

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

MAY 2025 Issue

All,

Happy Teacher's Appreciation Month! We thank you for all your efforts to bring in additional resources for your classrooms and schools.

Our 4th annual School Resource Academy Pitch Day is on May 28th from 3-5pm at the Constance E. Clayton Education Center. School Resource Academy is a series of professional development workshops led by the Office of Grant Development to teach schools to raise funding for their priorities. Pitch Day is our "Shark Tank" style culminating event. If you are interested in applying to next year's cohort, please consider joining us on 5/28 to learn more. Event details can be found on page 2 and if you have any questions please email Laura Lau at llau@philasd.org.

Please reach out to us if you need assistance applying for the opportunities listed in the May newsletter.

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/>

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Pitch Day 5.28.2025



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

4th Annual **SCHOOL** RESOURCE ACADEMY PITCH DAY



School Resource Academy led by The Office of Grant Development trains schools to get funding for their priorities. Pitch Day is our "Shark-Tank style" event. Please join us and support:

**Wednesday
May 28**

3:00-5:00pm

440 N Broad St,
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Auditorium, 2nd Flr

COHORT SY 2024-2025:

- 1) Lewis Elkin Elementary
- 2) Feltonville School of Arts & Sciences
- 3) Kensington Creative & Performing Arts High
- 4) Francis Scott Key Elementary
- 5) Robert E. Lamberton Elementary
- 6) Thomas G. Morton School
- 7) Philadelphia Military Academy
- 8) James J. Sullivan Elementary
- 9) Richard R. Wright Elementary

For questions, please contact Laura Lau at llau@philasd.org

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 May 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: 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 May:

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) Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9):** Donorschoose will be celebrating teachers across the country with special funding boosts throughout the week, including match offers and surprise funding moments to help bring your classroom dreams to life. Teachers are encouraged to create projects now. Updates will be shared via the Donorschoose website, social media, and emails if you have a Donorschoose account.
- 2) Classroom Basics Projects for Never-Before-Funded Teachers in Grades 6-8th**
- 3) 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/>