

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

APRIL 2025 Issue

All,

The Office of Grant Development (OGD) is happy to share with you our April edition of the newsletter. Please see below for small grant opportunities, literary resources, and Donorschoose match offers.

Good luck in your pursuit of additional funding for your school community!

Sincerely,
Michael Sonkowsky,
Deputy Chief, Office of Grant Development

Note: *Formal central office "approval" to apply for any of the grants listed is not needed, but **it is very important that you communicate with your principal about any resources you are hoping to bring into your school.** We strongly encourage you to contact us in the Office of Grant Development if you are considering applying for a grant. Our team of experienced grant-writers can help you by discussing strategy or reviewing drafts. You can email us at grants@philasd.org, or find more resources on our webpage: <https://www.philasd.org/grants/>*

Index:

Grant Opportunities - Page 2
Literacy Resources for Teachers - Page 9
Donorschoose Match Offers - Page 10
Additional Resources - Page 11

Grant Opportunities

NOTE: Funders may change their mission, strategy, and target recipients at any time. The OGD has reviewed all of the opportunities to ensure that all are still accepting applications as of April 1st and are appropriate for our audience, however, it is possible that changes were made after our review. Please be sure to carefully review the funder's policies and practices before beginning any application and reach out to OGD with any changes you find.

Upcoming Deadlines

Opportunity: Judith Krug Fund Banned Books Week Event Grants

Due Date: April 30, 2025

Eligibility: Schools, nonprofits, & libraries who have not been a recipient of a Freedom to Read Foundation grant within the past 5 years

Purpose: Each year the Freedom to Read Foundation (FTRF) distributes grants to organizations to support activities that raise awareness of intellectual freedom and censorship issues during the **annual Banned Books Weeks celebration (October 5-11, 2025)**. Grants are evaluated based on the following criteria: imagination, schedule/action plan, pr plan, budget, and evaluation.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000

Website: https://www.ftrf.org/page/Krug_BBW

Opportunity: Phila. Public School Giving Circle Microgrants

Due Date: April 30, 2025 for Round 1

Eligibility: SDP schools

Purpose: The Fund for the School District and the Philadelphia Public School Giving Circle are partnering together to award microgrants to SDP schools. Microgrants will support classroom projects, field trips, and school supplies. Applications will be reviewed and voted on by people who do not have an education background so please avoid educational jargon.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250-\$500

Website: <https://2lg3kcmbepx.typeform.com/to/Xldc6qhm?typeform-source=www.google.com>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Penn Treaty Special Services District Grant

Due Date: Next grant opening is at the June 18, 2025 meeting. Grants will resume in September.

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofits and community groups based in Fishtown, Northern Liberties, Old Richmond, and/or South Kensington. Schools must have a registered 501(c)(3) apply on their behalf such as a PTA, “Friends of” group, or HSA.

Purpose: To improve the quality of life within the boundaries of the Penn Treaty Special Services District (PTSSD) and support any other activities which may lessen community tensions, combat community deterioration, and improve the community as a place to live and work.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000-\$30,000

Note: The Board generally considers 3 Grant Requests per month and the applications are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. The Board meets in the evenings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. (except for July and August).

Grant applicants are required to attend the PTSSD Board meeting and give a 15-minute presentation about their organization and the nature of their request.

Website: <https://penntreatyssid.org/grants-2/>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Classroom Grant

Due Date: June 1, 2025

Eligible Applicants: High school chemistry educator teaching in the U.S.

Purpose: Since 2008, over 700 high school chemistry teachers received ACS-Hach High School Chemistry Classroom Grants to support ideas that enhance classroom learning, foster student development, and reveal the wonders of chemistry. Grants may fund laboratory equipment & supplies, instructional materials, professional development, and student-conducted field studies.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$1,800

Website: <https://www.acs.org/funding/grants/acs-hach-high-school-chemistry-classroom-grant.html>

Principals ONLY - Grants from Elected Officials

We highly encourage principals to reach out to your state representatives to request funding. If you receive a link to apply to a state grant, please reach out to OGD for assistance. The state application may be difficult to complete and our grant-writers can guide you through the process.

Find your PA Legislator:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>

Grant Opportunities

Ongoing / Rolling Basis

Opportunity: New York Life's Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative

Due Date: Rolling Basis

Eligible Applicants: K-12 schools nationwide

Purpose: The Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative (GSSI) seeks to better equip teachers to care for grieving students and their families. Sign up to receive a presentation to school staff on key bereavement resources, led by New York Life ambassadors (a minimum of 5 school personnel must attend). Schools that commit to become more grief-sensitive following the presentation are also eligible to receive a \$500 grant to help enhance their ability to offer grief support and resources.

Estimated Range of Awards: one-time \$500 grant for grief support

Website: <https://grievingstudents.org/gssi/>

Opportunity: Karma for Cara Community Service Youth MicroGrant Program

Due Date: April 1st, July 1st, October 1st, & January 1st

Eligible Applicants: Students 18 years of age and under. Must have a teacher/adult advisor for their project.

Purpose: Students may apply to complete service projects in their communities throughout the United States.

Estimated Range of Awards: between \$250-\$1,000

Note: They do not fund stipends, facility rentals, or transportation costs.

Website: <https://karmaforcara.org/microgrant-application>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Leveling the Playing Field

Due Date: Rolling Basis

Eligible Applicants: K-12 schools and nonprofits serving economically disadvantaged youth

Purpose: Leveling the Playing Field furnishes schools and community organizations with free new and gently-used sports equipment enabling those groups to provide affordable and accessible youth sports activities for their children who otherwise would not have such opportunities.

