

# Grant Programs

*Funded April 2021 – February 2022*

EDUCATION MINNESOTA  
**FOUNDATION**



*for Excellence in Teaching and Learning*

*affiliated with*



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

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## *About the Education Minnesota Foundation*

Since 1992, the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has awarded almost 2,000 grants and scholarships totaling over \$5.5 million to educators and nonprofit organizations that work to improve public education in Minnesota. The Foundation is primarily funded through dues from Education Minnesota members, and only those members may apply for a grant or scholarship.

Decisions about grants and scholarships are made by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation—teachers and support professionals who are Education Minnesota members, and one retired member. The Foundation’s day-to-day activities are carried out by the Foundation Director and Foundation Assistant.

[www.edmnfoundation.org](http://www.edmnfoundation.org)

## ***Classroom-Focused Grants***

Classroom-Focused Grants are intended for licensed personnel who work with students and wish to improve their practice and student achievement. Preference is given to projects that address the needs of diverse students or students at risk of failure, involve partnerships, have measurable or observable outcomes, and are replicable. These grants are awarded once per school year.

### **Angela Altringer**

Mounds View Education Association

*Accessible Texts*

**\$1,194.36**

The Accessible Texts project will use funding to purchase sets of decodable texts to be used to assess and better guide our instruction. Students in extension reading groups receive lessons designed to close individual gaps in phonics, reading, and comprehension skills. Each student presents with unique needs and our lessons are designed to meet those needs with a personalized scope and sequence of skills. Our end goal is to help students meet learning targets typical of same-age peers. Decodable texts are sequenced to progressively incorporate words consistent with skills taught at a particular reading level. Using decodable text will allow us to demonstrate a student's mastery of skills at a particular level, in order to move him/her to the next guided reading level.

### **Melissa Borup**

Northfield education Association

*Cultural Cooking Class*

**\$ 1,100.00**

At the Northfield ALC we strive to create and maintain an inclusive environment. One of the ways that we plan to do this is through our cultural potlucks. The Cultural Cooking Class will be a monthly, all school event put together by a group of students and staff members. The group of students will change about every six to eight weeks. If a student wishes to participate in the meal preparation, they will sign up for our Wednesday Cultural Cooking class. In this class we explore the culture of the region we will be celebrating during the month. The menu is created by students. They are required to research traditional meals that are typically served as dishes during the high holidays in the culture. Students will put together a menu and collect all recipes that are needed for the event.

### **Jamie Brigger**

Marshall Education Minnesota

*School to Home Book Baggie*

**\$ 2,970.70**

School to Home Book Baggies will contain decodable books that compliment classroom instruction so students can read at home independently with their parents or caregivers to further develop and accelerate their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills. The school to home reading connection is critical for reading success for young learners in First Grade. This imperative practice has taken on even more importance with the learning loss attributed to learning interruptions due to COVID. Both teachers and parents want and need research-based reading material to use at home to further the reading skills of all learners, but particularly our struggling readers. These texts need to be texts that after explicit and systematic classroom instruction and practice, students can read independently at home for continued practice decoding, fluency and comprehension.

## Deitz Dittrich

Chisago Lakes Education Association

*The Links at Lakeside*

**\$ 3,000.00**

The Links at Lakeside project will create a nine-hole, beginner's disc golf course on the grounds of Lakeside Elementary, corresponding nature trails, and outdoor classroom spaces. In recent years, disc golf has become a personal interest of mine, and I've had the opportunity to play a variety of courses in many states - including several that are located on school grounds. These courses serve as a valuable addition to the physical education curriculum in those schools as well as an asset to families and the greater community who are able to use the resource during non-school hours.

## William Edwards

Education Richfield

*Real World Computer Programming with Robotics*

**\$ 2,950.00**

With this grant I plan to implement the Real World Computer Programming with Robotics project, to help computer science and programming become more accessible, applicable, and relevant to my middle-school technology students. Using robots, drones, and mechanical computers, I will be able to challenge my students' technical thinking and problem-solving skills in unique and interesting ways.

## Rachel Hodson

Mounds View Education Association

*Mindfully Making Math Meaningful*

**\$ 2,981.00**

Our second grade professional learning community has been looking for ways to make math meaningful, engaging, intuitive and accessible to all students. We recognize that the pandemic and online learning interrupted student's access to hands-on materials and peer to peer conversations during math instruction. Our goal is to take our math standards and curriculum to the next level. The Mindfully Making Math Meaningful project is to create and implement a center based approach to math that is hands on, interactive, sparks peer to peer conversations and makes learning math incredibly exciting and engaging. This project will help students become lifelong learners in math by stimulating problem solving and application of mathematical concepts in a real world setting.

