

## **Guidelines / FAQ for Leander ISD's Empowerment Fund**

### **Q: What is an Empowerment Fund?**

A: Empowerment funds are designed to meet one-time needs and act as a catalyst for transformation aligned with the LISD Strategic Plan. The goal of the Empowerment Fund is to provide funding essential for educators to be able to implement deeper learning and improve ownership of learning for staff and students throughout LISD and accelerate movement to becoming a place where we help all learners prepare themselves for anything. We encourage LISD staff to submit grant applications to obtain funding for resources, training, or tools that YOU believe will improve the educational experiences or opportunities for Leander ISD students and/or staff.

### **Q: How much can I apply for?**

A: Currently, there is no cap on how much an applicant can request for funding. However, requests should focus on enabling new initiatives, programs, or projects and should not be for recurring funds to maintain existing programs or initiatives.

### **Q: Who can apply for a grant?**

A: The Empowerment Fund applications are open to any individual or group within the LISD family, including campus, district, and operational departments.

### **Q: I want to start a new student group that will grow year after year, is this a program the Empowerment Fund would consider?**

A: At this time, The Empowerment Fund does not accept funding requests for recurring programs. Requests for multi-year projects (focus on projects that phase over time) will be considered; however, they must include plans for sustaining the program/ initiative in the future.

### **Q: Who can I contact if I have a question?**

A: Start by sending your question to: [empowermentgrant@leeflx.org](mailto:empowermentgrant@leeflx.org) or call LEEF's direct line at 512-570-0027.

### **Q: Will you fund a staff position?**

A: At this time, the Empowerment Fund will not fund recurring staff positions that cannot be funded after the completion of the grant project. For example, if your project needs staff to launch your initiative include the cost in the application's budget detail. For any new position, the application must include timeline details about how the campus will absorb the position, and how it will be budgeted.

### **Q: When do I submit my Empowerment Fund grant application?**

A: Applications will be accepted from October 25, 2024 - March 24, 2025 and reviewed on a rolling basis during the 2024-25 school year. Applicants will be notified of its application status by one of the following dates: December 20, 2024, February 20, 2025, May 9, 2025. Applications will open again in the 2025-2026 school year. Applications can be found on LEEF's Website: <https://leefx.org/lisd-staff-grant-cycles/>.

**Q: How do I submit my Empowerment Fund grant application?**

A: The Empowerment Fund grant application can be found on LEEF's Website: <https://leefx.org/lisd-staff-grant-cycles/>, and we recommend drafting first in a Word document so you don't lose anything along the way. If you have questions after reading through the FAQ you can reach out to [empowermentgrant@leefx.org](mailto:empowermentgrant@leefx.org)

**Q: When will I hear back if I get the funding?**

A: Applicants will be notified of its application status by one of the following dates: December 20, 2024, February 20, 2025, May 9, 2025.

**Q: Are you going to do a grant patrol for each winner?**

A: Not at this time, but we will have another fun and exciting way to recognize our grant winners.

**Q: Who is reviewing my application?**

A: A cross-functional team of district, community, and LEEF representatives will be reviewing applications.