



Grant Application Application School Year 2026 - 2027

FIRE Foundation of Wichita
P.O. Box 780053
Wichita, KS 67207

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Grant Timeline:

January 21, 2026	Applications Open
February 28, 2026	Applications Due
Week of March 9, 2026	Grant Interviews (as necessary by invitation)
March 25, 2026	Notification of 2026 - 2027 Grant Awards

Instructions:

Please submit your application electronically to info@firefoundationwichita.org. Include the completed application as well as a cover letter from the principal and pastor (see Item 9 in application). All applications must be signed.

Grant Eligibility Criteria:

The following criteria must be satisfied *prior to application* for a school to be eligible for a grant:

- The school is a Catholic school within the boundaries of the Diocese of Wichita.
- The school is enrolling or planning to enroll student(s) with moderate to significant intellectual / developmental / physical disabilities who would not be able to attend without additional educational support.
- The school has appropriate educational support for the student(s), with a Special Education or Resource teacher on staff or a plan to train, credential and/or license personnel in that position, or is applying for grant funding of such training/credential/license or positions.
- The school can demonstrate the commitment of its Principal and Pastor to inclusive Catholic education.
- FIRE requests the engagement of school and parish communities in inclusion awareness and fundraising endeavors. FIRE partners with schools that are willing to work together to build inclusive learning opportunities and foster a culture of belonging. The school will designate liaisons who will be a point of contact for communication with the school community about events, fundraisers, and general information about FIRE Foundation of Wichita and its mission.
- If the school is a current partner school, having received FIRE Wichita grants in the previous school year, they must show increased expertise and openness to serving additional students with moderate to severe special education needs. They should also demonstrate the intent to increase their special education budget to ensure the success of their inclusion program going forward.

Areas Funded:

- Professional Development related to Inclusive Education
- Learning Materials, Technology and Equipment
- Assistance for faculty/staff or contract salaries such as Paraeducators, Special Education Teachers, Inclusion Coordinators, Reading Specialists, Therapy Services etc.

Application Review Process:

A grant application must satisfy the Grant Eligibility Criteria for the application to be considered. Eligible applicants may be invited to discuss their application in person with representatives from our Board of Directors the week of March 9, 2026. We will offer invitations for interviews on a case by case basis if we feel more information is necessary. This meeting will focus on questions from the grant application directly. Grant awards will be determined based on compliance with the eligibility criteria outlined above, the need for assistance, and the availability of FIRE Foundation of Wichita funds. All grant monies awarded must be used exactly as specified in the grant award letter or returned to FIRE Foundation of Wichita.

Please note that all grant recipients are required to submit a mid-year and end-of-year report documenting use of grant funds. Any changes in the way grant funds are used that deviate from descriptions outlined in the grant award letter must be immediately reported to the board of FIRE Foundation of Wichita *prior* to the funds being spent (info@firefoundationwichita.org). Mid-year report forms will be sent to grant recipients via e-mail by December 31, 2026 and are due via email by January 15, 2027. End-of-year report forms will be sent to recipients via e-mail by May 1, 2027 and are due via e-mail by June 1, 2027.

General Information:

Contact Information	
School:	School Address:
Pastor/Chaplain Name:	Principal Name:
Primary Point of Contact/Grant Facilitator:	Contact Email:
Contact Phone:	Total School Enrollment:

Funding Information:

Funding Request
Amount Requested:
Total Cost/Budget: (if different than amount requested)

1. Please give a detailed breakdown of your grant request. Include specific programs and dollar amounts as applicable. Our funding areas are:

Professional Development related to Inclusive/Special Education:

Course/Training	Cost per Participant	# Participants	Total Cost

Learning Materials, Technology and Equipment:

Item	Description	Unit Cost	# Requested	Total Cost

Assistance for salaries or staff:

Title	Hourly Rate	Hours per Week	Total

2. State the diagnosis and grade level of each student with moderate to severe needs who would not be able to attend your school in the 2026-27 school year without additional educational support, funded at least in part by FIRE Wichita. State the status of each student by fully completing information in each row. Also please note whether the student has an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP)/Individualized Education Plan (IEP)/504 Plan. Please do not include student names.