## Karen Huberty

Dakota County United Educators

*Middle Schoolers Need Movement*

**\$ 3,000.00**

The Middle Schoolers Need Movement! project will use funds will be used to purchase adjustable tables for my classroom and stationary bikes to share with other classroom teachers in my building. The grant will provide an opportunity for students to continue to work together while standing (or sitting) at an adjustable table. The option for many students to stand while working would give additional movement breaks. The adjustable table would fit 3-4 students at a time, and the group can determine whether to sit or stand. Teachers will also have access to stationary bikes for student use in their classrooms before class, during passing periods, and during managed independent work time. Both stationary bikes and adjustable tables would allow students to self-monitor their movement within the classroom setting.

## **Stephanie Hurtado**

Mounds View Education Association

*Project Unified*

**\$ 3,000**

Project Unified is the next step in Edgewood Middle School's journey to be more inclusive. In 2019 we partnered with Special Olympics to become a Unified Champion School. In 2020 we created a Unified allied arts class that got students with and without intellectual disabilities working side-by-side. This year we have two Unified classes and, with this grant, we could purchase materials for students with the most intensive needs to participate in different projects with their peers. With Project Unified we will achieve greater inclusion as measured by the amount of time students with low incidence disabilities are involved in the same activities as their classmates.

## **Nicole Martinson**

Education Minnesota – Osseo

*Increasing Vocabulary and Language Through Stories*

**\$ 1,075.12**

Through the Increasing Vocabulary and Language Through Stories project, I will purchase sets of multiple books to use in speech and language therapy because stories are a tool which almost all kids engage in a meaningful way and learn vocabulary, sequence, prediction, cause/effect, and social skills.

## **Tanja Putman**

Burnsville Education Association

*Bringing Virtual Learning to Life*

**\$ 3,000**

Through the Bringing Virtual Learning to Life project, we will purchase supplies to send home to our students in kindergarten through 5th grade to help make their learning more hands-on. Many of our students do not have books at home and this project would give them books of their own to keep and read. It would also enable us to have fun opportunities for our students to help make the year memorable while they are learning, such as playdough for making letters and words, pool noodle drumsticks for cardio drumming, items for a bedtime story party, and items for a kindergarten graduation. The supply kits will be checked out to the students throughout the year when we need them and returned if possible to enable us to use them from year to year.

## **Riley Sabby**

Mounds View Education Association

*Rockstar Readers Project*

**\$ 2,986.00**

Creating a classroom library full of high quality, diverse and engaging texts is a goal we strive for in our second grade professional learning community. Due to the pandemic, many students have missed a year of opportunity to engage with meaningful text at their fingertips in their classroom. Through the Rockstar Readers Project, we will provide students with access to books in which they can see their cultures and those of their classmates. When students see themselves in books, they are more invested in their learning and reading success. These books will help represent and teach important ideas such as diversity and inclusion. Additionally, this project will allow students to access a variety of texts at their level and foster a love for reading.

## **Jaclyn Sawyer**

Mounds View Education Association

*Picture Books for a U.S. History 8th Grade Classroom*

**\$ 3,000.00**

I hope to buy picture books to introduce topics for each unit with the Picture Books for a U.S History 8th Grade Classroom project. We work with complex primary sources from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. In order to grasp concepts from these sources, it is helpful for the student to have an idea of the overall “story” to which the primary source pertains. This will help give students background knowledge, pictures, and an overall story to connect more complex ideas to. In this way, I hope more students would be able to understand and give context to our primary sources for our historical concepts.

## **Kevin Sayers**

Education Minnesota Jordan

*One Block at a Time – Elementary Coding Rules*

**\$ 3,000.00**

With One Block At a Time – Elementary Coding Rules, I plan to establish a comprehensive K-4 coding curriculum to make this opportunity a reality for all our students. We will acquire coding robots, coding games and iPads in order to accomplish this reality. I will use my past coding experiences, and my knowledge of a comprehensive coding curriculum to use with all K-4 students here at Jordan Elementary.

## **Lisa Schmid**

Hopkins Education Association

*STEM Heart Start*

**\$ 2,773.00**

STEM Heart Start will allow students to start their day with choice, teamwork and feeling positive about school. This sets students up for a successful day of learning. No matter what kids are leaving at home right now, they are walking into a predictable place where they can warm up their bodies, hearts, and brains for the hard work of learning.

