and all other district staff.

TYPES OF GRANTS

Grants should fit into one of the following four categories:

- ☐ **STEAM / Project Based Learning**
- ☐ **Academic / Instructional**
- ☐ **Social Emotional / Character Development**
- ☐ **Professional Learning**

Note: *A more in-depth description of each category can be found at bit.ly/MEFChallengeGrantTypes. Please contact us if you feel your idea does not fit one of these four grant types.*

GRANTS WE FUND

Successful grant requests will demonstrate the following Maize Education Foundation values:

- ☐ **Engage** students in active, enthusiastic learning; help students overcome barriers to learning; and address achievement gaps.
- ☐ **Enhance** the core curriculum through innovative programming, materials, and technology to facilitate learning, and aid individualized instruction and hands-on learning.
- ☐ **Energize** students and staff by funding start-up costs for new projects that pilot innovative ideas, encourage collaboration across school sites, and extend professional learning and development to broad groups of staff throughout the Maize School District.

High-Priority Projects...

- ☐ Propose unique components that enhance student learning (i.e., pilot or model projects).
- ☐ Propose novel concepts not previously funded by MEF or the Maize School District.
- ☐ Require only start-up support, rather than ongoing funding.
- ☐ Enhance learning for, or otherwise positively impact, a significant number of students.
- ☐ Provide services for students who have different learning styles and/or are nontraditional learners.

Note: *MEF does not generally fund projects beyond the initial grant period but may consider funding a project past one year if funds are available and evidence exists of significant learning outcomes.*

Low-Priority Projects...

- ☐ Repeat earlier pilot projects later implemented within Maize Schools, such as grants for flexible seating and iPads or chromebooks.
- ☐ Continue or repeat existing programs and/or programs previously funded by MEF.
- ☐ Seek significant transportation costs, staff or substitute salaries, or consumable supplies (non-permanent items or items discarded after use), including t-shirts and books that students keep.

Note: *Requests to fund technology devices previously deployed, but in limited supply throughout the district, are generally declined unless the request encompasses an innovative project, curriculum, or teaching approach.*

GRANTS WE DO NOT FUND

MEF has a limited amount of available funding for each grant cycle. Funded projects are those that will make a significant impact on student learning and staff professional development.

Grant requests **may** be denied because...

- ☐ The proposal appears to be for item(s) the district could provide, or for which alternate funding is available.
- ☐ The proposal doesn't provide sufficient details to allow MEF an understanding of how the program will work.
- ☐ The grantwriter doesn't respond to follow-up requests for more information.
- ☐ The project requires funding for more than one year.

Grant requests **will** be denied for...

- ☐ Building and grounds alterations, childcare, food, clothing, raffles, door prizes, or other incentives.
- ☐ Projects MEF cannot legally fund.
- ☐ Projects that do not align with MEF mission and goals.
- ☐ Projects that are religious or political in nature.
- ☐ Establishing a foundation or trust or creating a permanent interest-bearing account.
- ☐ Funding other organizations that are themselves fundraising organizations.
- ☐ Continuing a liability for the MEF beyond the monetary amount of the grant.
- ☐ Projects that conflict with district policy or are otherwise denied by the USD 266 Board of Education or district leadership.

KEYS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Grant applications should...

- ☐ State clear linkages to district-approved programs, curriculum, or standards.
- ☐ Demonstrate that students will benefit directly from the funded grant.
- ☐ Clearly state the purpose(s), desired student outcomes, project methods, and procedures.
- ☐ Provide realistic (even if tentative) schedules and completion dates.
- ☐ Include an evaluation and reporting plan suitable to the nature of the project, preferably focused on achievement of designated student learning outcomes.
- ☐ Include a reasonable, detailed budget.
- ☐ Address any training components required to implement the project.
- ☐ Use plain English, define abbreviations and acronyms, and avoid education-related jargon.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Note: *Principals and supervisors must approve all respective proposals and verify that the projects meet the overall site or program mission within the school district. Grants that require the purchase or integration of technology must be approved by the district's Technology Cadre.*

By proceeding with your application process, you confirm you...

- ☐ Have discussed with and received approval for your proposal from your principal or supervisor.
- ☐ Have verified that funding for the project is not available from normal school or district resources.