Newly enrolled for 2026-27 Year? (Y/N)	Grade	Gender	Service Plan (ILP/IEP/504)	Diagnosis and designation of mild/moderate/severe	Type of support required - list all that apply (Teacher training, paraeducator, 1:1 support, peer support, equipment)

3. Please provide the following information regarding your school's current infrastructure.

Grant amount requested	Total Enrollment	# Students Unable to Attend without FIRE Wichita Support *	Total # Students on a Service Plan	# SpEd Teachers (only teachers working in that role)	Current # of Paras	Ideal # of Paras	% of School Budget Allocated to Inclusive or Special Education

*When calculating the number of students unable to attend without FIRE Wichita support, please consider the following:

- Student(s) would not be able to attend your school without support from FIRE Foundation of Wichita.
- Student(s) would not be able to be successful in the regular classroom without support from a paraeducator.
- Student(s) would not be able to be successful without support from a special educator.

3a. Funds received from other sources to provide Special Education services: (Please state amounts received from other specific grants (e.g. Holy Family Special Needs Foundation or others), school fundraisers, parish grants/fundraisers separate from budget, school district, federal/state funds or other funds received). ***Please note that requests made via this application to FIRE Foundation of Wichita should not be for resources currently funded through another grant or source or for grants or funding requests that are currently in process/pending from any of these other sources.***

- _____
- _____
- _____

3b. Qualifications of Special Education Teacher or other support staff responsible for students' learning plans (or documentation of appropriate educational support), if applicable (e.g. does the person in the role of Special Education or Resource Teacher have a SpEd degree or certificate, or other qualifying training):

3c. The number of staff members who have special education degrees or endorsements: _____

3d. If you have a special educator on staff, give the number of students he or she currently serves: _____

4. Describe components of your school's plan for providing quality inclusive education and implementing students' service plans (e.g. professional development, universal design for learning, class within a class, MTSS, co-teaching, pull out, push in, etc.). Explain how your school's plan reflects the FIRE Wichita mission to provide children with special needs the opportunity for an inclusive Catholic education.

5. Beyond what you are requesting from FIRE Wichita for 2026-27, are there other resources you plan to employ to make it possible to welcome students with special needs. (e.g. other professional development opportunities, staff training, other developmental or therapeutic specialists, dedicated spaces in your school such as resource or sensory rooms, technology). How will these resources enhance the quality of education provided?

6. What professional development topics would most benefit your education team? Are these needs reflected in your grant request or will they be addressed in another way?

7. Do you currently utilize or plan to utilize any community resources or other partnerships to aid in students' progress and success? If so, please share more about the structure of these partnerships . (e.g. your local school district, parish volunteers, high school or college volunteers, seminarians, student teachers, state resources, etc.).

8. Describe the methods currently used or that you plan to use for educating your parish and school community about inclusive education. Please provide specific examples.

9. Please attach a letter from the school principal and co-signed by the parish pastor indicating the following:

- Support of inclusive Catholic education and commitment to educating the school community on its benefits;
- Willingness to create and sustain a culture of belonging where students with disabilities are welcomed and supported;
- How special consideration for enrollment is extended to parish families and those with siblings currently enrolled;
- The school has a degreed Special Education or resource teacher on staff, or has a plan to ensure that appropriate educational support exists for the identified student(s).

The foregoing information is accurate, and I agree to promptly notify the FIRE Foundation of Wichita Board of any changes with respect to the information contained herein. I will immediately contact the FIRE Wichita board regarding changes to programming funded with grant money. I have attached the requested supporting documents. On behalf of the above referenced school, I agree and understand that this Application must satisfy the Grant Eligibility Criteria in order to be considered.

Principal _____ Date _____

Pastor _____ Date _____

Special Educator or Participating Staff Member _____ Date _____