## **Skyller Schmidt**

Education Minnesota BOLD

*Stand for Agriculture*

**\$ 1,520.00**

Standing for Agriculture is a project that will help BOLD students become more focused and active in class! The hope of this project is to give students the chance to stand up during the day and get their blood flowing. With this project, the BOLD agriculture program hopes to buy standing desks to help promote good health and focus in school.

## **Christopher Shuckhart**

Marshall Education Association

*Rocking Chairs*

**\$ 2,955.78**

Through the Rocking Chairs project, I will purchase rocking chairs for students, allowing them to safely reposition themselves and burn excessive energy without disrupting the educational process.



## **Dawn Skinner**

Waseca Education Association

*Theatre for Social Justice*

**\$ 3,000.00**

With Theatre for Social Justice, we will create an acting class at Waseca Area Learning Center, designed to explore and educate students and the community on social justice issues, such as bullying, racism, sexism, genderism, mental health and other cultural biases. This is an important issue for ALC students because many of our students are at an ALC because of these social injustices. By educating the students about social injustice, we can break the cycle of heredity, and help them to change their own future and raise their own families differently. By educating the community, we hope to raise the awareness of the detrimental effects of perpetrating these biases in our own community, and work toward social change and the betterment of society. Education and activism are the only ways to change society, and by teaching this to the most at-risk youth, we will promote grassroots change and help these students face these issues in a positive manner.

## **Marni Vollan**

Education Minnesota – Willmar

*Prairie Lakes Education Center Winter Boots for PE*

**\$ 3,000.00**

The Prairie Lakes Education Center Winter Boots for PE project will purchase waterproof and insulated footwear to be used for physical education programming during the cold winter months for our students. Prairie Lakes Youth Programs (PLYP) is a DOC licensed facility for boys and girls ages 10 to 21 years of age who are in placement for juvenile criminal offenses. The youth who are placed at PLYP often come with only the clothes on their back and little else.

## **Molly Welk**

Mounds View Education Association

*Reading Project*

**\$ 2,998.49**

The Reading Project will provide students with access to books in which they can see their cultures and those of their classmates. When students see themselves in books, they are more invested in their learning and reading success. These books will help represent and teach important ideas such as diversity, inclusion and social emotional skills. Additionally, this project will allow students to access a variety of texts at their level and foster a love for reading.

## **Kristi Wobbema**

Bloomington Federation of Teachers

*Notice & Note: Using Reading Fiction Signposts*

**\$ 3,000.00**

Through Notice & Note: Using Reading Fiction Signposts, we will use strategies that help students engage with texts more deeply and have better conversations to explain their thinking. These signposts show up in picture books, chapter books, and a variety of texts. We will introduce each signpost with a slideshow, Pixar short videos, and mentor texts. After guided practice and classroom discussions about where the signpost shows up in a text and why the author chose to use that signpost, students will be ready to move toward more independent practice. In addition, students will use Post-it notes while reading to show where they notice and note various signposts. It will help students be intentional listeners because they want to be “the one” student who notices a signpost.

## **Rachel Young**

United Teachers of South Washington County

*Preschoolers Accessing Play*

**\$ 2,964.05**

Through the Preschoolers Accessing Play project, we plan to create a lending library of technology and communication devices for our students that are demonstrating high needs in all areas of development, but particularly in the areas of communication, social emotional, and motor. We plan to purchase a variety of switches and switch toys to increase our students' communication skills, ability to make choices, and access to the devices that will help them participate and interact with others in their preschool classroom. We expect that when our students have easier access to technology, which will help support their developmental needs.

## **Michael Zickrick**

Education Minnesota – Intermediate District 917 Local 3904

*Point of Sale (POS) Classroom Work Center*

**\$ 2,450.50**

Through the Point of Sale (POS) Classroom Work Center, we plan to create a training space that would feature a cash register, scanner, shelving, pegboard and cart necessary to create a simulated job environment to develop the soft skills needed for work, and any needed additional hands-on practice to build work skills in point of sales tasks. Alternative program (TESA) has a primary goal of training students for work and ultimately finding “right fit” employment for each job seeker. The Work-Based Learning (WLB) program is utilized by virtually every student who goes through the TESA program.

