

Brookline Education Foundation



FY2026/School Year 2025-2026 Teacher Grant Application

Deadline: March 3, 2025

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

MAKE A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT AND SAVE IT WITH YOUR NAME IN THE TITLE (file→make a copy).

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION:

After you've saved a copy of this document, you can work on that copy independently and share it with any collaborators for their input. Once it's ready to submit, you will need to do the following:

1. Download the file as a PDF document (file →download→PDF document)
2. Complete a brief application form by following [THIS LINK](https://airtable.com/appGV7Kkx7uq42er0/shraoWM5TWX4aYnBf):
<https://airtable.com/appGV7Kkx7uq42er0/shraoWM5TWX4aYnBf>
3. Upload your PDF document into the form when prompted to do so

ONCE YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED:

You will receive an email confirmation to acknowledge that your application was received. The Teacher Grant Committee will review the grants in late March and early April. The announcement of successful applications will be made by email in mid-April, 2024.

If you have any questions, or need assistance in uploading your application, please call 617-948-6999 or email jennie@brooklineeducation.org or kbarnum@brooklineeducation.org.

Thank you for applying for a BEF Teacher Grant!

Additional Awards for Teacher Grants:

The [Charlie Baker Legacy Award](#) (\$1,000) is given to an exceptional Teacher Grant application in the areas of U.S. History or World Geography. **You must submit an additional brief application to be considered for this award - please see the final page of this document!**

The [David E. Pradell Award](#) (\$500) is given to a middle school Teacher Grant recipient whose work will stimulate students' development of self-assurance, collaboration, and sense of social responsibility.

The [Adam Russell Gelfand Fellowship](#) (\$500) is given to a Teacher Grant recipient whose project is recognized by the committee for its excellence.

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Applicant's Name(s): Jennifer Harty, Kyssandra Perkowski, Dr Asa Sevelius, Carolyn Magnanti

Project Title: Innovative Schools Summit Conference

1. Project Summary (1-3 sentences)

We, Jennifer Harty (Grade 5 classroom teacher), Kyssandra Perkowski (Grade 5 Classroom Teacher), Carolyn Magnanti (School Adjustment Counselor) and Dr. Asa Sevelius (Hayes School Principal) are hoping to attend the Innovative Schools Summit Conference.

Through the Innovative Schools Summit Conference, run by AccuTrain, an educational group that focuses on professional development around topics that include social emotional learning, trauma, at-risk students, school culture and climate, leadership, and innovative teaching, we hope to grow in our practices by learning through various speakers. At this conference, we have access to attending seminars and learning from experts in the following areas: Innovative Teaching Strategies, At Risk Students, Wired Differently/ Trauma Informed Schools, and Innovative School Leadership.

2. Goal Statement

What explicit goals do you aim to achieve with this proposed project? Describe the ideal outcomes and intended impact of your proposal.

We intend to gain direct knowledge of trauma -informed teaching, learn strategies for supporting the most at-risk and vulnerable students, and expand our teaching strategies to motivate all students with new, innovative strategies. In other words, our hope is to gain knowledge that allows us to best support all of our students.

The innovative Schools Summit conference is 4 conferences in 1.

Through the sessions at the *Innovative Teaching Strategies Conference*, we are hoping to gain evidence-based and novel instructional practices from national-exemplary programs currently being used in schools.

Through the sessions at the *At Risk Students Conference*, we are hoping to gain valuable insights for reaching those students who are most vulnerable,

Through the sessions at the *Wired Differently/Trauma Informed Schools Conference* we hope to gain insights and best practices for reaching and teaching students with a variety of emotional and behavioral challenges – especially trauma, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and PTSD.

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Through the Sessions at the *Innovative School Leadership Conference* Dr Sevelius will be able to collaborate and network with fellow school leaders on best practices to transform learning environments and improve student outcomes.

3. Motivation

What motivated you to apply for this grant? Are there experiences, in or outside of the classroom, that inspired you to apply for this grant?

