



2026-2027 EPSF Classroom Grant Program - Multiple School Grants

| School | Grant Name | Description | Requestor | Grade | Amount |
|---|---|--|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| All District (Special Services) | <u>Guided Hands Bundle and Guided Hands</u> | Guided Hands is a mid-level assistive technology tool designed to help people with limited fine motor control write, draw, or use a touchscreen by stabilizing and guiding hand movements in real time. Using a mechanical or robotic support that the user holds, the system smooths out tremors, limits unintended motions, and provides gentle physical guidance while still allowing the user to control direction and intent. This shared-control approach preserves independence and personal expression, making tasks like handwriting, painting, or digital interaction more accessible for individuals with conditions such as cerebral palsy or motor impairments resulting from injury. | Bailey Miller | ALL DISTRICT / ALL | \$ 1,848.00 |
| All District (Special Services) | <u>Assistive Technology Equipment (Go Talk 4, Go Talk 9, BigMack, Switch Adapted Toys)</u> | As an Assistive Technology (AT) Committee, we are committed to building our AT library. This library allows staff across the district to check out equipment that helps meet the needs of students on individualized education programs. Tools and equipment in our inventory include low, mid, and high-tech communication supports as well as adapted toys, adapted academic tools, and supports to help with activities of daily living. This grant would allow us to replace equipment that is no longer working, as well as add to our library for staff across the district to utilize. | Grace Jensen | ALL DISTRICT / ALL | \$ 1,453.71 |
| All District (Pre-K) | <u>Funds for Early Intervention Field Trips/Community Activities</u> | We are requesting funds to host community family activities (similar to experiences our school-age students have when they go on field trips) for the students and families currently enrolled in the EPS Early Intervention program. Students in our program are typically served in their homes. Some have very limited opportunities to experience activities within the community and/or be around other children their age. We hope to create those opportunities for our students and their families. With our grant funding from this school year, we have been able to host a field trip to Pam Nelson Farm (Sept 2025), and will host our families at Unity Moves (Feb 2026), and the Rose Theater will lead an early education theater event at TTCC (April 2026). If awarded, we would organize outings similar to the ones we've experienced this year. I'm including a requisition that includes pricing from our community outings this year for reference and I can provide additional information if the grant is awarded. | Tara Pugliese | ALL DISTRICT / PreK | \$ 650.00 |
| All Elementary Schools | <u>Books, Book Pockets, Book Cards, Tape</u> | Battle of the Books is a competitive reading incentive program sponsored by media specialists and classroom teachers for fourth and fifth grade students in all Elkhorn elementary schools. Students work together in 4-person teams to read and answer questions about 24 books from a preselected list of children's literature. The program has been in existence for over 25 years. During the 2025-2026 school year, there were 105 teams for a total of 420 fourth and fifth grade students at all 14 elementary schools participating in Battle of the Books. Because these books are used by so many students, they need to be replaced over time. Some titles have been on the list for many years and are out of print. We are asking for money to help purchase replacement copies of books that are either beyond repair or out of print and need to be replaced with brand-new titles. These books will be shared between all 14 elementary schools during the 2026-2027 school year and beyond. | Robyn Dallegge | ALL ELEM / 4-5 | \$ 1,120.57 |
| All Elementary Schools | <u>14 Tchoukball sets for our Elementary PE Department</u> | We want to get the sport of Tchoukball into every elementary school. Having implemented Tchoukball this year within my own budget, I've seen firsthand how this fast-paced, engaging, and genuinely non-contact game works wonders for student engagement. The investment to ensure all our elementary students have the opportunity to experience this engaging sport and benefit from its equitable access, we require district-wide funding for equipment. Our individual schools do not have equitable PE programs due to the cost of equipment and the limited PE budgets many teachers are given. The cost to fully equip each elementary school is \$550 x 14 = \$7,700. This is a one-time investment that will significantly enhance the quality of our Physical Education program for years to come. I firmly believe this idea aligns perfectly with our district's goals for student wellness and equity in learning opportunities. | Morgan Daubert | ALL ELEM / K-5 | \$ 5,657.40 |