## **Katie Zuehlke**

Annandale Education Association

*Connecting Cardinals*

**\$ 3,000.00**

Connecting Cardinals will provide monthly in-person and online family events that invite community building and parent education. The challenges of the pandemic have left new kindergarten families without opportunities to make connections with other parents and children. Additionally, due to changing family dynamics and alternative preschool/daycare situations, parents need a better understanding of kindergarten social emotional and readiness goals. Connecting Cardinals will connect and educate families through events such as Be a Leader Picnic, Readiness Radio Show, Snowy Day Play, Friendship Fair, Reading Round Up, Game Day Tea, and more!

## ***Second-Year Classroom Grants***

Classroom-Focused Grant recipients may apply for a second year of funding to extend their project.

## **Chelon Danielson-Morrill**

North St. Paul – Maplewood – Oakdale Education Association

*Unified Physical Education Experience*

**\$3,000.00**

## Professional Development Grants

Professional Development Grants are intended to provide education support professionals (ESPs), higher education faculty of colleges and universities, and teachers with opportunities to take the lead in acquiring and sharing new skills and knowledge. These skills might include new instructional tactics, use of technology, or working with parents. These grants are awarded twice per school year—once in the fall, and again in the spring.

### Classroom Teachers

#### Kyle Chalupsky

Education Lake Superior

*Word Based Learning License*

**\$1,500.00**

#### Tracy Detloff

Education Minnesota New London-Spicer

*Innovative Schools Summit*

**\$1,500.00**

#### Tracy Detloff

Education Minnesota New London-Spicer

*Child and adolescent Mental Health Conference*

**\$1,500.00**

#### Barbara Farland

Robbinsdale Federation of Teachers

*SEL: The Real Essential Skills Series*

**\$1,007.00**

#### Craig Farmer

State Residential Schools Education Association

*Winslow Homer's Diverse Subjects*

**\$3,000.00**

#### Carmen Gavin Vanegas

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP

*Indigenous Educational Practices*

**\$1,500.00**

#### Marianne Hasselberg

Milaca Education Association

*Group members: Kyle Shepard*

*MAAP Conference for Cooperative – Milaca*

**\$500.00**

#### Karen Huberty

Dakota County United Educators

*This We Believe – Educating Our Middle*

*Level Learners After the Pandemic*

**\$3,000.00**

#### Karen Huberty

Dakota County United Educators

*Group members: Maureen Bechard*

*No Limits*

**\$3,000.00**

#### Jacqueline Johnson

Southwest-West Central Service Cooperatives

Certified Staff Association

*Special Education Mediation Training*

**\$1,500.00**

#### Amanda Markle

Education Richfield

*Group members: Kristin Artigue, Callan Chamberlin,*

*Angela Fish, Asimina Syrika, Dana Thompson*

*ASHA Schools Connect Conference*

**\$2,094.00**

#### Nicole Martinson

Education Minnesota – Osseo

*Visualizing and Verbalizing Language*

*Comprehension and Thinking*

**\$1,281.00**

#### Margaret Preston

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP

*Group members: Samantha Dibble, Karisa*

*Marquardt, Emily Renner, Amanda Vang, Jill*

*Oxborough*

*Orton Gillingham Training*

**\$7,650.00**

### **Melissa Ries**

Education Minnesota – Osseo

*MACMH Conference*

**\$350.00**

### **Melissa Ries**

Education Minnesota – Osseo

*Mental Health Conference April 24-26*

**\$650.00**

### **Emily Seeger**

Saint Paul Federation of Educators

*WEB (Where Everybody Belongs)*

*Coordinator 3 Day Training*

**\$1,500.00**

### **Angelica Torralba-Olague**

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP

*Group members: Kassie Benjamin-Ficken,*

*Irene Amrani, Kristen Gupta*

*Trauma Informed Care from a*

*Cultural Perspective Conference*

**\$6,000.00**

### **Christine Valento**

Duluth Federation of Teachers

*National Gallery of Art Professional Development*

**\$1,500.00**

### **Katie Zuehlke**

Annandale Education Association

*Get Your Teach On*

**\$1,500.00**

## *Education Support Professionals*

### **Lindsay Anderson**

Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and ESP

*Yoga Calm in Out of School Time (OST)*

**\$1,080.00**

## *Higher Education Faculty*

### **Jessie Breyer-Peterson**

MSCF – Century College

*Best Practices in the Teaching of*

*Psychology: NITOP Conference*

**\$3,000.00**

### **Anna Gryczman**

MSCF – Century College

*Medical Education Forum 2022*

**\$3,000.00**

### **Lori Halverson-Wente**

MSCF – Rochester Community and Technical College

*Group members: Annie Clement, Grace*

*Olive, Teresa Tweeten, Karin Wright*

*Building Intercultural Competence & Development*

*Equity and Inclusion Goals: IDI Training*

