Innovative Teaching Grants 2025

Applicant	Title	Short Description	Amount	Campus	Category
Abby Salas	Nonfiction STEM books to spark interest	My intended project is to bring a varitey of nonfiction STEM related books into my classroom library. Our student need to be prepared for a world that STEM driven and having access to STEM related literature is going to spark that interest. I would like to have more science, technology, engineering and mathmatics books available to my students.	$250.00	Highlands Elementary	Language Arts
Alice Ricks	Proper Dining Etiquette	Initially, a student survey seeking knowledge of proper dining room etiquette will be conducted. The program will last 6 weeks and students participating in the program will have their attendance monitored. Lessons pertaining to dining etiquette, including table settings, will be given. The project requests funding for a catered formal meal so students can practice proper dining etiquette in a real setting.	$600.00	Peter E. Hyland Center	Guidance & Counseling
Alicia Sasser	Microphones to Auto-Translate Lessons for EB/ESL Students	Purchasing wireless microphones that teachers can wear to allow them to translate their slides and lessons in real-time into another language for EB/ESL students. This makes the material learned more accessible to students regardless of their proficiency in English while also learning to understand the material in a different language. It also can be used by EB/ESL Specialists on campus to translate their native language into English so students can both hear and read their language both ways.	$2500.00	Cedar Bayou Junior	Bilingual/ESL Education
Angelica Cuevas	STEMulating Learning	We would like to purchase and create different STEM Kits to be used in a rotating schedule among the 4th grade classrooms. Many students are obsessed with the iPads and screens at school and at home. We would like to offer different options for play and creativity in the classroom.	3,305.17	Harlem Elementary	S.T.E.M.
Angelica Cuevas	Fraction Attraction	We intend to purchase a Fraction Activity Set for the 2 math teachers to have as classroom sets. The set includes magnetic fraction bars and magnetic fraction circles along with activity cards that kids can use dry erase markers to write on. The set is like a folder where all the pieces are placed in their specific spot, and all the cards go in a pocket.	$1198.20	Harlem Elementary	Mathematics
Ashley Finnerty	Unlocking History: Engaging Students with Social Studies Escape Rooms	This grant proposal seeks funding to create a series of interactive escape room experiences designed to increase student engagement, collaboration, and critical thinking in social studies. The escape room activities will immerse students in historical content, challenging them to solve puzzles, decode ciphers, and analyze primary sources to "escape" various historical scenarios. The kits will be reusable and adaptable to different historical topics and subjects, providing a fun and dynamic way to learn and apply social studies concepts.	$309.00	Ross S. Sterling High School	Social Studies
Carol Heads	My Application Title	Geri-Care Manikin for CNA Exam Preparation We are requesting funding for the purchase of an additional Geri-Care Manikin to enhance the learning experience of our students as they prepare for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) exam. The manikin will provide students with the opportunity to practice essential caregiving skills in a realistic, hands-on environment, including vital task scenarios such as bathing, dressing, transferring, and taking vital signs. This manikin will be an invaluable resource for simulating real-life situations, enabling students to gain confidence and proficiency in their clinical abilities.	$2314.76	Ross S. Sterling High School	Career & Technical Education
Christa Colomb	Inclusive Family Engagement: Bridging Language Barriers to Enhance Family Involvement	This project aims to develop inclusive and community driven strategies to enhance family involvement with a particular focus on supporting Spanish speaking families. By making these efforts a priority, we can empower Spanish speaking families to take an active role in their children's education, which will benefit not only their academic outcomes but also the overall school community	1,157.96	James Bowie Elementary	Hispanic Outreach
Christina Hernandez	Outdoor Learning: Explore in the Outdoors	This project seeks funding to provide developmentally appropriate outdoor learning resources for our young students. With this grant, we will equip the outdoor learning space of our campus with resources and activities for students to utilize as they explore and interact with the world around them. Research in early childhood education highlights the importance of active play in supporting motor skills, problem-solving, and peer interactions, all of which are crucial for school readiness.	4,778.43	Pumphrey Elementary	S.T.E.M.
