



Steps to Success

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the grant amounts awarded?

Schools are eligible for a \$5,000 or \$10,000 grant.

What are the GIFTS grant focus areas?

- Catholic Identity
- Educational Innovation
- Development/Marketing
- Project Initiation: Seed Money

What are some ideas to consider when selecting the project/program you are requesting a GIFTS grant for?

- Consider programs or projects that generate learning opportunities beyond what already exists and has traditionally been done. We look for innovative ideas that enhance the educational experience and can create a new learning component.
- Consider a project or program that involves Innovation that will distinguish your school from local alternatives.
- Consider the Catholic component of Catholic education.
- Consider a project or program that Introduces or improves services offered to students with learning challenges or disadvantages.

What will make my GIFTS grant application stand out?

- The application clearly explains the project goal.
- The application explains the needs that will be met by the project.
- The project budget is clear and complete.
- What objective measurements of the project's effectiveness can you provide? One metric is acceptable but multiple metrics are better.
- If the project is not a one-time project, is the implementation sustainable and is there a realistic source of future funding?
- If possible, is there a link to the Parish and/or community to strengthen those relationships and the learning experience of the students?

GIFTS grants cannot be written for:

- Salaries and other ongoing operational costs.
- Normal rotation of replacement curriculum materials, Chromebooks, etc.

Does every GIFTS grant selection committee member know about my school?

No. Do not assume a grant selection committee member is as familiar with the project and your school as you are. Successful grant applications will give as much detail as possible.

What questions are considered when the grant selection committee reviews your grant application?

- Is the purpose clear?
- Can someone not familiar with your school easily understand your request?
- If this is a Marketing/Development grant request, is the return on investment realistic?

How is our grant application evaluated?

GIFTS grant applications that receive the highest marks will complete the following:

Project Design	Proposal articulates procedures and activities that are well defined, fully explained, and linked to project goals.
Project Goals	Goals for the project are clearly described and thoroughly documented; proposal aligns with the NSBECS.
Project Impact	The proposal includes a well-developed narrative on how the program/project will positively impact the school culture and/or community in both the short and long term.
Plans for Project Evaluation and Participant Assessment	Proposal includes a variety of methods to assess participants and evaluate the project.
Budget	Budget is complete and contains required information. Budget is cost effective and linked to activities and outcomes.

