



2025 - 2026 Grant Cycle

General Grant Information

The School Foundation is seeking grants for innovative and high-impact programs that will benefit students in Florence 1 Schools. \$168,669.36 is available for grants this cycle. (Please see page 2 for items that are NOT funded by The School Foundation.)

Grant applications for the 2025 - 2026 school year will be accepted from Florence 1 Schools Educators until March 28th, 2025.

Grant Categories

There is ONE grant category this year: **Major Grants =>\$10,000**

Major Grants should seek to have a broad impact across the entire school district and help prepare our students for success in a worldwide economy.

Review Process

- ✓ The Grants Committee will review each complete grant application it receives. Depending upon the number of grant requests and the complexity of the applications, the review process will take approximately 30 days.
- ✓ The committee may request additional information from the applicant, school administrators or curriculum coordinators.
- ✓ Finalists will be asked to give a presentation on their proposed grant to the Grants Committee, which will not exceed sixty (60) minutes.
- ✓ Applications recommended for funding by the committee will then be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. Once grant materials have been received, they remain the property of the school that was the recipient of the grant unless otherwise approved by The School Foundation.

Review Criteria

The Grants Committee uses a combination of objective and subjective criteria when evaluating grant requests. Requests that clearly meet more criteria will generally be viewed more favorably during evaluation.

In general, high-value criteria include innovation, creativity, educational value, student involvement, collaboration between schools and project director commitment. Additionally, those applications that clearly and concisely describe the project and anticipate positive benefits for students in the form of achievement, motivation and character development will be favored during the evaluation process.

**The Foundation will not be able to fund all requests due to budgetary constraints. This does not mean that a rejected request is inappropriate or unsatisfactory.

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of things CANNOT be funded by The School Foundation?

Funds may **not** be used to:

- a) pay the salaries of employees of Florence 1 Schools
- b) pay for major equipment purchases unless they are critical to the project proposal and cannot be financed in any other manner.
- c) pay for field trips
- d) pay for building maintenance and upgrades
- e) pay for furniture

Who can apply for a grant?

The grant process is open to instructional staff within Florence 1 Schools.

Where may I obtain an application?

Applications are available on The School Foundation website (www.theschoolfoundation.org) and on the Florence 1 Schools website (www.f1s.org).

Where do I submit the application?

Completed applications should be received in the Superintendent's Office at 319 S. Irby Street in Florence, SC. All applications must be received on or before 4:30 p.m. on March 28, 2025.

How many copies of the application should I submit?

Submit one original with nine copies.

What is the scoring process?

The School Foundation Grants Committee will evaluate the applications and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors of The School Foundation.

Should I include the name of my organization on the application?

The name of the organization, contact person and his/her immediate supervisor/principal should be stated on the cover page.

When will grant decisions be made?

Notification of grant funding will be made within 30 days after the proposal deadline by letter from The School Foundation.

What is the appropriate request amount?

Grant amount must be for \$10,000 or greater and have the potential for district-wide impact.

May I request funding for more than one year?

No, you will need to resubmit your application each year.

Are signatures required?

Yes. All applications must contain signatures of the contact person, his/her principal and F1S Superintendent. The Director of Technology must also sign for grants involving technology and devices used in the district such as mobile devices, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, workstations, and e-Readers. In addition, signatures are required for applications, software, extensions, or web 2.0 sites. Signature form is part of this document.

Are there special requirements if my grant involves technology?

Yes, there are special requirements. The first requirement is that the proposal should be discussed with the Director of Technology, Kyle Jones, in the planning stages of the grant writing to insure that the grant plans will work with the F1S technology plan for your school. After the proposal is completed, Mr. Jones will need to sign for approval of your plan. The second requirement is that all teachers requesting instructional technology equipment must complete the appropriate district training associated for successful implementation. Digital Learning Specialists are available to provide training sessions. Please provide a district certificate stating that your training has been successfully completed as part of your grant implementation.

How will The School Foundation follow up with proposals that are funded?

The School Foundation will announce the grant recipients in May 2025. Follow-up visits to instructional areas may be made by members of The School Foundation Board of Directors and Executive Director.

If I have questions about this process or suggestions for improving this grant application process, whom should I contact?

You may contact Debbie Hyler at The School Foundation at (843) 662-9996 or dhyler@theschoolfoundation.org.

Grants Committee Schedule

Week of February 1, 2025 – Grant packets emailed to Florence 1 School employees, and posted on websites (F1s.org and Theschoolfoundation.org)

March 28, 2025 – Grants applications are due by March 28th at 4:30 pm to Dr. O'Malley's office for his signature to approve grant submission. Debbie Hyler will pick up the approved grant applications on March 31st.

April 2 - 3, 2025 – Debbie to assemble applications and scoring sheets and distribute grant packages to committee members

April 9, 2025 – The committee will meet to review grants at 4:00 pm.

April 14 – 17, 2025 – The committee will visit schools for grant finalists, finalize grant recommendations



Grant Endorsement Signature Page

Title of Project

Requested Amount

Name(s) of Applicant(s)

School

E-Mail Address

Endorsement of Principal/Superintendent/Instructional Technology

I have read this proposal and approve its implementation within this school. To the best of my knowledge, the materials requested are not available in this school at this time.

Principal's signature

Superintendent's signature

Director of Instructional Technology (if applicable)

If your proposal includes technology, this signature is required.