Cody McAnally	Theatre Department Costume and Prop Allocation	Our plan is to secure funding to purchase costumes and props that will enhance the quality of productions in the middle school theatre department, fostering creativity, teamwork, and cultural appreciation among students. Our middle school theatre department operates on a limited budget, restricting the scope and quality of our productions. Access to a broader range of costumes and props will: Provide students with immersive learning experiences.	3,500.00	Highlands Junior	Fine Arts
Courtney McCleery	Investigating Chemical Bonds	This project enhances student understanding of ionic and covalent bonding through a hands-on, inquiry-based lab aligned with TEKS. Students will test substances for electrical conductivity (solid and aqueous), solubility, melting point, crystal structure, and malleability to explore how bonding affects physical properties. Funding will support the purchase of a Vernier Go Direct® Current Probe, allowing students to collect accurate conductivity data and analyze how chemical bonding influences electrical properties.	1,980.00	Goose Creek Memorial High School	S.T.E.M.
Courtney McCleery	Bond Investigation: Uncovering Ionic and Covalent Properties	This project enhances student understanding of ionic and covalent bonds through a hands-on lab investigation aligned with TEKS. Students will test substances for melting point, conductivity, solubility, crystal structure, and malleability to explore how bonding affects physical properties. Funding will support a Vernier Melt Station, providing safer, more precise melting point measurements.	5,032.00	Goose Creek Memorial High School	S.T.E.M.
Cristina Fernandez	Virtual Literacy Lab: VR & AR for Immersive Learning	The Virtual Literacy Lab will integrate Virtual Reality (VR) technology to enhance bilingual literacy instruction for 4th-grade students. Using VR headsets, students will step inside stories, exploring immersive environments that strengthen reading comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and critical thinking in both English and Spanish. Virtual escape rooms and interactive storytelling experiences will challenge students to decipher clues, analyze texts, and engage deeply with literature.	$7450.00	David Crockett Elementary	Bilingual/ESL Education

Crystalie Tatum	From Digital to Tangible	So many of our young artists do not have the means to create art at home, unless it is digitally, as their families just cannot afford the art supplies, they need, paper and canvases, paints and pencils, ect.. The goal is to support digital art and digital photography created outside of the classroom, as all of our students have iPads and so thus the ability to creatively explore digital art and digital photography. Digital art will never replace art created outside of electronic devices, but I want to give our students every possible opportunity to explore and create.	$995.80	George H. Gentry Junior	Fine Arts
Donna Kocian	New to News	Students will utilize requested equipment to create daily news broadcasts that will highlight student accomplishments, campus and district news as well as community highlights. Daily weather, lunch menus, and scheduling will follow the pledges each morning. 4th and 5th grade students will independently create the daily broadcasts as 3rd graders train during the year for the following year's new opening positions.	$4251.98	Ashbel Smith Elementary	Communication
Emilie Olivier	Science in Motion: Sparking Curiosity with Hands on Manipulatives	This project is based on the goal of increasing student achievement through increasing the use of student-centered learning. It will provide different forms of manipulatives (hands on activities) for every student to use in high school science courses. This project focuses on the need for updated resources and materials that will enrich the new curriculum that has been rewritten for implementation of the new TEKS in science.	$13030.00	Administration	S.T.E.M.
Gladys Perales	A Cross-Linguistic View of Children's Literature	A Cross- Linguistic View of Children's Literature is a strategic approach to enhance a bilingual learner's understanding by providing them with an enriching opportunity to read, interpret, compare and contrast, analyze, comprehend and bridge between two languages on a deeper level that will allow for a greater balance of bilingualism and biliteracy. The grant will fund paired English and Spanish texts and related materials for cross-linguistic literacy lessons.	$871.08	Alamo Elementary	Bilingual/ESL Education
Haley Johnston	Science in the palm of our hands	Merge cubes give students an oppurtunity to use Augmented reality (holograms) to hold science comcepts in the palm of their hands, Students can see the science up close and move the object (3D image) to see it from different angles. When students can see concepts such as the solar system in 3D and can see how the system moves in the palm of their hand, it not only engages the student in their learning but also gives the student a deeper understanding.	$2999.00	David Crockett Elementary	S.T.E.M.
Haley Johnston	Science in 3D	Science TEKS have changed and now we have a focus on engineering pracrices. This concept can be difficilt for students at the elemetary level without the right tools. These 3D pens and a 3D printer will allow students to not only plan solutions to problems, but also build and create solutions to problems.	$4515.95	David Crockett Elementary	S.T.E.M.
