

BPSF 4A GRANTS

2017/18 - Instructions & Criteria



The Brainerd Public Schools Foundation is proud to announce the opening of the grant cycle for **2017/18 BPSF 4A Grants**. The Foundation has committed \$35,000 of its funds to the 4A granting program this year. In addition, we are excited to add an additional \$5k in matching funds from a grant we co-wrote to NJPA for a new total of \$40,000 for innovative projects! The Foundation is proud to sponsor innovative projects requested by Brainerd Public Schools educators that will enrich and enhance the fine education our students are receiving in our district.

BPSF is a nonprofit organization founded in 1987. The Foundation receives tax deductible donations and bequests of money and property, exclusively for the welfare and benefit of the students and school programs where funds are not otherwise available.

Since 1996, BPSF has made over \$200,000 in grants available to teachers for special projects that have had great impact on student learning. These grants are funded through general donations, BPS staff campaign donations, the Big Event and other event proceeds, and five specifically endowed funds held with BPSF.

BPSF 4A Grant Criteria: As you plan your innovative project, please keep in mind that grant dollars are distributed among the 4A funds. Please select the 4A fund category (academics, activities, arts and athletics) or categories most aligned with your project. To learn more about these categories, please see www.bpsf.org

All purchased equipment becomes the property of Brainerd Public Schools, not the individual administering the grant. The following guidelines will help you with your application:

- Applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding from other agencies if projects are partially funded by the Foundation. We seek to fund as many applications as possible but frequently find that requests outpace our available funds each year. We will attempt to align you with our many partners that may also fund your project partially or completely. It is our goal and hope that together we can enhance education for as many students as possible in this manner.
- Priority will be given to projects that continue to impact many students over time and may be sustained without significant additional funding.
- **We do not fund** staff development, staffing costs, seminars/conferences for educators, and prefer tangible items and equipment that reach the greatest number of educators and students by sharing within buildings or re-use in subsequent school years. We aim to supplement programming, not supplant.

- Our average grant size is typically less than \$1,000. If your project exceeds this amount, please also show us how partial funding would be possible.

All approved funds can be accessed through your buildings' normal purchasing channels and through District Media, but must be used in full by May 1st, 2018.

A committee comprised of BPSF Board members, school, and community representatives will select the projects to be funded. All applicants must discuss requests with their Administrator (and the Director of Technology, if applicable).

Grant Applications are due at 11:59PM VIA Google Forms on Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

Grant awards will be announced in mid-December.

Along with the grant approval, you will be awarded (1) ticket to our 2018 Big Event on 2/3/18 at 5pm. This ticket is intended for you to attend and your grant to be recognized as part of our event program. We may ask you to explain the use and impact of the grant publicly and/or accept the grant on stage during the Big Event. If you are unable to attend, we assume you will let us know and will find an appropriate substitute who can represent you as a grant recipient. Due to popularity of this event, your ticket will only be held until January 15th, if we do not hear from you, your ticket will be released for sale to the general public at that time.

Thank you for your interest in BPSF and its 4A Grants. Please contact us with questions.

Thanks you!

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