2025-2026
Grants for Excellence
Overview and application

The Grants for Excellence program provides funding to Saginaw County educators for creative educational projects outside of traditional school budgets. Desired outcomes of this program include:

For students

- Engaging programming for all learning styles
- Growth in understanding of subject matter
- Increases in curiosity and meaningful participation
- Confidence in learning ability

For educators

- Develop and share innovative teaching methods
- Foster exciting classroom environments
- Inspire professional development and growth

Review criteria

Applications are reviewed on a competitive basis by an advisory committee. Grants for Excellence proposals are evaluated on a number of criteria; including, but not limited to:

- Number of students impacted from the project
- Educational objectives supplement the P-12 curriculum
- Potential to improve students' understanding of core concepts
- Potential for continuation and/or replication of the project in future school years
- Enhancement of the skills and/or resources for educators

Discouraged Requests

There are many needs of educators; however, due to limited funding the following components are discouraged unless they are vital for the success of the project:

- Basic technology assets (i.e. computers, tablets, audio and video equipment, etc.)
- Field trips
- Tuition or similar program fees
- Renovation of facilities (never permitted for funding)
- Religion-based activities and teachings (never permitted for funding)

Evaluation

Grantees are required to provide a written report to the Saginaw Community Foundation at the conclusion of their project, no later than July 1, 2026. A copy of the evaluation form will be provided to the grant recipient.

Additionally, Grantees may be requested to present their project to the advisory committee in the month of April following their grant award. This activity is to help the committee connect with educators and improve this program moving forward.

Timeline

Application deadline:
November 1, 2025

Notification of decision:
December 2025

Project implementation:
2025-26 school calendar year

Eligibility criteria

All Saginaw County P-12 educators are eligible to apply. While more than one application may be submitted, only one grant will be awarded per individual, per year.

Grant amounts

The maximum grant award is $1,500.

For more information

Contact Chamika Ford at
chamika@saginawfoundation.org

SCF

Saginaw
community foundation

1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B • Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 755-0545 • Fax (989) 755-6524
saginawfoundation.org

Grants for Excellence Application

Completed applications must include:

1) An official proposal number. Provided to applicants after contacting the grant administrator.
2) This completed and signed grant application form: All information should be completed to the best of your ability.
3) Project Narrative – As an attachment to this application, the Project Narrative should be no more than two, single-spaced pages in length. Please use the following headers (the prompts are suggestions to help describe your project):
   A. **Statement of Purpose**: What subject curriculum does this project aim to enhance? How are students going to be engaged and participating in a new way in the classroom? Describe how you feel this project is innovative or employs teaching elements traditionally left out of your classroom.
   B. **Project Impact**: How many students are you expecting to participate in this project? What educational outcomes does this project aim to improve? How does this project address the needs of your classroom and your school?
   C. **Implementation/Timeline**: Specify the activities to be undertaken and the timeline for their implementation. Include any future plans; do you plan to utilize the materials or skills developed from this project in the future?
   D. **Evaluation**: Describe how you plan to assess and measure your project's success. What methods will you use to identify if your project has met its goals?
4) Financial Information:
   A. On the "Budget Information" page located on page 3, fill in the tables provided with the comprehensive budget for your project. List all sources of income and detail all expenses.
   B. If applicable, add any other documentation substantiating your project expenses.

If you have any questions regarding this application please contact Chamika Ford, program officer, via phone: (989) 755-0545 or email: chamika@saginawfoundation.org

Applications are to be submitted to the Saginaw Community Foundation via email: chamika@saginawfoundation.org, fax: (989) 755-6524, or mailed to: 1 Tuscola, Suite 100B, Saginaw, MI 48607. Submissions are due by 11:59 p.m., Nov. 1, 2025.

Proposal Number: _____

Name of School: _____ **School District:** _____

Address: _____ **City, State, ZIP:** _____

Phone: _____

Contact person for this application (name & title)**:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Other staff involved in this project (name & title, if applicable)**:** _____
_____

Application Authorization:

Principal (Printed): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Applicant (Printed): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Project Information

Project title: _____

Project start date: _____   **Project end date:** _____

Grade(s) served by this project: _____   **Number of classes served:** _____

Estimated # of students this project will serve: _____

Subject(s) addressed through this project: _____

_____

Project Summary

Provide a brief project overview (no more than half of a page in length):

Budget Information

- In the tables below, itemize any pending or confirmed sources of revenue and estimated expenses relating to this project. Add additional lines if necessary.
- Total revenue _must_ equal total expense to show how you plan on funding the project.
- Attach any documentation substantiating expenses (bids, quotes, etc.) when submitting this completed grant application.

Revenues for Project:

Funding Source	Amount	Confirmed	Pending
Saginaw Community Foundation (amount requested)	$		X
	$		
	$		
	$		
	$		
	$		
Total Project Revenue:	$		

Expenses for Project:

Item (materials, supplies, equipment, etc.)	Estimated Costs
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
Total Project Expense:	$

If you were to receive partial funding, what is the smallest amount you could receive and still implement the project? $ _____