

What to consider when applying for a school grant



Tips for ensuring the best application

Most important: Read all the information and instructions carefully before you commence the online application form.

Grant amount you will request

Be realistic about how much funding you require. This grant should be considered a contribution to the running of the activity or event not the sole means of support. The assessors will take into account the scope of your proposed activity and will award a fair amount based on the information you provide.

Proposed activity

You need to provide a name and description of your proposed activity. To catch the eye of the assessors, be innovative in your approach and focus on how the activity will engage and enthuse your students. You **MUST** keep the description to 200 words. Any more than that will not be read by the assessors.

For example:



“Science Fair and astronomy night. A day of rotational science activities in the school hall and an evening viewing the stars through telescopes.”



“Super Science Fair including a night of stargazing with the local astronomy group. Our Super Science Fair will run for one whole school day and involve students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The day will include a rotation of engaging, hands-on science experiments at stations set up in our school hall, and activities and demonstrations from all areas of the science curriculum to develop a passion for Science in everyday life. These activities will involve and develop problem solving and prediction skills and a sense of curiosity about the world. Senior students will work with younger students in the activities. The astronomy night will involve students and community members observing and photographing planets/moon and stars using telescopes and iPads, with rocket demonstrations.”

What your funding will be spent on

At this stage you do not need to be too specific but give the assessors an idea of the type of materials/resources/services you will require for your activity. Expensive capital equipment (such as microscopes) is unlikely to be funded.

For example:



“Consumables”



“Resources to conduct experiments and activities include paper, glue, sticky tape, cardboard, felt tip pens, masking tape, oranges, vegetable peelers, straws, string, elastic, foam, felt, dough, paperclips, salt, carrots, markers, paper cups, wooden skewers, liquid soap, pineapple juice.”




What to consider when applying for a school grant



Assessment criteria


Q: What is the likely impact of proposed activity on student learning outcomes in STEM?

The result, impact and benefits (specific/measurable/realistic). Please don't just cut and paste from curriculum documents.





-  “All Science Inquiry Skills, Science Understanding, Earth and space science, Physical science”
-  “Students will be able to successfully understand and name the parts of a rocket, and successfully detonate and understand the science behind how rockets function”
-  “Students will carry out experiments with adherence to fair testing, repetition, measuring, maths calculations and accurate recordings. Our results will be displayed in tables and graphs with annotated diagrams and photos. The planned activities will encourage student, parents and community involvement and raise the status of science as a future endeavour.”

Q: How will receiving a grant contribute to the ongoing and increased student participation and engagement in school STEM programs?

Describe what the specific activities will achieve in terms of students' ongoing engagement.

-  “We can use the equipment/materials again after National Science Week”

You should address points such as:

-  What will the grant enable you to do that you wouldn't ordinarily be able to achieve using your school's science budget?
-  What specific actions will you take to ensure active student participation in your activity?
-  How will students continue to apply their learning?
-  How will your activity integrate into other STEM learning?

You do not need to address Criteria 3 and 4 directly as the assessors will gauge your response to these from other questions in the application form.

GOOD LUCK!