TEACHING
TOLERANCE
A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG

2017-2018 TEACHING TOLERANCE

Educator Grant Guidelines

Our Vision

At Teaching Tolerance, we support educators who embrace and embed anti-bias principles throughout their schools. To demonstrate our support, we are pleased to announce a new project: Teaching Tolerance Educator Grants. These grants, ranging from $500-$10,000, will further our mission by supporting projects that promote affirming school climates and educate youth to thrive in a diverse democracy.

Teaching Tolerance grants will fund three different types of projects: classroom-level, school-level and district-level. At the classroom level, teachers will use the grants to fund programming that promotes empathy and kindness, positive identity development, perspective taking, critical thinking about injustice and collective action. At the school and district levels, leadership teams will use the grants to improve school climate, reduce hate, support culturally responsive practices and implement anti-bias curricula. Whether implemented at the school, classroom or district level, we seek to fund projects that culminate in measurable student outcomes and demonstrable student work.

Our hope is to build, over time, a network of grantees—educators who are enthusiastic about learning from each other and sharing their experiences with the broader Teaching Tolerance community.

Who Is Eligible?

Educators who work in public or private K-12 spaces, as well as in alternative schools, therapeutic schools and juvenile justice facilities are eligible to apply. Educators at community-based, informal learning sites are not eligible to apply at this time.

What We Fund

Classroom-Level

These projects offer teachers the resources necessary to create safe and welcoming classrooms that reflect the outcomes described in the Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards. Preference is given to projects that emphasize student action and promote student voice. We make funding decisions based on the following criteria.

School and District-Level

These projects should be supported by a school or district leadership team. They will focus on improving school climate, responding to and preventing incidents of hate, or embedding the concepts found in the Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards into the school- or district-wide curriculum. These projects may also focus on improving teachers' capacities to adopt the practices articulated in Critical Practices for Anti-bias Education and in our school climate resources, or to promote dialogue among school and district community members about anti-bias issues at school.

Project Criteria

We make funding decisions based on the following criteria.

Objectives

- How do your goals and outcomes align with our program's vision?
- How is the project relevant to students?
- How are students involved in project planning or execution?

Demonstrated Need

- Who will be served by this project?
- How does the project fill a clear gap in the school's capacity to serve students?

Sustainability & Support

- What is the commitment from a leadership team?
- How is it expressed by various stakeholders (for example, administration, students, families and school resource officers)?

Results

- What are you trying to achieve and how will you report results?
- How will you demonstrate the impact of the project?

How To Apply

1. Carefully review our project criteria and guidelines.
2. Prepare a short (100-200 words) narrative description of your project.
3. Prepare a line-item budget.
4. Complete the online application at Tolerance.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have to be a teacher to apply for a grant? We expect that teachers and administrators in K-12 settings will be the primary grantees. However, we also support school personnel working in facilities where students receive their main education. This could include juvenile justice facilities, therapeutic schools, or alternative schools, for instance.

How will I be notified of my submission status? You will be notified by e-mail when we receive your application, and again when the status of your application has been determined.

How long does it take to get a response? We anticipate a high volume of applications, and appreciate your patience when waiting for a reply. We hope to respond to applications within ten to twelve weeks.

Why hasn't my project been chosen? We support projects from a wide range of geography, demographics, school type, and content. If your project has not been chosen this time around, we encourage you to apply again at another time, because the pool of applicants may have changed. Teaching Tolerance generally funds projects that deliver the most sustainable student impact.

Are grants awarded to the individual, or to the institution? Why do I have to provide a Federal Tax ID Number? Am I going to be taxed if I receive a grant? Grants are awarded to institutions, either schools or other non-profit groups. We cannot award grants to individuals. You will need to provide a W9 from your institution if your grant is approved.

If my project is approved, does this make me, or my school, ineligible in the future? Definitely not. We support individuals working on on-going, multi-year projects, and educators may submit multiple times over the course of multiple years.

Are there official dates for the start and end of a project? No, there are no concrete deadlines for the start and end of projects. Appropriate timelines will be determined based on the needs of individual projects.

Will I need to complete a follow-up report about my project? Yes. Grantees are expected to submit results of their projects, as well as a final post-project evaluation form.

How many times can I receive a grant? Grants are limited to one per applicant per school year.

Is it legal to upload information about my students online? There are some legal considerations involved when sharing information about your students. For more information about the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), click here. To learn more about the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA], click here.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. We hope to respond to your application within ten to twelve weeks.
Questions about the Teaching Tolerance Grants program? Contact the Grants Manager at TTGrants@tolerance.org.