



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Georgia Department of Education
Item for State Board of Education Approval
– Grant –

Item Name

TL - Grant - Georgia Outdoor Learning Demonstration (GOLD) Grants

Recommendation – Action Item

It is recommended that the State Board of Education authorize the State School Superintendent to award a grant to selected schools and organizations at a cost not to exceed \$67,500 in State Funds for the purpose of supporting outdoor learning opportunities for students.

Supports the Following Education Goal or Goals in the Agency Strategic Plan

- Expand educational opportunities and non-academics supports in order to maximize student engagement, meet student needs/interests, and ensure the relevance of learning.

Rationale

The GOLD grants are based on funding provided by the General Assembly. The grants are designed to support outdoor learning that results in real-world connections to curriculum, increased student engagement, health and wellness, and nature experience.

Details

Objective:	To launch, revitalize, or expand outdoor learning opportunities for students
Grant Recipient:	Selected schools and organizations. (See attached list)
Grant Amount:	\$67,500
Funding Source:	State Funds
Grant Period for Recipient:	2/22/2024 – 6/30/2024
Renewal:	N/A
Budget History:	
	FY23 - \$68,100

Performance

Describe how the grant will be monitored to ensure satisfactory performance: The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia will monitor the grant performance and provide a report summarizing the results of the work conducted by the grant recipients to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Science Program Manager.

Performance, criteria, and results: Satisfactory performance will be measured by monitoring the increase in the percentage of teachers trained in outdoor learning, the number of improvements made to outdoor learning spaces, the increase in specific outdoor learning teaching supplies, and the increase in the number student opportunities related to outdoor learning.

Performance Metrics: Schools and agencies receiving the grants will be monitored by analyzing increased professional learning, improvements to outdoor learning spaces, increased quantities of specific outdoor teaching supplies, field trips provided to increase student engagement, and increased number of student opportunities related to outdoor learning.

Summary

Scope of Grant:

The GOLD Grant Program was one of the recommendations of the bipartisan Georgia Senate Study Committee on Outdoor Learning in December 2022. This grant will allow schools to expose students to outdoor learning, which has the benefits of real-world connections to curriculum, increased student engagement, health and wellness, and nature experience.

Purpose of Grant:

To allow interested local education agencies (LEAs) and non-formal environmental education providers to launch, revitalize, or expand outdoor learning opportunities for students.

History:

How the Grant Recipient was Selected:

- Formula Grant
- Competitive Grant (FOGA Number 160-1-4-.314)

Describe the grant process:

Grant applications were managed by the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia. Application reviewers consisted of educators, staff from GaDOE, Georgia Science Supervisors Association, and Georgia Science Teachers Association. Grant applications were evaluated against a scoring rubric that considered the overall effect on the community, the impact on student (e.g., level of engagement, real-world connection, increase in self-efficacy, and exposure to career pathways), connection to the Georgia Standards of Excellence, the clarity of the success metrics defined by the grant applicants for gauging progress and effectiveness of their project, and the used of best practices in outdoor learning.

Contact

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Georgia Outdoor Learning Demonstration (GOLD) Grant Allocations

System ID	School District	Applicant	Grant Funding
761	Atlanta Public	Cleveland Avenue Elementary School	\$ 5,000
761	Atlanta Public	M.Agnes Jones Elementary School	\$ 5,000
7830630	Baconton Community Charter	Baconton Community Charter School	\$ 2,230
608	Bartow County	Adairsville Elementary School	\$ 5,000
608	Bartow County	Hamilton Crossing Elementary School	\$ 800
610	Berrien County	Berrien Elementary School	\$ 1,075
620	Camden County	St Marys Middle School	\$ 2,360
766	Carrollton City	Carrollton City Elementary School	\$ 5,000
644	DeKalb County	Fernbank Science Center (a facility of DeKalb County School District)	\$ 5,000
647	Dougherty County	Dougherty Comprehensive High School	\$ 5,000
653	Emanuel County	Emanuel County Farm to School	\$ 2,500
660	Fulton County	Roswell North Elem Foundation	\$ 2,500
667	Gwinnett County	Gwinnett Intervention Education (GIVE) Center West	\$ 3,500
779	Jefferson City	Jefferson City Schools	\$ 800
693	Lumpkin County	Lumpkin County High School	\$ 1,235
708	Oconee County	Rocky Branch Elementary School	\$ 5,000
710	Paulding County	East Paulding High School	\$ 4,000
710	Paulding County	McGarity Elementary School	\$ 1,500
785	Rome City	West Central Elementary School	\$ 5,000
737	Tift County	Tift County High School	\$ 5,000
		Total:	\$ 67,500