



Paul Hastings Equitable Education Fund – Fall 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible to apply for your grant program?

Applicants must be educators working at accredited K-12 public, private or charter schools that maintain a 501(c)(3) or 509(a)(1) tax-exempt status. We define “educator” broadly to include all professionals working directly with K-12 students – teachers, paraeducators, school counselors, occupational therapists, library media specialists, or skilled trades staff may apply.

At this time, we are not accepting proposals from educational charities, or outside organizations working with schools.

Are there certain types of projects that are more likely to be funded?

Successful proposals will identify a specific need or learning gap in the school community and detail a program clearly designed to address that need. At this time, the committee is particularly interested in programs that support student’s social-emotional learning during the return to in-person instruction. All applications will be scored according to our [program rubric](#). Proposals with a well-defined need statement and a program design that clearly addresses those needs will receive higher scores.

My classroom is in need of electronic technology. Will the grant cover their purchase and maintenance?

While the focus of the EEF is innovative programming, we recognize the need for laptops, tablets and other electronics is at an all-time high. If laptops or tablets are required for the effective delivery of a proposed program, applicants should demonstrate this in their application materials, and ensure that they do not account for more than 50% of the total overall budget.

My school needs assistance with teacher training. Can an EEF grant be used for professional development expenses?

We understand that educators frequently lack district assistance to pursue meaningful professional development, and that this is an area of great need. EEF grants are program-based, and can include these expenses up to 50% of the total budget amount, so long as a clear need for the training is demonstrated and tied to program goals.

Are grants paid to me directly, or will I need a fiscal sponsor?

At this time, we are asking all applicants to identify a fiscal sponsor to accept and be responsible for grant funds on their behalf. If the EEF were to disburse funds directly to applicants, the IRS may consider the grant personal income and therefore taxable income. The Applicant’s school, school district, school board, institution’s grants administration or development office, or local union may serve as a fiscal sponsor and as a not-for-profit entity and should be able to accept the funds without tax liability. This description is not intended to be tax advice; we suggest that you consult with a tax professional or accountant if you have questions.

If I have received a grant from another source for my program, am I still eligible for funding through the EEF?

Yes. Projects with long-term sustainability are of particular interest to the EEF. Applicants can tell us more about their funding sources in the "Budget" section of the application.

My grant project is going to involve some after-school planning time. In my grant budget, can I include stipends for the individuals who will be helping?

No. Grant funds cannot pay stipends, salaries, or overtime wages.

If I received a grant in the pilot phase, will I be eligible to apply for a grant in this cycle?

Yes. Participation in the pilot phase of the program will not exclude you from participation in this grant cycle.

If you have additional questions, please email us at csr@paulhastings.com.