Janie West	Echoes of Tomorrow, Empowering Students through Podcast	Social media is the platform used universally to inform, contact, advertise, hire, and sell. As GCCISD endeavors to graduate students who are college/career ready, we need to teach them to utilize social media in a positive and mature manner. I am seeking funding to initiate a student-run innovative podcast program, providing students the ability to investigate, create, and share ideas while developing skills in communication, technology, and media production.	$3045.36	Ross S. Sterling High School	Communication
Jennifer Martin	Stitching Creativity	This project, "Stitching Creativity," seeks funding to provide middle school students with the materials, tools, and instruction necessary to create their own plushie designs. The project will teach students valuable sewing skills, ignite their creativity, and foster a sense of accomplishment and self-expression. Through hands-on learning, students will gain skills in design, hand-sewing, and problem-solving, culminating in a showcase of their unique plushie creations.	$984.73	George H. Gentry Junior	Fine Arts
Jimmy Ornelas	Tool Charging and Storage Carts	This project enhances the efficiency and functionality of the Advanced Automotive Academy programs, Automotive, Diesel, and Collision Repair, to upgrade and organize new ATECH wrenches and existing scan tools. The new tech carts include cables and a power strip to streamline equipment management. The cart will help students and staff better organize and access essential tools, particularly tech wrenches, as we transition to the ATECH wrenches system.	$12556.08	Stuart Career Tech High School	Career & Technical Education
Josalyn Smith	Futuristic Healthcare (Medical VR)	Virtual reality (VR) headsets for medicine are cutting-edge instruments used in training, diagnosis, and therapy. They provide a risk-free setting for medical personnel to rehearse skills and mimic surgical operations. Through immersive exposure treatment, virtual reality (VR) can help patients manage problems like anxiety or phobias, and it is also beneficial in pain management and rehabilitation.	$8473.90	Robert E. Lee High School	Career & Technical Education
Julia Burch	Tapping Into Potential: Enhancing Dance Education With Tap Equipment	With "Tapping Into Potential," we seek to add tap shoes and tap boards to our inventory to allow all students access to tap dance. The inclusion of tap in our curriculum will broaden students' knowledge of dance genres and allow them to engage with the style in an impactful way. Tap integrates music theory and dance history while teaching technique, skill development, and choreography.	$2936.25	Goose Creek Memorial High School	Fine Arts
Kim Hillis	Exploring the Wonders of Science: Inspiring Young Minds in Grades K-2	Students in primary grades (K-2) need a wide variety of opportunities and experiences to learn science through exploration and investigation. These opportunities include being able to explore hands on investigations using science manipulatives and equipment to help develop their science skills over time. This grant would provide the opportunity to purchase a variety of hands on science and STEM kits as well as TEKS based investigation bundles for each elementary campus in our district.	$12752.00	Administration	S.T.E.M.
Kristin Jaso	Empowering Expression: Growing The Whole Child Through Large Format Printing	Acquiring a large format printer will empower digital media and yearbook students to produce high- quality, professional-grade work, preparing them for careers in design, photography, and marketing. This technology will enhance projects like portraits, product photography, and marketing materials, providing hands-on experience with industry-standard tools. While shared among students, structured in-class activities will maximize its impact.	$5500.00	Stuart Career Tech High School	Communication

Kylie Sobczak	Lettuce Grow	To enhance our farm-to-table initiative, we seek funding to purchase a mobile salad bar. This mobile unit will bring fresh salads directly our school, increasing access to nutritious foods. By integrating this mobile salad bar with our greenhouse operations, we aim to educate our students and teachers on the benefits of locally sourced produce, improve food security, and strengthen our connection between local agriculture and the public.	$2469.45	Stuart Career Tech High School	Career & Technical Education
Lacey Broussard	Technology for Special education Teachers	We serve a diverse group of students, in our special education programs. As you may know, special education teachers face unique challenges in providing individualized support to students with varying needs. The role of technology in education has become increasingly important in addressing these challenges, and it is in this context that I am reaching out to request your support.	$4200.00	Cedar Bayou Junior	Special Education
LaTonya Pittman	Home Away From Home	Students should have a safe and comfortable environment on campus where they can unwind, or relax to share their feelings. I'd like to create that space for my school counseling office. This project will focus on improving students' emotional intelligence, foster academic achievement, and create a sense of community.	$1642.00	Ashbel Smith Elementary	Guidance & Counseling
Lauren Prickett	Reading Beyond the Page: Unlocking Stories with Augmented Reality	This project seeks funding for the integration of Augmented Reality (AR) books into the second-grade classroom to create an immersive and interactive reading experience. The goal is to inspire students to develop a passion for reading, enhance comprehension, and encourage critical thinking through the use of AR technology. By blending traditional reading with the dynamic features of AR, this project aims to transform how students engage with stories, boost literacy skills, and bring learning to life.	$400.00	David Crockett Elementary	Language Arts
Linda LeDay	Geared to Engineer	Using robots in a fifth-grade science project is a great way to engage students in hands-on learning, foster critical thinking, develop problem-solving, and introduce them to STEM concepts like mechanics, programming, and engineering, all while making science more exciting and relevant through a practical of theoretical knowledge; it also encourages creativity and collaboration as they design and build their own robotic to compute a specific task .This project will be a catalyst for providing a rich STEM integrated learning process. Students gain confidence in problem solving and in their own ideas, which is huge. Texas Education Agency outlines specific requirements in science and technology." Robotics Programming and Design will foster opportunities to present innovative and meaningful robotic programs through research and engineering concepts." (5.1b).	$1000.00	Banuelos Elementary	S.T.E.M.