The motivation for this grant is based on a variety of trends we are beginning to see in both the classroom and in schools. We are finding in the post covid world, we have students with skill gaps that are beyond academics. There is a need for a focus in social emotional learning in schools to help the whole student. We are looking forward to hearing experts in this field as well as innovative teaching strategies because as students grow and change, sometimes we need new ideas to meet them where they are and update our methods and procedures to best fit the group in front of us. As Brookline continues to grow in diversity, our classrooms and schools grow as well. Families and students come into the space with complex backgrounds and stories and the presentations around students who are wired differently and trauma-informed schools is a great way to add insight, ideas, and learning to best support all students in this population.

Overall, the many different topics and speakers align directly with the new challenges, new gains, and new trends we are seeing in our schools and we cannot wait to enhance our ways of meeting all students where they are and providing them with the best.

Since there are 4 conferences in one, The Innovative Schools Summit Conference provides an opportunity for all 4 of us attending to gain new knowledge specific to our own practices.

4. Impact

Clearly outline the specific impact and benefits the proposed project will have on

- You
- Your students
- Your colleagues (include plans for **disseminating** insights, findings, and pedagogical materials gained as a result of this project with your school and district community)

Will there be any positive impact of this project in terms of the **diversity, equity, and inclusion** in your classroom, school, and/or broader Brookline community? If so, please describe.

This will impact us individually by allowing us to connect with educators and others in the field to hear and share stories, ideas, and experiences. As we connect with a greater community, it will

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provide the opportunity to take away new learnings and teachings that we can bring directly back to our community.

This will impact our students because we will have new ideas, strategies, and perspectives that will inform our planning, teaching, and interacting with all students. This conference will allow us to hear from new experts on topics relevant to our current world, population of students, and fast moving changes in what students need in 2025/2026.

Our goal is with educators, an administrator, and a counselor attending these conferences, we would be able to share with the entire school community our learnings and experiences. We would be able to use a school wide faculty meeting time to go in depth about the topics we dive into in this conference as well as have smaller moments of connections with staff who may be particularly interested in a specific topic we were able to explore. We would look forward to sharing resources we gain as well as data shared with us.

All of the topics and areas for this conference relate directly to the diversity, equity and inclusion in our community. The conference has a focus on ALL students and the students as a whole. One specific area discusses comparing best practices with educators in different geographic locations and different socio - economic environments. We believe this opportunity will help us learn from other educators and see new perspectives that will help us continue to see windows into our students' lives and needs.

As we are all members of the Hayes School SIT Team, we will also be able to share with other teachers and staff the strategies and teaching strategies that we have learned at the conference. Often students are brought up to SIT with a history of trauma, learning differences, and other potential challenges. The strategies we learn at the various sessions at this conference will allow us to better offer practical action steps to teachers working with these students. Attending the same conference allows us to have a common knowledge base.

5. Project Description

Describe your proposal in full detail, including but not limited to:

- Timeframe
- Location
- Key collaborators

Specific details about the activities proposed (topics to be covered, skills to be acquired, etc)

Please include printed or digital supporting materials (e.g., conference brochure, tour itinerary, link to website, class description, museum flyer, etc).

The link for more information on the conference can be found [here](#).

We did contact the organizers of the conference and they informed us that the topics and cost of the 2026 conference will be the same as the 2025 conference.

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Timeframe:

March 12-15, 2026

Thursday, March 12, 2026 - Travel Day and attend Pre-Conference Sessions

Friday, March 13, 2026- Attend Conference

Saturday, March 14, 2026- Attend Conference

Sunday, March 15, 2026- Attend last session of conference and travel home

Location:

Orlando, Florida

Marriott World Center

8701 World Center Drive

Orlando, Florida 32821

Key Collaborators:

One of the many collaborators is BraveBrains - this group empowers educators with science-backed strategies to transform behavior and light up the learning brain. They work to target behaviors from the root cause using what research we know of when looking at a child's brain. The speakers will not only provide research and data but a network of strategies and tools to take back to our community.

Another collaborator is a group called "Wired Differently" when researching the conference, we learned, *"Approximately 20 percent of students in today's classrooms are diagnosable for a mental health issue according to the National Institute of Mental Health. And there is evidence to suggest that beyond this number, 16 percent are borderline for meeting criteria for a mental health label. That means as many as one in three students in any teacher's classroom may have a mental health issue leading to emotional and behavioral challenges"* (Wired Differently). This group breaks down students with anxiety, trauma, ADHD, and so many more areas and diagnoses we see in our schools and classrooms. This collaborator will help us restructure traditional practices to better fit the diverse needs of our students and create that climate between support and challenge.

