

# Brookline Education Foundation



## **FY2026/School Year 2025-2026 Collaborative Grant Application**

Deadline: March 3, 2025

### **BEFORE YOU BEGIN:**

RENAME YOUR COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT WITH YOUR NAME IN THE TITLE.

### **HOW TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION:**

Work on this form independently and share it with any collaborators for their input. Once it's ready to submit, you will need to convert it into a PDF - we are unable to access uploaded Google documents.

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/appbMpM3KX6w3MucY/shrHSX3jb7Gn6Sldk):  
<https://airtable.com/appbMpM3KX6w3MucY/shrHSX3jb7Gn6Sldk>
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 Collaborative 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, 2025.

If you have any questions, or need assistance in uploading your application, please call 617-232-3846 or email [jennie@brooklineeducation.org](mailto:jennie@brooklineeducation.org) or [kbarnum@brooklineeducation.org](mailto:kbarnum@brooklineeducation.org).

**Thank you for applying for a BEF Collaborative Grant!**

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**Lead Applicant's Name(s):** Amy Ostroff

**Project Title:** WIDA Annual Conference

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### 1. Project Summary (1-3 sentences)

A team of 5 K-12 EL educators and their program director will travel on October 26, 2025 to Seattle, Washington to attend and hopefully present at the WIDA Annual Conference, the largest national conference dedicated to educators of Pre-K–12 multilingual learners. Upon return, the team of teachers will collaborate to develop and present WIDA-related resources at the upcoming EL department and school-wide meetings.

### 2. Personnel

- a. Amy Ostroff, EL teacher at Edith C. Baker [amy\\_ostroff@psbma.org](mailto:amy_ostroff@psbma.org)
- b. Mindy Paulo, Director of ELE [mindy\\_paulo@psbma.org](mailto:mindy_paulo@psbma.org)
- c. Katya Babitskaya, EL teacher at BHS [katya\\_babitskaya@psbma.org](mailto:katya_babitskaya@psbma.org)
- d. Yael Neeman-Schubert, EL teacher at Florida Ruffin Ridley  
[yael\\_neemanschubert@psbma.org](mailto:yael_neemanschubert@psbma.org)
- e. Katy Ouellette, International student advisor and EL teacher at BHS  
[katy\\_ouellette@psbma.org](mailto:katy_ouellette@psbma.org)
- f. Gretchen Thompson, EL teacher at Lincoln [gretchen\\_thompson@psbma.org](mailto:gretchen_thompson@psbma.org)

a. Project Supervisor: Mindy Paulo

b. Will the project require additional personnel or reassignment of current staff?

The project will require substitute teachers for the two high school EL teachers and the elementary EL teachers who teach 6-8th grades (tbd September 2025).



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### **3. Goal Statement**

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

- Professional learning and networking: WIDA-informed instructional approaches for English learners.
- Time to collaborate with EL colleagues and learn together from conference offerings.
- Enrich and strengthen our professional relationships with one another and others in our field from across the country.
- Sharing learning with the greater EL department.

### **4. 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?

Massachusetts adopted the WIDA Standards in 2012. Since then, we have had limited opportunity to dive deeply into the standards and how they translate into classroom practice and student learning. The teachers applying for this grant have not previously attended this conference. We would like to use this unique experience to bring our professional understanding of WIDA-informed instruction to the next level.

### **5. Impact**

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

- We will come back feeling energized and inspired to engage in complex and challenging work teaching English language learners.
- Students will benefit from teachers equipped with fresh perspectives and strategies that will enhance their curriculum to better support student language development.
- Our PSB colleagues will have access to the resources curated from the conference.

Our colleagues also have an interest in this work and are invested in making it relevant and applicable in their own classrooms. We hope to serve as resources within the Public Schools of Brookline.

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.

Attending the 2025 WIDA Annual Conference will strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion by equipping the participants with strategies to create more inclusive and equitable learning environments for multilingual learners. The conference will promote equitable opportunities by addressing systemic barriers and advocating for fair policies. Sessions on culturally responsive teaching will help affirm students' linguistic and cultural identities, fostering a sense of



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belonging. Educators will also learn to reduce bias in assessments and instruction, ensuring multilingual students are evaluated fairly. Additionally, incorporating diverse perspectives into curricula will enhance representation, making learning more meaningful, especially in mainstream classes. Finally, learning more about how other diverse districts like Brookline engage and strengthen collaboration between schools and families will provide us with tangible tools.

#### **6. Project Description**

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

- Timeline: 1. WIDA Annual Conference: October 27th through October 30th  
2. Resource development and presentations: Winter/Spring 2026
- Location: Seattle, Washington
- *Key collaborators:*

The 2025 WIDA Annual Conference, themed "Igniting Innovation for Multilingual Learners," is scheduled for October 27-30 in Seattle, Washington. As the largest conference dedicated to educators of Pre-K through grade 12 multilingual learners, it offers a platform for over 2,500 attendees and more than 200 presenters to engage in over 100 breakout sessions.

