

## **Immersive Professional Learning Grant Criteria**

### **Great Falls Public Schools Foundation**

#### **WHAT:**

- Grants will be awarded competitively to school teachers in the Great Falls Public Schools District to support immersive professional learning (IPL). The goal is to transform the singular learning experience of the instructor into multiple new ways to teach students and engage colleagues.
- The Foundation anticipates awarding two to six grants annually.
- The opportunity is designed to spark a teacher's interest to seek sources of professional learning outside of what has traditionally been provided by the district.
- The expectation to share the learning encourages the teacher to step into a leadership role as they share their acquired knowledge with colleagues.
- Submissions for consideration must include a plan to implement the gained knowledge and skills in the classrooms along with a plan to engage and inspire peers. The formal learning can be delivered through one of the following models:
  - A six-hour PIR (Applicants will also be encouraged to submit these same proposals to state or national conferences)
  - A job-embedded opportunity such as instructional rounds
- Submissions for consideration should include:
  - Data that indicates a classroom, school or district need
  - Expected learning outcomes and how those outcomes address the identified need
  - Rationale for choosing the learning opportunity with an explanation of how it will benefit the teacher, students and the district as a whole
  - Initial ideas on how the recipient will transfer this learning to colleagues
  - Specific details of the learning opportunity including the organization name, duration, dates of training, cost of attending (including registration fees, travel and lodging)
- A grant selection team will screen the applications to ensure they include all required elements and meet the following criteria:
  - Alignment with instructional trends identified by the GFPS curriculum directors
  - Extent of positive impact beyond one classroom
  - Relationship of the opportunity to the teacher's experience and expertise
  - Coherence with the vision and mission of the district
  - Reliability and reputation of the organization providing the learning
  - A budget proposal that is well-defined
  - Potential to spark excitement and enthusiasm on others
  - Degree of educational innovation.

#### **WHO:**

Any teacher presently holding a teaching position in the Great Falls School District and who is committed to signing a contract to teach in the school district for the school year following the grant award.

#### **EXPECTATIONS:**

Once recipients have been selected and have completed their outside learning opportunity they will be required to complete the following by agreed-to deadlines:

- Complete and formalize the final plan to implement the gained knowledge in the classroom within 30 days of completion of the training.
- After implementation in the classroom, submit the final training plan (i.e. PIR proposal or other delivery method).
- Provide a final reflection on the classroom implementation that outlines the degree to which the professional learning led to the achievement of the goals outlined in the beginning of the process.

The district will commit to providing the grant recipients selected with the release time and substitute teacher coverage as needed to attend learning opportunities. This professional learning will also satisfy up to 12 hours of PIR requirements, and teachers could potentially receive financial compensation for supporting their colleagues depending on the teaching delivery model they choose.

**QUESTIONS:**

For questions regarding this grant opportunity, please reach out to Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Curriculum Coordinators - Rachel Cutler (TK-6) at 268-6037 or Beckie Frisbee (7-12) at 268-6761.

For help with the online application process, contact Amber Brannon at GFPS Foundation at 268-7340 or [foundation@gfps.k12.mt.us](mailto:foundation@gfps.k12.mt.us).