



Lake Central Education Foundation

GRANT ROUND 64th

Applications Due Monday, February 23, 2026



Over the past twenty-nine years, the Lake Central Education Foundation has awarded 686 grants for a total of \$377,910.81. We are now seeking proposals for our 64th grant rounds of innovative educational opportunities. Grant requests up to \$800.00 will be considered. To review past successful grants and helpful tutorials go to www.lakecentralef.org/grants/grant-central.

Criteria Used for Judging Proposals:

- All proposals must be **justified** as enhancing the learning environment and experience of the students.
- Proposals that demonstrate **positive impact on the school community** and show true **innovation** are given top consideration.
- The project must demonstrate **thorough planning**. The activities and budget must **be specific** and well thought out.
- All proposals must have correct grammar. Please fully define all acronyms.
- **Cost-effectiveness** is critical. The grant committee judges the proposal on the total amount requested, as well as the cost per student.
- Proposals should be no more than a **two-page PDF document** responding to the grant requirements stated on the following page. **Only complete proposals will be considered.**

Other Aspects to Consider:

- Applicants may only submit one grant application per round, either as an individual or grade level.
- Applicants must be current staff. Also, applicants can be students, residents, or businesspersons who reside within the Lake Central School Corporation (LCSC) boundaries and / are collaborating with a current staff member.
- Technology hardware and software are supplied by the corporation. A grant application's first step for obtaining technology tools is to check with their building principal who will review the requested item(s) with the respective education director at LCSC central office to confirm if there are plans for purchasing such items. Secondly, if there is a new innovative tool that can enhance learning a person may apply for a grant. Thirdly, the requested technology **MUST ALSO BE REVIEWED** by Rick Moreno, Director of Technology, rmoreno@lcscmail.com. If he approves, an email of endorsement **MUST ACCOMPANY** your grant application. (This email endorsement would be in addition to your two-page PDF grant proposal.)
- Due to increased scrutiny by the state of ELA novels and curriculum resources, any books submitted as part of a grant application need to be reviewed by the LCSC Central Office Directors of Education **BEFORE SUBMITTING THE GRANT**. Contacts for this purpose are Directors, Dr. Yolanda Bracey, Primary, or Misty Scheuneman, Secondary. Attach their response to your grant proposal.
- Projects involving college credit, salaries, incentives, stipends, travel, registration fees, or meals are not funded.
- There are three options for showing accountability for transparent use of the LCEF grant funds. The options are stated below. Please choose at least one of the options and email your completed choice to lakecentralef@lcscmail.com. Whichever choice you make will lend the opportunity for the LCEF Grant Committee to share your students' experiences with others through various media sources.

Thank you!

1. Take photos of the innovative lessons funded by your LCEF grant.
2. Write a summary of how the innovating lessons funded by the LCEF grant impacted student learning.
3. Record a 3-5 minute video about your innovative lessons funded by the LCEF grant that will lend the opportunity to share your students'.

➤ Send your completed grant application as a **PDF document** via e-mail to lakecentralef@lcscmail.com.



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PART I

Step 1: Title:

Step 2: Applicant(s):

Step 3: School(s): If technology or books are requested, please refer to the third or fourth bullet point under Other Aspects to Consider on page 1.

Step 4: Grade Level(s) and or Subject Area(s):

Step 5: Number of Students Participating:

Part II

Step 6: Purpose:

Step 7: What activities will the students complete (be specific)?

Step 8: When will the project take place?

Step 9: How long will your project last?

Step 10: Provide a short summary, 1 or 2 sentences, of why your grant would enhance learning. This summary will be read at the Lake Central Board Meeting.

Part III

Step 11: Amount Requested:

Step 12: Detailed Budget:

The budget must list specific items you will purchase. Do not include tax. Remember to include shipping charges. All budget items must be relevant and crucial to the success of the project. Cost-effectiveness is essential. If you are receiving additional funding for this project from additional sources, please indicate that.