**\$7,500.00**

### **Robert Kilbourn**

MSCF – North Hennepin

*European Congress of Psychology*

*Conference (Ljubljana, Slovenia)*

**\$2,900.00**

### **Renu Kumar**

MSCF – Minneapolis College

*To Participate in the American Society of*

*Microbiology Meeting “ASM Microbe”*

**\$3,000.00**

### **Tina LeBrun**

MSCF – South Central College

*National Farm Business Management*

*Conference*

**\$2,875.00**

## **Alyssa Nelson**

MSCF – Vermilion Community College  
*International Water Rescue Instructor Academy*

**\$2,745.00**

## **Denise Reeser**

MSCF – South Central College  
*Advocating for Farm Success*

**\$2,700.00**

## **Jen Ouellette-Schramm**

MSCF – Riverdale Community  
*Immunity to Change Facilitator's Workshop*

**\$2,950.00**

## **IMPACT Grants**

The Education Minnesota Foundation seeks to encourage and support broad-based efforts to inject meaningful, long-lasting change in the policies and practices that shape teaching and learning through the IMPACT Grant. Education Minnesota members team up with nonprofits who are agents in driving systemic change, and together they create innovative program designs and projects with the intent of positively impacting the learning experiences of Minnesota students. These grants are awarded once per school year.

## **Amy Pahl**

Education Minnesota - Willmar  
*Addressing Teaching Attrition*

**\$ 14,995.47**

We plan to implement a trauma-informed model for staff designed to reduce turnover in the district. Retaining the expertise of teachers who choose to stay in the district means gains in the classroom and retention of funds typically lost to turnover translates to greater opportunity for students.

## **Adrienne Young Koplitz**

Prior Lake-Savage Education Association  
*Prior Lake-Savage Education Association's Coalition for Teachers of Color*

**\$ 14,900.00**

This project is to address the common systemic barriers keeping our district from addressing the severe and persistent shortage of Teachers of Color. The PLSEAS CTOC exists to facilitate a network for educators and stakeholders where traditionally marginalized voices are heard, supported and uplifted; works to build a staff that reflects our student population, while advocating for student access to staff of color who share their values and experiences; believes that anti-racism is only achievable through an indigenous democracy.

## **IMPACT Second-Year Grants**

IMPACT Grant recipients may apply for a second year of funding to extend their project.

## **Beth Popalisky**

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota  
*Educator Development Through SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity)*

**\$15,000.00**

## National Board Certified Teachers Scholarships

The process to become a National Board Certified Teacher is demanding and complex. For members willing to commit to the process, the Education Minnesota Foundation offers scholarships to help offset the costs. Thanks to a generous donation from Tradition Mortgage, the Education Minnesota Foundation is able to award scholarships to applicants each year. These scholarships are awarded once per school year.

### Natalia Benjamin

Rochester Education Association  
*English as a New Language – Early  
Adolescence through Young Adulthood*  
**\$1,000.00**

### Karla Carroll

Austin Education Association  
*Exceptional Needs Specialist – Early  
Childhood through Young Adulthood*  
**\$1,000.00**

### Kathryn Gardner

Rochester Education Association  
*Social Studies – History - Adolescence  
and Young Adulthood*  
**\$500.00**

### Jodi Hansen

Education Minnesota – Worthington  
*Science – Adolescence and Young Adulthood*  
**\$500.00**

### Gary Mansergh

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota  
*Science – Adolescence and Young Adulthood*  
**\$1,000.00**

### Anna Parvi

Saint Paul Federation of Educators  
*English as a New Language – Early  
Adolescence through Young Adulthood*  
**\$500.00**

### Eugenia Popa

Saint Paul Federation of Educators  
*English as a New Language – Early  
Adolescence through Young Adulthood*  
**\$500.00**

### Marta Stoeckel

North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale  
Education Association  
*Science – Adolescence and Young Adulthood*  
**\$500.00**

### Christopher Vaughan

Education Minnesota - Edina  
*English as a New Language – Early  
and Middle Childhood*  
**\$500.00**

### Yunqing Wang

Education Minnesota – Kimball  
*Exceptional Needs Specialist – Early  
Childhood through Young Adulthood*  
**\$1,000.00**

**Total projects and scholarships awarded:**

**68**

**Amount funded:**

**\$189,596.47**

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*The benefit of union membership.*



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