| All Middle Schools | <u>Access to SORA (e-book and audiobook platform) for Middle School Students</u> | The middle school media specialists seek to renew and expand student access to SORA (by Overdrive), a digital reading platform that provides 24/7 access to thousands of eBooks and audiobooks. This project connects our students to the shared Nebraska Library Collection and the Omaha Public Library's middle-grade and young adult titles, offering a massive digital repository that supplements our physical media centers. The impact of this platform has been profound; in two years of utilizing SORA, we have had 27,085 checkouts and recorded 16,318.16 total hours of reading. To build on this momentum, this year's project includes a request for additional funds to purchase a dedicated "Advantage" collection. By owning school-specific digital copies of high-demand titles, we can bypass the long hold lists inherent in the statewide shared system, ensuring our students have immediate, reliable access to the books they need for both curriculum support and independent reading. | Rachel Jussek | ALL MS / 6-8 | \$ 5,500.00 |
| All Middle Schools | <u>Middle School Battle of the Books Titles</u> | The Battle of the Books project is a high-engagement, team-based reading incentive program designed to foster a deep appreciation for literature amongst students at all 5 middle schools. This grant will fund the purchase of multiple copies of a curated list of award-winning titles spanning various genres, ensuring that all participants have equitable access to the materials. Students will form small, collaborative teams to read and discuss these books in preparation for a project-based tournament where they demonstrate their knowledge and comprehension. Beyond the tournament, these books will be permanently integrated into the school's library collection to support independent reading goals, student-led book clubs, and school-wide literacy challenges, which will help the entire student body year-round. | Rachel Jussek | ALL MS / 6-8 | \$ 5,341.25 |
| All Middle Schools | <u>Attendance Incentives - \$1000 for each of the 5 middle schools (\$5000)</u> | To sustain the momentum of our attendance initiatives, we are seeking funding to continue to provide a system of incentives for all middle school students, specifically targeting those at risk of chronic absenteeism. By utilizing a \$5,000 budget to offset the reduction in Metropolitan Omaha Educational Institute Consortium (MOEC) grants (which decreased from \$8,000 to \$2,500 across five middle schools), our Administrative Coordinator team will continue to implement high-impact strategies. These include individualized attendance contracts, "Spin the Wheel" lunchroom rewards, positive attendance postcards, and "Pop-Up" classroom parties. These efforts combine tangible rewards—such as high-interest fidgets, school supplies, and food-based incentives—with positive reinforcement to foster a culture of accountability and belonging. This project leverages these incentives to bridge the gap between attendance and academic success, ensuring all students remain engaged and present in the classroom. | Tiffany Opperman | ALL MS / 6-8 | \$ 5,000.00 |
| All Middle Schools | <u>Paying for the Loess Hills Jazz Orchestra to join our EPS MS Summer Band Program on June 5, 2026</u> | We would like to again invite the Loess Hills Jazz Orchestra to come join our EPS MS Summer Band Program for a side-by-side rehearsal along with them performing a concert for us on June 5, 2026. | Chris Johnson | ALL MS / 7-9 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| All Middle Schools & High Schools | <u>Equipment for Vex Robotics Tournaments</u> | The equipment purchased with this grant would be used to host robotics tournaments at the middle school and potentially high school levels. With 2 middle schools currently having several teams, this opens the opportunity to provide additional competitions to compete in through the season. | Jason Harris | ALL HS, ALL MS / 6-12 | \$ 3,200.00 |
| Skyline & EVVMS | <u>Everyday Speech</u> | This grant is for an Everyday Speech subscription. The program will benefit special education students receiving resource and speech-language services at Skyline Elementary and Elkhorn Valley View Middle School. Everyday Speech is a social learning platform that targets social communication skills through video modeling and interactive activities. Video modeling is an evidence-based strategy for improving social communication skills in students with Autism, ADHD, low cognition, etc. The platform provides access to hundreds of videos and activities targeting conversation skills, emotional recognition, self-regulation, social awareness, nonverbal communication, etc. with minimal prep time required. | Whitney Grenfell | EVVMS, SK / K-8 | \$ 499.99 |
| TOTAL MULTIPLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM GRANTS | | | | | \$ 32,270.92 |