



## What is the Great Idea Grants Program?

The Consortium for Public Education rewards innovative and exciting educational ideas through its Great Idea Grants Program. Small grant awards are available to teachers, administrators, counselors and other professionals in the districts in which The Consortium For Public Education works and which meet the criteria for participation (See “Who is Eligible” section below). Grants are offered twice a year (October and February). The program is designed as a vehicle for educators to translate their ideas into actual learning experiences to promote student success. The Great Idea Grants Program is supported financially by The Grable Foundation and by the contributions from businesses, organizations and individuals.

## Who is Eligible to Apply for a Grant?

Teams of professional staff members in any school district that is actively engaged with the work of the Consortium will be eligible for the Great Idea Grants Program. *At this time Charter Schools and Cyber Schools are not eligible for the Great Idea Grants Program.* Active engagement is defined as participating in 2 or more of the Consortium’s programs/initiatives. At this time, these include involvement in:

- The Consortium’s Leadership Design Teams (counts as 2)
- The Middle High Forum (counts as 2)
- Journey to Learn (counts as 2)
- The Future Is Mine (a high school program) (counts as 1)
- Skills For Life (training and implementation of the LifeSkills Training curriculum at either the elementary, middle, or high school level) (counts as 1)
- Expect Respect (a high school program designed to raise awareness of the dangers of teen dating violence) (counts as 1)
- Pathways to Health Careers (a high school program) (counts as 1)
- “Hear Me” Project (counts as 1)

Criteria for participation from teams at the regional AVTS/CTCs include:

- Active participation in The Future Is Mine (all projects and the Student Leadership Conference)
- Having representation (from the advisory board or school) on the regional review committee
- Participating in special opportunities as invited. (example: student hearings)

## What Types of Grants Are Available?

Grant proposals with budget requests from \$100 to a maximum of \$5,000 will be considered.

## When Are Grants Awarded?

The deadline for the Fall round of grants is the first Friday in October. The deadline for the Spring round of grants is the first Friday in February.

## Who Reviews Grants?

Beginning in the 2008-09 school year, all grants are reviewed by a special Regional Grants Review Committee that meets in the first week of November for the Fall round of grants, and in the first week of March for the Spring round. The committee is composed of both school and community representatives from the various counties of the region.

## What Criteria Are Considered in the Review of Grants?

- First and foremost, does the proposal contain a "Great Idea"?  
This is the critical issue! Good ideas are noted for their merit; however, great ideas get funded.
- Does the "Idea" have a clear purpose? Does it implement a creative project? Does it enrich or greatly benefit the students?
- Does the project generate excitement about the topic or toward learning?
- Does the project create learning interaction between the students and the project?
  - Between the students and teachers?
  - Between students and students?
  - Between the school and community?
- Is the budget clear and realistic?
  - Are purchases integral to the project?
  - Is purchasing equipment the only way or the best way to allow this project to happen?
- Are the project's goals clear and realistic?
- Does the project address a specific need or problem for the applicants?
- Will the project be ongoing?
- Does the project have parent/community involvement in its design or implementation?
- Is the grant integrated into more than one area of the curriculum?
- Does the project enhance or connect to any other programs/grants/goals in the school or school district?
- Does the project align with the PA Academic Standards?
- How many students benefit from this project?
- Does the school/district demonstrate financial need as indicated by the percentage of their students on free/reduced lunch?
- Are the applicants willing to share their ideas/program with others?