

2017-2018

# ENGAGEMENT GRANTS FAQ



If you do not find your questions answered below, please contact the Foundation of Vancouver Public Schools at 360.313.4725 or email [WenLyn.Richter@vansd.org](mailto:WenLyn.Richter@vansd.org).

## **What is the Engagement Grant and how does it differ from previous FVPS school grants?**

In an effort to better align with the strategic direction of VPS, the Engagement Grant is an expansion of previous FVPS Enrichment Grants. The Engagement Grant's purpose is to strengthen the engagement of our students through enrichment opportunities that open new windows onto the world, provide new and unexplored experiences that spark their interest and help them envision /plan for their future success in college, career and life. Some students need a helping hand and the grant will support mentoring efforts to help them stay in school and stay focused on the road to graduation. The grant will also be extended to help support the schools' efforts to increase family engagement.

## **What does the Engagement Grant cover?**

Enrichment projects & activities; mentoring program/activities; family engagement efforts/events. A list of all projects funded in 2016-17 is attached.

## **Where is the application form?**

All Engagement Grant application materials are available on the Staff Portal > Departments > Foundation for VPS

## **Who can apply?**

FVPS will accept one application per school. One application may include several different smaller projects. Any school staff member can submit an application. However, all applications have to be approved by the building principals. Applications without the principals' approval will not be considered.

## **When are the deadlines and when are decisions made?**

Applications are accepted and decisions are made on a rolling basis between Oct 1, 2017 and January 31, 2018. Please allow 2 weeks for review and processing (up to 6 weeks if your request is outside of the grant parameters which will require further review).

## **What happens after I send in my application?**

You will receive an email confirmation. Your application will be reviewed by FVPS staff and the VPS Directors of Teaching & Learning. If approved, you will be informed that your application has been approved. If your application is not approved, a FVPS staff member will be in contact with you to help you revise your application or submit an alternate application.

**Can I contact someone before I fill out the application to see if my program/project will be appropriate?**

Yes. Please contact WenLyn Richter at 360.313.4725 or [wenlyn.richter@vansd.org](mailto:wenlyn.richter@vansd.org).

**Can I combine the Engagement Grant allocation with other funds to pay for a larger project?**

Yes.... as long as the project meets the Engagement Grant guidelines.

**What will the grant NOT cover?**

- Capital projects
- Staff salaries, travel or conference fees.
- Student wages or salaries
- Projects/items that are typically the funding responsibility of the district
- Incentives or rewards for students (e.g. special events, parties, food, toys, etc.)
- Technology (including software) and multi-media equipment including, but not limited to, document cameras, projectors, amplification systems, iPads, laptops, media players or other components
- Merchandise, services or programs that are unrelated to the efforts to engage students or families

**If my application is not approved, are there alternate sources of funding?**

Yes.... there are numerous organizations in our community that will accept funding requests directly from the schools. Attached is a list of select organizations. Please note that each one has different datelines and requirements. This list is also available on the Staff Portal under "Foundation for Vancouver Public Schools"

**Are there any other guidelines?**

- Funds must be spent within the 2017-2018 school year.
- Items purchased with grant funds do not become the personal property of a staff member.
- All project materials must remain at the school where the project originated.
- If you have questions about how to access your funds, we recommend that you contact the FVPS Business Manager, Mary Gertson at 360.313.4726 or [Mary.Gertson@vansd.org](mailto:Mary.Gertson@vansd.org) before you incur the expense(s).
- A final report of your program/project (with photos, testimonials, etc) is required and is due at the FVPS office by June 30, 2018.