Estimated Range of Awards: Access to their warehouse space to take new and gently-used equipment on a continuous basis

Website: <https://www.levelingtheplyingfield.org/apply-for-equipment/>

Opportunity: Lovett Fund for Elementary Drama

Due Date: Rolling basis, beginning in August of each school year

Eligible Applicants: Elementary Educators, 501c3s

Purpose: Funding is available for the production of plays and musicals performed by elementary school students (grades 1–5) in a school program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$300

Website: <http://lovettfoundation.org/elementaryDramaFund.html>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Philly Book Bike

Due Date: Ongoing

Eligibility: Must be located in West Phila, South Phila, or Center City

Purpose: Free Library Book Bikes provide mobile outreach services to schools, to community organizations, and at events throughout the city.

Contact: Please email bookbike@freelibrary.org for inquiries and find them on social media using #FLPBookBike

Website: <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/programs/book-bike/>

Opportunity: Philadelphia Zoo Free Wild Connections

Eligible Applicants: K-12 educators

Purpose: The Philadelphia Zoo has a number of free programs that are available to School District of Philadelphia teachers and students.

1) Live Monthly Webinars- Invites many K-12 students and classes (even from different schools!) to a 45-minute storytelling session with Zoo educators and animal guests! Webinars are held at 10:30am once per month, each on a different topic. Sign up [Here](#).

2) Private Virtual Classes- A live 45-minute interactive virtual program with Zoo educators and animal guests, focused on science topics. These classes are targeted for individual K-4 classes to ensure students have the opportunity to interact and ask questions. Sign up [Here](#).

For questions, please email community@phillyzoo.org.

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: The Awesome Foundation

Due Date: Ongoing - every other month on the second Tuesday

Eligible Applicants: Anyone

Purpose: To support anyone working on a project to improve their community in Philadelphia

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1,000

Website: <https://www.awesomefoundation.org/en/chapters/philadelphia>

Opportunity: Toshiba America Foundation

Due Date: Ongoing

Eligible Applicants: Teachers of grades K-12

Purpose: Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) grants fund the projects ideas and materials teachers need to innovate in their science, technology, engineering and math classrooms. TAF is interested in funding innovative projects designed by teachers or small teams of teachers for use in their own schools and classroom. Applications must be for project based learning.

They do not consider requests for computer hardware (including computers, laptops, and tablets). Summer programs, after-school projects, and independent study projects are not eligible for funding.

Estimated Range of Awards:

GRADES K-5

Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 10/1.

GRADES 6-12

Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 3/1, 6/1, 9/1, & 12/1

Applications for grants of more than \$5,000 are due 5/1 and 11/1.

Website: <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp>

Literacy Resources for Teachers

****Please note that some resources require memberships****

1) The Philly Book Bank

<https://phillybookbank.org/>



The Philly Book Bank is located inside Martin Luther King High School and helps educators get books and resources for their students. Educators can get up to 400 books per school year, as well as supplemental classroom supplies, with a combined value of over \$4,000. **Membership is FREE. Sign up [HERE](#) to be a member.** Book Bank is open on Wednesdays from 3-6pm or by appointment (email anne@phillybookbank.org).

2) Book Smiles

<https://www.booksmiles.org/>



BookSmiles, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, promotes literacy and the joy of reading by giving books to children throughout New Jersey and Greater Philadelphia. Teachers register for a \$25 yearly subscription to pick up books for their classrooms and students at 7300 N. Crescent Blvd, #10 in Pennsauken. **Register [HERE](#).**

3) Tree House Book Visits

<https://www.treehousebooks.org/visits-to-the-tree-house-1>



Tree House is a Community Literacy Center headquartered in North Philadelphia on 1430 W. Susquehanna Ave. Tree House is excited to welcome local schools to enjoy a dynamic, customizable field trip experience at their Giving Library. Students participate in fun games, reading exercises, arts and crafts, and more! Plus, every child gets FREE Books to add to their home library. **Sign up [HERE](#) to set up a visit.**

4) Pride and Less Prejudice

<https://www.prideandlessprejudice.org/>



If you would like to receive free LGBTQ-inclusive books (PreK - 3rd Grade) for your classroom, **please fill out [this form](#). You may only receive books for free once.**

School-Based Staff ONLY:

DonorsChoose

Match Offers for April:

Make sure to check out this month's DonorsChoose Match Offers for Pennsylvania!

Click here to view offers: <https://www.donorschoose.org/match-offers>

Some Highlights Include:

1) Classroom Basics Projects for Never-Before-Funded Teachers in Grades 6-8th

2) Tony the Tiger and Kellogg's Frosted Flakes® matching donations on middle school sports projects

Please note that match offers change frequently

Additional Resources

Policy 702 - Grants, Gifts, Donations, and Fundraising

<https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2025/02/Policy-702.pdf>

Policy 702 Administrative Procedures

<https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2025/02/Policy-702-Procedures-1.pdf>

Philly Fundamentals (Principals ONLY)

<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/TheFundfortheSchoolDistrictofPhiladelphia>

DonorsChoose (Teachers & School-facing Staff)

<https://www.donorschoose.org/>

Contact us for more information.

**440 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130**

**Phone: 215-400-4150
Hours: M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

Email: grants@philasd.org

Website: <https://www.philasd.org/grants/>