



Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

2022-2023 FIRE Foundation General Grant Application for NEW Schools/Students

Grant Timeline

January 17, 2022: Grant Application Opens

February 14, 2022: Grant Application Due

Week of March 7 and 14, 2022: Application Zoom Interviews (scheduled directly with applicants)

April 11, 2022: Grant Awards Announced

Submission Instructions

Submit the grant by emailing application and all supporting documents to the Grant Committee:

info@firefoundationchicago.org by February 14, 2022. A confirmation response will be sent once all application pieces are received. For questions or more information, contact: Darlene Duggan, dduggan@firefoundationchicago.org or 773-308-5097.

Grant Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria must be satisfied prior to application for a school to be eligible for a grant (*please check all boxes*):

- The school is a Catholic school within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Chicago.
- The school is accepting student(s) who would not otherwise be able to attend without additional educational support.
- The School Administrator must validate the existence of appropriate educational support for the student(s).
- The school can demonstrate the commitment of its Administrator and Pastor to inclusive education.
- The School will have a fundraiser for FIRE during the 2022-2023 school year and will support FIRE's annual fundraising events.
- The school will strongly encourage and support participation of its community in the Hearts on FIRE group; parents whose children benefit from FIRE funding are asked to participate. More information about Hearts on FIRE can be found on the website.
- The school will distribute at least one general communication provided by FIRE administration to all parishioners and/or school families to help educate the community on the mission and role of FIRE, as well as the benefits of inclusive education. Additionally, the school will provide the opportunity for a representative of FIRE to speak annually to its parishioners and school community.
- The school should be willing to host visitors (donors, board members, other interested parties) for short visits to observe inclusive education in action. Adequate notice and full consideration of school schedule will be extended.

Items Funded by this Grant

- Assistance for salaries of Paraeducators (*\$12,000 annual max*)
- Professional Development on Inclusive Education (*various amounts awarded*)
- Learning Materials, Technology, and Equipment needed to carry out inclusive education (*various amounts awarded*)
- General Support for building and inclusive education program (*various amounts awarded*)

Application Review Process

Grant Applications must satisfy all Grant Eligibility Criteria presented above to be considered for funding. Eligible applications will be invited to discuss their grant application in a virtual meeting to be held the weeks of March 7 and March 14, 2022; this grant meeting will last approximately 30 minutes. Appointments will be scheduled with the FIRE Foundation representative upon receipt of the grant application. Grant awards will be determined based on compliance with the Eligibility Criteria, need for assistance, and the availability of Foundation funds. *All grant monies received must be used to support children with significant special needs who would not be able to attend the school without the additional support.*

Grantees will receive notification regarding their grant no later than April 11, 2022.

Please note, all grant recipients are required to submit a mid-year report documenting use of grant funds. Any changes in the way grant funds are used that deviate from descriptions outlined in the grant application must be reported to the FIRE Foundation. Mid-year report forms will be sent to grant recipient schools in December 2022 and will be due the following month.

Grants are NOT awarded for the following uses: operating expenses including rent payments, lease payments, utilities, debt incurred or purchases made prior to FIRE Foundation award notification, travel expenses, participation in capital campaigns or projects, endowment funds, and tuition assistance.

Disbursement of Funds

All grants will be disbursed in three equal installments:

September 1, 2022

December 1, 2022

March 1, 2023

Grants that are awarded for a Paraeducator or for General Support for inclusive programming will be supported for no more than three consecutive academic years for each student/school combination. A school may receive funds for multiple students. If the student is no longer enrolled at the school during the three year period, funding will end. FIRE funds are intended to initially support the student in the school community, then the regular school operational budget is expected to absorb the costs.

CURRENT STUDENT SERVICES

Services Provided by the Private School	
<p>1. Describe who provides services to students with disabilities within your building (<i>ie., employed by the private school, certified special education teacher, etc</i>):</p>	
<p>2. Describe instructional model of services for children with special needs within your building (<i>ie., pull-out, push-in, individual instruction, small group, co-teaching, etc</i>):</p>	
Services Provided by Public School District	
<p>1. How many students enrolled in your building are on an IEP/ICEP? Explain what types of IEPs are being serviced at your school (<i>ie, instructional, speech, OT, PT, etc</i>):</p>	
<p>2. Describe how the students are served by the Public School District (<i>ie, students transported to public school, public school therapist/teacher sent to private school, etc</i>).</p>	

Services Provided Outside of Education System	
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1. Describe services (if known) the student is receiving outside of the school environment.

Narrative

Please use additional pages as necessary.

1. What is the intended use of the funds requested and how will these funds specifically be used to allow the student to attend Catholic school? Please provide details describing your school's strategy and model for providing inclusive education.
2. If you do not receive the requested funds, what will the enrollment outcome be for the student?
3. Did you receive funds from any sources, other than general budget, during the 2021-2022 school year to support students with disabilities? If yes, please list additional funding sources and amounts received.
4. How will successful use of the funds be defined and measured?
5. Describe the strategies/ideas/methods used for educating your parish and school community about inclusive education. How does your parish/school plan to actively encourage participation in the Hearts on FIRE group?
6. Discuss your school's Catholic Identity and the role inclusion plays in bringing Catholic doctrine to life for all your students.
7. Do you anticipate a need for professional development on best practices in inclusive education? What topics would most benefit your education team?

Pastor Support Letter

Please supply a letter of support from the Parish/School Pastor describing the following (*if there is no Parish/School Pastor please provide a letter from a School Board Member*):

1. What inclusion means to the school/parish community and what direction the school is taking to grow their current environment.
2. How you plan to support the school to grow their inclusive education efforts.
3. How does inclusion fit into the school/parish Catholic Identity?

Family Statement

Please supply a statement from the family of the child for whom the funds will be used addressing the following (*if this application is not for a specific student, this portion may be omitted*):

1. Why is a Catholic education important for your son/daughter?
2. How will inclusion at a Catholic school impact your family's practice of the faith?

Authorization

The foregoing information is accurate, and I agree to promptly notify the FIRE Foundation of Greater Chicago of any changes with respect to the information provided herein. I will immediately contact FIRE regarding requests for change in the use of funds. I have attached the requested supporting documents. On behalf of the above referenced school, I agree and understand that this application must satisfy the Grant Eligibility Criteria in order to be considered for funding.

School Administrator

Date

Pastor (if no Pastor, then School Board Member)

Date

Special Educator

Date