Executive Functioning is an area we see challenges in across every age at school. Another collaborator is "Positively I Can" which is a group that focuses on designing tools specifically for children to stay organized and in turn, be able to learn effectively. They help create systems that will build independence and success for all students.

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6. Evaluation

How will you assess the success of this project?

We will be able to evaluate the success of this project through the resources and learnings we are able to bring back into our practices. In addition, we will be able to evaluate what we have learned based on how well we share what we have learned and collaborate with our Hayes School Colleagues.

Lastly, all 4 of us are members of the Hayes School SIT Team. We will be able to use the strategies and practices we have gained as we collaborate about students with other teachers.

7. Budget and Finances

Please be as specific as possible. When estimating costs for travel, be conservative as prices often increase over time. Please remember that Teacher Grants generally don't cover materials or supplies unless directly tied to a program or conference (e.g., a book required by the course you would be taking). And remember that the BEF cannot pay for food.

Expense	Purpose	Cost
Consultant	n/a	0.00
Materials/Supplies	n/a	0.00
Travel/Accommodations* <i>please include applicable taxes</i>	Flights: 4 round trip tickets on Jet Blue Boston-Orlando Hotel Rooms: 2 Rooms at the Marriott World Center Transportation from Orlando Airport to the Marriott World Center	Flights Approx. 3,206.00 (this is based on flights around the same time this year) Hotels: 1,055.63 per room. 2 Rooms: 2,111.26 (this is based on a room search for the similar days this year) Uber: 34.00/way

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		68.00 roundtrip
Conference Fees	Summit Bundle: 1 Pre-Conference Session 4 Conferences Entrance to 1 Pre-Conference on 3/21/25 Access to 4 Conferences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Teaching Strategies • At-Risk Students • Wired Differently/Trauma-Informed Schools • Innovative School Leadership Morning & Afternoon Refreshments Earn up to 15 Contact Hours Group Discounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 off Groups of 3-9 Who Register at the Same Time 	750.00/4 people Total: 3,000.00
Other	n/a	0.00
Substitutes** <i>\$135/day; please indicate days/hours needed</i>	Substitutes for Kyssandra Perkowski and Jennifer Harty 2 Days: Thursday, March 12, 2026 Friday, March 13, 2026	Substitutes for JH: 270.00 Substitutes for KP: 270.00 Total: 540.00
Total		8,857.27

*single rooms are acceptable, if preferred by the applicant

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****the availability of subs is limited; requests will be considered case-by-case**

Will there be additional funding from other sources? Please describe. no

Are resources needed to continue the work of the project after BEF funding ends? If yes, please describe how these resources will be obtained. If no, please describe how the work of the project will be funded or continued after completion of funding by the BEF.

No. We are confident that we will be able to take what we have learned from the conference and apply it into our own practice. We intend to do this by belonging to the Hayes School SIT Team, collaborating with each other, the school at large, and within specific PLG's.

Do you foresee any potential challenges/obstacles? What is your strategy for dealing with them should they occur?

Weather is a potential challenge. We will have to change flights if necessary.

Will you be able to complete the project if only partial funding is available? ☐Yes x☒No

Please explain how you might adjust the scope of the project if you receive partial funding::

It will be hard to change the scope of this project if we only receive partial funding as we need to be able to pay to travel to Orlando and stay in Orlando.

For groups of three or more educators applying together: If the BEF can only fund a subset of your group, would you be able to move forward with this project? ☐Yes x☒No

Please explain:

We feel that the combination of classroom teachers, the school adjustment counselor, and the school principal will allow all of us to fully collaborate and implement on the information presented at this conference.

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Charlie Baker Legacy Award Section

If you are applying for the Charlie Baker Legacy Award (fully described in the Call for Proposals), please indicate how the additional \$1,000 funding would extend and/or enrich your project.

Please limit your response to one page.