Step 13: Can you use this project in the future without additional cost?

As you complete your grant proposal, use this simple table to check off each step to ensure your grant is complete. The grant proposal is evaluated on the quality of Steps 1-13.

Your dedication to go “above-and-beyond” is noteworthy!

step 1	step 2	step 3	step 4	step 5	step 6	step 7	step 8	step 9	step 10	step 11	step 12	step 13

Submit your completed grant application **AS A PDF DOCUMENT** at lakecentralef@lcscmail.com

Notification of awards will occur on March 10, 2026



Lake Central Education Foundation

Grant Proposal Rubric

Components



Title _____ Applicant's name _____ Applicant has only applied for one grant this round. _____ School _____ Grade level and/or subject area _____ Number of students _____ If technology is requested, an approval letter from Rick Moreno is attached. _____	Purpose _____ Student activities _____ Impact on students _____ Timeline _____ Duration _____ Future use _____ Summary _____ Detailed Budget _____ If books are requested, an approval letter from Dr. Yolanda Bracey or Misty Scheuneman is attached. _____	Applicant is a current staff, student, or residence or businessperson and currently resides within LC boundaries. _____ Project does not involve college credit, salaries, incentives, stipends, food, or travel. Incomplete grant proposals will be disqualified.
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Criteria

Student Activity	Project can be justified as enhancing the learning environment and experience of students. <i>Answers the question: Does the project enhance students' environment or learning experience?</i>
Alignment of Materials & Equipment	All materials and equipment support student activities. <i>Answers the question: Do the materials support student learning in an exceptional way?</i>
Activities	Activities are well-thought-out and specified. <i>Answers the question: Is a clear plan presented concerning the activities in which students are to engage?</i>
Budget	Budget is clearly articulated, itemized, addresses supply sources, and is accurate. <i>Answers the question: Does the budget include information about supply sources, the exact cost of items, and provide accurate calculations?</i>
Cost Effectiveness	Cost per student is considered. <i>Answers the question: Does this grant allow the awarded funds to benefit many students?</i>
Impact	Project has a major positive impact on the school community. <i>Answers the question: Does this grant involve many students/stakeholders to make a positive/significant impact?</i>
Innovation	Project provides something new or different. <i>Answers the questions: Is the project innovative? Does it offer students a new way of doing something? Does it offer revolutionary thinking or imaginative thinking or help them to design a new product?</i>

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP 2026 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION FOR HELPING SUPPORT OUR TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM:

Champion Partners: Powers Health, Purdue University Northwest, Summers Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Town of Dyer, Tri Kappa-Zeta Psi

Hero Partners: Town of Schererville, Core Construction, The Czarnik Family, Friends of Lake Central Schools, Indiana University Northwest School of Education, Caleb S. Johnson Law, LLC, Olthof Homes, Peoples Bank, Puntillo & Crane Orthodontics, P.C., St. John Smoothie King, Strack & Van Til Inspiration Partners:

Innovation Partners: Berkot's Super Foods, Maki Insurance Group, Mi-Box Moving & Storage, Susan & Bill Popa, The Seljan Family, Ryan Spangler State Farm, Stifel-Minas Sabau Porterfield Group

Important Dates

LCEF Grant Round 64

January 2026 – Grant applications will be available at lakecentralef@lcscmail.com. The grant application will be sent out by Kathy Pederson to all staff. Principals also will inform their staff.

February 23, 2026 – Submission of completed grant applications are due to lakecentralef@lcscmail.com.

March 10, 2026 – Applicants will be informed if they received a grant or not. Those awarded a grant will be invited to attend the LCSC Board Meeting on March 16, 2026, to receive their check and be recognized for their "above-and-beyond" work to enhance student learning.

March 10, 2026 – LCEF Grant Recipients are invited to the School Board Meeting on March 16, 2026, to receive their checks.