Margaret Cayton	Hands on Chemical Equations	These resources would enable students to engage in hands-on learning, using blocks to visually demonstrate and understand the Law of Conservation of Mass.	$649.79	Cedar Bayou Junior	S.T.E.M.
Maricruz Rodriguez-Ze	Every Place Counts: Strengthening Number Sense with Hands-On Math Tools	In elementary math, we learn by exploration, discussion, and using lots of manipulatives! The energy in our classrooms is evident in the work that we do as a whole group, in centers, and in our small groups. I am submitting this project to bring more hands-on learning experiences for our students in 3-5.	2,643.67	Ashbel Smith Elementary	S.T.E.M.
Meagan Taylor	Transforming Spaces, Inspiring Minds: The FlipFORMS Project	The Wenger FlipFORMS are a groundbreaking tool for my music classroom, offering creative possibilities for students. These modular risers can be adjusted to foster the exploration of rhythm, pitch, and timbre. Their flexible design also serves as seating, extra risers for performances, and platforms for the smartboard and station activities.	$8715.00	Victoria Walker Elementary	Fine Arts
Morgan Cupps	Coding the Tandem: Using Ozobots	In AP Precalculus, directional awareness is a fundamental skill. Throughout the course, students are expected to describe various key features of parent functions. By implementing the usage of Ozobots in the classroom, students will gain a better understanding of change in tandem due to the robotic ability to use color coding to have an Ozobot move and create a visual representation of a multitude of concepts.	2,990.00	Robert E. Lee High School	S.T.E.M.
Natalie Smith	Sensational Sensory and STEM Stations for SILC	The purpose of this project is to provide hands on stations bins and materials for SILC students.	$499.35	David Crockett Elementary	Special Education
Patricia Santoyo	Classroom Library Spanish Books	Since this is the first year for DUAL in 3rd grade, I realized I don't have any grade level spanish books for my classroom library. I need to add Spanish books to my classroom library with the English books I already have. The teacher is requesting a set of grade-level Spanish picture and chapter books to build a Dual Language classroom library.	$595.58	James Bowie Elementary	Bilingual/ESL Education
Peyton Wood-Smith	Making Safety a Priority-Implementing a SawStop Table Saw in the Theatre Scene Shop	My goal is to make our theatre shop as safe and accessible as possible. In order to do this, we need to keep up with the technology that is becoming more readily available. Purchasing a SawStop for the shop would mean that no student would ever get cut on a table saw blade, which I cannot currently ensure.	$2238.00	Goose Creek Memorial High School	Fine Arts
Rickey Edwards	Virtual Tools, Real Understanding: Expanding Math Success with Brainingcamp	This proposal seeks funding to provide district-wide access to Brainingcamp virtual manipulatives, an interactive digital resource that enhances math instruction for students at all grade levels. By integrating these tools into our classrooms, we aim to improve conceptual understanding, engagement, and achievement in mathematics. Brainingcamp provides an opportunity for teachers to give real time feedback through “share codes” and fully-customizable activity templates, which makes this resource uniquely impactful.	$11700.00	Administration	Mathematics
Robert Koonce	Sim Rescue Auto Extrication System	We seek funding to purchase a Sim-Rescue Auto Extrication System for our Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students. This system will allow them to practice critical vehicle extrication skills in a controlled environment, enhancing their ability to safely remove patients from accident scenes. Hands-on training with realistic scenarios is essential for developing the competence and confidence needed to perform life-saving procedures under pressure. This project requests a Sim-Rescue Auto Extrication System for EMT training.	$14500.00	Ross S. Sterling High School	Career & Technical Education
Roberto Botello	Building Bright Minds: Exploring Geometry Through Magnetic Tiles	The "Exploring Geometry with Magnetic Tiles" project aims to enhance students' understanding of prisms and pyramids through hands-on learning. Using magnetic tiles, students will explore key geometric concepts such as surface area, volume, and spatial reasoning. The project aligns with Texas TEKS for Geometry, focusing on geometric relationships and mathematical reasoning.	$1439.88	Robert E. Lee High School	S.T.E.M.

