

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Worcester Educational Development Foundation Accepting Applications for Spring 2026 Mini-Grants as Part of “20 for 20” Anniversary Celebration

Worcester, MA — [January 27, 2026] — The Worcester Educational Development Foundation (WEDF) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for Spring 2026 Mini-Grants, offering funding of up to \$500 per grant to support innovative and enriching projects for students in the Worcester Public Schools (WPS).

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, WEDF is proud to launch its “20 for 20” Mini-Grant Initiative, through which the Foundation will award 20 mini-grants to Worcester Public Schools educators during the Spring 2026 cycle. This special anniversary initiative honors two decades of partnership with WPS by investing directly in classrooms and the educators who inspire learning every day.

Founded to expand educational opportunities for WPS students and teachers, WEDF’s Mini-Grant Program empowers instructional staff to bring extraordinary learning experiences into their classrooms. Projects that creatively engage students and align with WEDF’s mission are encouraged, with special consideration given to initiatives that connect Worcester Public Schools alumni with current classrooms.

Eligibility & Focus Areas

Instructional staff members in the Worcester Public Schools are eligible to apply. Funded projects must align with at least one of WEDF’s four focus areas:

- Arts and Culture
- College and Career Readiness
- Health and Wellness
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

Allowable Use of Funds

Grant funds may be used for:

- Instructional and non-instructional materials
- Transportation and fees for field trips or competitions (preference given to trips within Worcester or Worcester County)

- Consultants

Funds may not be used for stipends or salaries for Worcester Public Schools personnel.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit a proposal of no more than two pages, approved or signed by the building principal or immediate supervisor. Applications must clearly describe:

- How the learning need connects to one of WEDF's focus areas
- How the grant activities will address that need
- Why the project is special, unique, and engaging
- How success will be evaluated

A **line-item budget** is required. Attachments are not permitted.

How to Apply

Application forms and the scoring rubric are available at www.wedfwps.org/mini-grants. Completed applications should be emailed in PDF format to execdir@wedfwps.org, with the building principal or immediate supervisor copied on the submission. Educators seeking assistance with proposal development are encouraged to reach out for support.

Awards & Timeline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis by a broad-based review committee while funds remain available. Requests may be submitted at any time prior to May 1, 2026, and award decisions will be communicated within 2 weeks of submission.

About Worcester Educational Development Foundation

The Worcester Educational Development Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for students and educators in the Worcester Public Schools through grants, scholarships, and community partnerships. Since its founding, WEDF has invested in classrooms across the district to ensure students have access to innovative, engaging, and equitable learning experiences.