**Key Collaborators:** The WIDA Consortium, comprising 41 states, territories, and federal agencies, plays an important role in organizing the conference. This collective is committed to researching, designing, and implementing culturally and linguistically appropriate systems to support multilingual learners in K-12 settings. Brookline Collaborators are: Amy Ostroff, Mindy Paulo, Katya Babitskaya, Yael Neeman-Schubert, Katy Ouellette, Gretchen Thompson.

**Proposed Activities and Topics:** Some of the topics that will be covered in this conference will include:

**Effective Instructional Practices:** Presenting innovative teaching methods that enhance learning outcomes.

**Specific Populations of Multilingual Learners:** Addressing the unique needs of diverse multilingual student groups.

**Social Justice and Equitable Opportunities:** Exploring strategies to promote fairness and inclusivity for multilingual learners.

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**Implementation of WIDA ELD Standards Framework:** Guiding educators on integrating WIDA's English Language Development Standards into curricula.

**Program Administration & Policy:** Discussing administrative approaches and policies that support multilingual education.

**Supporting Materials:** For detailed information, including the conference brochure and session descriptions, visit the official WIDA Annual Conference website:

<https://wida.wisc.edu/grow/annual-conference>

- a. Describe the collaborative aspect of this grant.

The team of educators will collaborate on the session that we hope to present: *“Engaging Digital Natives: Empowering Language Learning through Purposeful Technology Integration”* at the conference, as well as on creating resources and a presentation for our district colleagues.

### **7. Evaluation**

How will you assess the success of this project?

Part of our presentation to our PSB colleagues will include a feedback form to assess the impact of the resource and gather data on its usefulness. This will help us evaluate its effectiveness and refine our approach based on the insights we receive. The form will provide an opportunity for educators to ask questions and share specific needs related to working with ELs in content areas, allowing us to tailor support and resources to better meet their needs.

### **8. Multi-year projects**

If this application is part of a multi-year project, please share the context.

We hope to complete this project during the 2025-2026 school year, and then continue to share and use the resources in subsequent years.

For applications for a second year of funding:

- a. Please evaluate the first year of your grant (see the evaluation form [here](https://airtable.com/appbMpM3KX6w3MucY/shrhpEsmeE6Kd5mpo):
- b. How would the second year build upon what was accomplished during the first year?

### **9. 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 Collaborative Grants generally don't cover**

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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
<b>Stipends</b> <i>\$36.87 per hour if completed prior to 9/1/25;            \$37.88 per hour if completed between 9/1/25            and 6/30/26</i>	12 hours x 6 people	$42.65 \times 12 = 511.80 \times 6 =$ \$3070.80
<b>Consultant</b> <i>Include name and location</i>	n/a	
<b>Materials/Supplies</b> <i>only request if directly tied to a            program/conference/etc</i>	Resources purchased from vendors or presentors at the conference and tech accessories to support our presentation at the conference	\$1902.04
<b>Travel/Accommodations*</b> <i>please include applicable taxes</i>	1. Flights to and from Seattle 2. Hotel stay at the Residence Inn by Marriott Downtown for 4 nights 3. Parking at Logan for 4 cars & estimated ground transportation costs in Seattle.	1. $437 \times 6 = \$2,562$ 2. $3 \text{ rooms} \times 4 \text{ nights} = \$5,225.16$ 3. \$1000
<b>Conference Fees</b>	WIDA Annual Conference October 27th, 2025 through October 30th, 2025	Estimated $680 \times 6 = \$4080$ <b>Presenter Rate: 545</b> <b><math>\times 3 = 1635</math></b> <b>Teacher Appr. Rate:</b> <b><math>665 \times 3 = 1995</math></b> <b><math>1635 + 1995 = \\$3630</math></b>
<b>Other</b>		

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<b>Substitutes**</b> \$135/day; indicate days/hours needed	* to be determined in the fall once classes and caseloads have been assigned	Estimated: 4 subs x 4 days = \$2160
<b>Total</b>		\$19,999.84 New Total: \$19549.84

\*single rooms are acceptable, if preferred by the applicant

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

Will there be additional funding from other sources? Please describe.

We do not anticipate additional funding from other sources.

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.

We expect to be able to collaborate and share resources with colleagues during school and department-based meetings.

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

We do not anticipate any challenges or obstacles.

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

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

If we receive partial funding we would reevaluate the feasibility of conference attendance- considering whether we could potentially cover ground transportation costs in another way. With partial funding, we would also consider eliminating resources purchasing at the conference and reducing the workshop hours upon return. N.B.: If our proposed conference presentation is accepted, we will receive a discounted conference fee.