Rubi Marquez	Nepohualtzintzin Abacus: Empowering Emergent Bilinguals with Math and Culture	The Nepohualtzintzin project aims to broaden students' mathematics reasoning ability and provide a space for socio-cultural practices for emergent bilinguals. Nepohualtzintzin is designed to improve student capacity in mathematics through the use of the ancient Mayan abacus. According to research from Everardo Lara using a nepohualtzintzin will "...show Nahuatl mathematical model through a scheme of numeric representations may be articulated; quantitative, figurative and linguistic..."(Lara, 2013, p.20). The project requests Nepohualtzintzin abacuses so students can learn math using a culturally rooted Mayan tool.	$600.00	James Bowie Elementary	Bilingual/ESL Education
Sarah Graham	Post The Most	The science department intentionally immerses the classroom with science related material. A student is more likely to academically grow when visual cues and reminders are readily displayed. Academic vocabulary associated with infographics full of color and bold visuals enhances learning for diverse types of learning styles.	$5300.00	Robert E. Lee High School	S.T.E.M.
Savanna Hurst	Elevating Athletic Performance Through Game Ready Cold Compression System	Athletics are essential to education, promoting teamwork, discipline, and fitness. To improve our athletic programs, I propose acquiring attachments for the Game Ready cold compression system, a cutting-edge recovery tool that combines cold therapy with intermittent compression. This system helps reduce pain and swelling, enabling faster recovery for student-athletes. The project requests Game Ready cold compression equipment to support student-athlete recovery.	$4257.36	Robert E. Lee High School	Athletics
Shannon Chance	Chords of Change: Ukuleles to Inspire Young Minds	As a music educator, I want to prepare my students for their journey into the fine arts curriculum when they go to junior high and high school. Ukuleles are a perfect fit for our classroom because they are affordable, easy to learn, and can prepare students for future musical study. These instruments provide a fun, interactive way for students to learn essential skills such as rhythm, pitch, and chord structures.	$2364.90	Ashbel Smith Elementary	Fine Arts
Stefan Ice	Marching Band Electronics Integration	Integrating electronics into marching band performances enhances creativity and musical expression. Electronic elements, such as amplified instruments, sound effects, and wireless audio systems, allow for a broader range of sounds and effects that traditional instruments cannot produce. Students and teachers alike need modern equipment for training and performance. The project requires Mac Minis, monitors, and an iPad to integrate electronics into marching band performances.	4,232.31	Robert E. Lee High School	Fine Arts
Stephanie DeLoss	Innovate to Elevate: Advancing STEM for the Future	Scientific inquiry is vital in promoting equity in the classroom and closing achievement gaps among diverse learners. To promote and encourage scientific inquiry, this grant aims to provide funding for STEM Discovery Kits for science investigations conducted by students in grades 6-8 throughout the academic year.	$12132.72	Administration	S.T.E.M.
Suman Sharma	Role of Sensory Play in Holistic Child Development.	As I work with my students who have special needs, I have observed that incorporating 'sensory play' can be incredibly beneficial. This kind of play engages one or more of the senses in our bodies, such as touch, sight, hearing, taste, and smell. Sensory play is crucial for brain development because it provides children with opportunities to use these senses actively . The grant will provide sensory play materials and hands-on math kits to support regulation and academic growth for students with special needs.	$507.97	Ashbel Smith Elementary	Special Education
Tara Fountain	Transforming Student Movement for a Safer School	The Smart Pass Digital Hall Pass system replaces traditional paper passes with a cloud-based solution to manage student movement efficiently. This system enhances security, reduces classroom disruptions, and improves accountability by tracking student transitions in real time. Teachers and administrators can easily monitor and manage hall passes, while data collected from the system will help optimize transition times. The campus is requesting a Smart Pass digital hall pass subscription to improve safety and monitoring.	$3479.22	George H. Gentry Junior	School Safety