

An Introduction to the 2020-21 Oklahoma Public School Classroom Support Grant

What's the Opportunity?

The Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) is excited to accept applications for the Public School Classroom Support grant for the 2020-21 school year. Grants from individuals and teams of teachers can range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Though Focal Areas always follow the textbook adoption cycle as a way of supplementing the teacher's needs as they work to implement new standards, this year's Focal Areas include Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy (CSP) in addition to Social Studies. Superintendent Joy Hofmeister recognized in her [June 6, 2020, letter to school and district leaders](#) the critical importance of creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students, she has made clear that "now is the time to ramp up efforts to build a positive school culture cemented in dignity and respect." In light of her call to hold the Oklahoma State Department of Education accountable as we "work to unmask and remedy a cultural bias that holds back students and widens opportunity gaps," the inclusion of CSP is an opportunity for teachers to think about how their classrooms are designed to create opportunities for all learners to be understood and supported as they engage in classrooms across Oklahoma.

All proposals should showcase how the requested funds will be utilized to improve student learning, and all expenses should be directly related to instruction and student learning experiences.

Grant Timeline

First Full Week of October

Announce grant Focal Areas and application documents

October 30, 2020

Applications due by 5:00 p.m.
(download [Application Package on page 2](#))

Week of November 16, 2020

Recipients announced via email and EngageOK
Educators mailing list

Upon Notification

Recipients of the grant may begin purchasing approved items from their budget

January 31, 2021

1st Mid-Year Report due

April 30, 2021

2nd Mid-Year Report due

June 30, 2021

Final Report Due

This Year's Focal Areas

→ Focal Area 1: Social Studies

- All teachers of Social Studies at all grade levels are eligible to apply under this Focal Area.
- Strong proposals identify how particular instructional strategies and learning experiences aligned to the new [Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies](#) will be improved by the purchase of materials and resources listed in the application budget.
- Strong proposals prioritize the Social Studies Practices.



- Strong proposals create new opportunities for students to engage with and understand different cultures, understand the rights of citizens to engage in the democratic process and to learn about the history of racial injustice.
- Guidance for the content of applications is provided in the brief, [“How can I help my students explore and reason about social issues?”](#)

→ **Focal Area 2: Culturally Sustaining Teaching**

- All teachers of any grade or content area are eligible to apply under this focal area.
- Strong proposals identify how particular learning experiences will be improved by the purchase of materials and resources listed in the application budget and are reflective of the characteristics of culturally sustaining teaching. ([Read more here](#) and [research here](#).)
- Strong proposals explicitly create opportunities to identify students’ assets and create a supportive classroom environment. ([Read more here](#). [Read about why Culturally Sustaining is used in the name of this Focal Area.](#))
- Guidance for the content of applications is provided in the brief, [“How can I honor and extend the languages, literacies and practices of my students and communities?”](#)

Application Package

1. **Proposal Summary** - All proposals must use this template to provide a high-level overview of your proposal. Applicant and administration signatures are required.
 - [Download DOCX](#) or [create Google Doc copy](#)
2. **Proposal Narrative** - The proposal narrative must use this template and be under five pages in length. Three guiding questions are provided.
 - [Download DOCX](#) or [create Google Doc copy](#)
3. **Budget Narrative** - The proposal budget must use this template. All expenses should include associated costs for shipping, etc. Do not include taxes.
 - [Download DOCX](#) or [create Google Doc copy](#)



Access all application documents [here](#).
Submit your application [here](#) **no later than October 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.**

Encouragement from Last Year’s Awardees

The first year of the Oklahoma Public Schools Classroom Support Grant was a success thanks to the energy, innovation, and commitment of everyone who applied and was awarded. Taxpayer funds are put to good use expanding access to the learning experience we hope for all our students. The following comments were shared by a few of the awardees to encourage you as you consider applying for this year’s grant.

- This was a fabulous opportunity that enabled me to purchase valuable resources that had been lacking in my classroom! Don’t let the applications process put you off. Take it one step at a time and it’s very easy!
- The opportunity to apply for, and receive, this grant is so greatly appreciated! Our school was able to obtain very valuable math manipulatives and resources that we didn’t otherwise have the funds to purchase. This has truly made a difference in the daily operations in our math classrooms!
- I encourage you to apply. The application process was simple. It allowed me to purchase items that I would not have been able to otherwise.

For more guidance, please review the following briefs addressing this year’s Focal Areas:

- [How can I help my students explore and reason about social issues?](#)
- [How can I honor and extend the languages and literacies and practices of my students and communities?](#)

