



## Funding Policy

*August 19, 2015*

### **Our Mission**

The Foundation at Great Valley provides the Great Valley School District with funds and resources to enhance and/or expand the educational opportunities the District provides to K-12 students. The Foundation is dedicated to upholding educational excellence in Great Valley public schools and promote innovative opportunities that inspire students.

### **Annual Funding**

The Foundation accrues funds and services through the charitable giving of the community. Annually in May, the Finance Committee makes a recommendation to the full Foundation Board about the amount of funds that should be donated to GVSD for the following year.

Once the full Foundation Board approves an allotment of annual funds, those funds are distributed to the District in two ways: Venture Grants and District Initiatives. Any GVSD employee may request Venture Grant funds; District initiatives are identified by members of the administrative cabinet.

### **Funding Principles**

The Foundation Board will allocate resources for projects and initiatives which are compatible with four funding principles:

- Foundation funding will be congruent with our purpose and mission.
- We will fund GVSD in piloting innovative programs, including Venture Grants.
- We will fund initiatives included in the GVSD Comprehensive Plan.
- We will fund initiatives that support the needs of GVSD students and their families.

### **Funding Priorities**

The Allocations Committee and Foundation Board will evaluate grant requests according to the following priorities:

- Provides innovation in curriculum;
- Ensures our children have access to the inspiring and encouraging specialists (supplemental support and gifted) they need in math, reading and other areas;
- Keeps important enrichment programs in our schools including music, art and physical education;
- Broadens the available elective courses and extra-curricular activities that keep our children engaged and inspired;
- Promotes the innovative ideas of our Great Valley teachers through Venture Grants;
- Brings technology to our schools that enhances learning.

### **Application Process**

#### Venture Grants

- All GVSD staff are invited annually to submit Venture Grant requests in January.

- Applicant must first submit the grant request to the building principal for review and comment before meeting the March 1 submission deadline.
- All Venture Grant requests are reviewed by the GVSD Administrative Cabinet for comments regarding how GVSD will support / sustain the grant and how the grant fits within the scope of district-wide objectives. If necessary, grant applicants will be given the opportunity to revise a Venture Grant request, based on recommendations by GVSD.
  - The Grant Selection Committee, comprised of parent representatives from each school and community members, will closely review all Venture Grant requests. This committee will submit recommendations for Venture Grant funding to the Foundation Board.
  - The Foundation Board serves as the final approval body for Venture Grant requests. The Board will vote annually in May.
  - The Foundation will notify all Venture Grant applicants annually about decisions related to their grant requests in June.

#### District Initiatives

- The GVSD Administrative Cabinet will review the District's Comprehensive Plan and the district's major initiatives annually in March to determine areas of need for Foundation funding.
- Requests for funding for District Initiatives will be submitted to the Allocations Committee in April.
- The Foundation Board serves as the final approval body for the allocation of funds to support district initiatives. This vote will happen annually in May.

#### **Reporting and Communications**

When submitting a request to the Foundation for funding, via a Venture Grant or District Initiative, staff is agreeing to participate in communications and promotions of the grant. The Foundation will contact recipients to coordinate publicity efforts, including photo or video opportunities. Grant recipients must complete mid-year and end-of-the-year progress reports that are submitted to the Foundation. These reports describe how the funds were used, the program's achievements, and how the intended results of the program were measured. The Foundation at Great Valley will use this information to evaluate the effectiveness of our processes, and to communicate outcomes to the community.

Grant recipients are asked to help communicate the benefits of their grant to the community, including mention of The Foundation as the funding source of the grant. Grant recipients are encouraged to note the receipt of the grant in any communications that go home to families, at a faculty meeting, in a School Board meeting, or any other applicable situation.

#### **Use of Funds**

All funds must be used in accordance with the approved request. Changes in the use of funds may only be made with prior written approval of the Foundation. Request for changes must outline reasons for the change.

**Return of Funds**

The Foundation requires a return of funds if the activities described in the funding request are not performed, unless prior authorization has been obtained. Any unexpended funds at the end of the funding period will be returned to The Foundation unless a written approval to extend the grant period has been previously approved.