



Glowforge in the Classroom: Guide to Funding for Grant Seekers

Educators across the country choose Glowforge to unlock creativity in their classrooms.

Whether you're working with 10 students or 1,000, you can teach valuable lessons that will last a lifetime with Glowforge.

At Glowforge, we're often approached by districts, libraries, and after-school programs that want to add our 3D laser printer curriculum but need funding. We created this guide to help you find and receive STEAM funding. In addition to sources of potential funding, we've included tips on writing successful grant applications, plus first-hand stories from educators who've made a difference in their classrooms with Glowforge.





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It's simple enough for young learners to transform their drawings into real toys, and sophisticated enough for graduate students to use in their research, which is why it's the best-selling desktop laser in education.

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When school budgets and conventional funding aren't enough to meet your students' needs, grants can help fill the gaps.

Your classroom can receive grants from federal, state, and local governments, as well as private corporations. Grants are typically awarded to schools to help them achieve a specific goal, like improving their makerspace or supporting innovative ways of teaching. There are many types of grants, such as educational technology or summer learning grants, each with different requirements. For example, some grants simply ask for an application, while others require an in-depth grant proposal or proof of financial need.

Federal Grants

Most federal grants for STEAM education come from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. There are two types of Federal grants: **formula grants** and **discretionary grants**. Formula grants are awarded based on a formula; any entity that qualifies under that formula is eligible to receive the grant.

Formula Grants Include:

Innovative Programs: This state-administered Federal formula grant program is designed to support local school reform. Funds can be used for instructional and education materials, technology, and school improvement.

Application due dates : *Between April and August for several different grants.*

Enhancing Education through Technology State Program: Designed to improve student achievement through the use of technology, the "Ed-Tech Program" also has the goal of improving technological literacy among students by eighth grade.

Application due date: *Varies depending on your home state.*

The Department of Labor also funds STEM education. The recently ended Youth CareerConnect competition will award up to 40 grants to provide students job-relevant training in STEM fields and in-demand industries.

21st Century Community Learning Centers: This program provides money for before-and-after-school programs. Funds may be used for expanding learning activities or any area of enrichment and include technology, such as robotic kits, engineering kits, science kits, STEM Education kits, and telecommunication education.

Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST): This is one of several grants awarded by the National Science Foundation, a Federal agency. It is designed to expose students to STEM careers and provide them with technology-rich experiences.

Discretionary Grants Include:

Early Childhood Educator Professional Development: This program seeks to improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators who work in high-poverty areas. Funding can be used towards providing science activities for kids.

GEAR Up: This discretionary grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Promise Neighborhood Grants: Promise Neighborhoods provides funding to support eligible nonprofit organizations, which may include faith-based nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and Indian tribes. The program's purpose is to provide all children in these communities access to great schools and community support, enabling them to successfully transition to college and a career.

Application due date: Sept. 27, 2022





Private Grants

AAUW Community Action Grants: These grants provide funding to individuals, AAUW branches, and AAUW state organizations as well as community-based nonprofits for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Universities are also eligible to apply.

Application due date: December 1st, every year

Alcoa Foundation: This organization funds projects that support global education, workplace skills, and safe & healthy children.

American Honda Foundation: The focus of these grants is on math, science, and technology.

Gates Foundation: The foundation supports raising graduation rates and empowering graduates to be strong citizens ready for college or the workplace. They provide tools for makerspaces, libraries, and future engineers.

Sony Grants for Education: These grants prioritize education with the areas of art, culture, technology, and the environment to encourage the creative, artistic, technical, and scientific skills needed in the future workforce.

Application due date: Grants awarded on a rolling basis

Verizon and the Verizon Foundation: Grant applications are by invitation only. You will need to contact your local community relations manager to see if you're eligible. The Verizon site provides a search tool to find your school's point of contact.

Application due date: Varies by location

Large corporations, particularly technology and energy companies, often have community grant opportunities.

These companies see K-12 STEM education as workforce development. If students are not exposed to quality STEM education as children, they won't follow the STEM pipeline towards a STEM career leaving unfilled positions at these companies. These funding opportunities can be more competitive since they are usually open nationwide, but you may find smaller, local corporations who will have fewer applicants.

Many philanthropic groups offer education and STEM grants. These foundations may be funded by a wealthy donor or be part of a larger organization. It's likely these organizations have targeted groups in mind when they award funding. Make sure you meet all the requirements of the grant and that your goals align with the foundation's when applying to these types of opportunities.





Interested in researching grants but not sure where to start? These websites make it easy to find the grants you might be eligible for.

Grants.gov: This comprehensive site lists the grants given by every federal agency. It also has a robust help center for newcomers to the grant application process.

GrantWatch: Every type of grant—federal, state, city, local, and foundational—can be found here, and you can easily search by grant category and state.

STEM Education Coalition: The website offers information on STEM activity in the US and how to support those efforts. From the website individuals can sign-up for a free newsletter or follow posted information through Facebook, Twitter or RSS feed.

Tips and Tricks: Sample language for grants

Here is a sample grant proposal from one of our pros at Rock Hill School District, who relies on grants to help gain funding and resources for their STEAM program in schools.

“The goal of this grant is to enhance student learning by incorporating engineering and design with science and math in our Makerspace. A Makerspace is a collaborative space where the students will come together to design, create and build items of their own creation through inquiry-based learning. Glowforge impacts student learning by encouraging them to use collaborative ideas to solve problems, creativity to design their project, and learn [subject matter.]

To accomplish this, I would like to purchase [Glowforge model]. This would supplement the [existing tools/initiatives] I currently have for my [number of students] students and enable them to work collaboratively.”



Through platforms such as DonorsChoose.org and ClassWish, teachers and administrators take their fundraising efforts to the masses, explaining what they need and why they need it, and finding that small amounts from a large number of people go a long way.

The rules of each crowdfunding site are different — some charge no fees but require that teachers make purchases with their newly earned funds only from their partner vendors. For example, if you raised funds for school supplies at the Adopt-A-Classroom site, you would buy those supplies from the site's partner, Office Depot. Other sites charge a percentage — typically between 2.5 and 5 percent — of the funds raised.

Below are a few education-focused crowdfunding sites:

DonorsChoose: A favorite among schools and districts, DonorsChoose makes it easy to crowdfund for things like school trips and classroom supplies. Their financial transparency makes it easier for administrators to know what projects are getting funded in their schools.

Unlike other sites, DonorsChoose does not charge teachers commission when they use the site, though they must shop at the site's vendor partners when using their funds.

ClassWish: Another favorite, ClassWish allows donors to contribute to any type of school – public, private, or parochial – unlike some sites (DonorsChoose, for example) that only allow public schools to participate. ClassWish does charge a processing fee of 2.9 percent, plus 30 cents per transaction, and you must buy from the site's vendor partners.

Adopt-A-Classroom: Donors to Adopt-a-Classroom receive updates on how their money was used. The site charges no fees but does require that all purchases be made with its approved list of vendors.

PledgeCents: Commonly referred to as the 'GoFundMe for teachers,' PledgeCents has over 1,700 schools in 51 states on their platform. Once all the funds are raised, PledgeCents will send the check directly to your school/organization. They do not have platform fees, and educators who use their service get to keep whatever funds they raise, regardless of whether it meets their final goal.

It's never been easier to unlock creativity for so many learners. With a bit of research and a couple applications, you can secure funding for Glowforge in your classroom.

What will your students create with Glowforge?

To learn more, visit education.glowforge.com

Or email education@glowforge.com to talk to a Glowforge expert.



glowforge

The 3D Laser Printer

