



The Naperville Education Foundation invites Naperville 203 certified educators to become instructional entrepreneurs—**Edu-preneurs**—by designing, pitching, and testing innovative proposals that can:

- Ignite student engagement and creativity
- Personalize learning in new ways
- Boost staff productivity and workflow
- Connect learning to students' lives like never before

YOUR IDEA CAN CHANGE THE NAPERVILLE 203 LEARNING LANDSCAPE

If you've been waiting for the right moment to test out a new idea, this is it.

This grant is more than support; it's seed funding for educator entrepreneurship. It's designed to help you test, adapt, and grow your most ambitious ideas with real resources behind you.

What begins as a pilot proposal can become a catalyst—sparking transformation that expands beyond one learning space and influences the way students across Naperville 203 learn, engage, and thrive.



PROCESS & TIMELINE



GUIDELINES & TIPS



Your pilot proposal is more than an application. It's your idea taking its first step. It's a plan with the potential to transform learning spaces, ignite curiosity, and open doors for learners.

You are building a case for transformation, asking us to believe in the possibilities you see for students and giving NEF the opportunity to make those possibilities real.

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Proposals must be initiated by a Naperville 203 certified staff member(s)
- Certified Staff can be spread across multiple buildings. For instance, Dual Language teachers at different elementary schools, or Science teachers at different junior highs can partner together to apply.

PROPOSALS MUST:

- Include a Principal's approval
- Align with the Profile of a Learner or a curricular standard and the NEF mission
- Offer original, transformative ideas new to Naperville 203

TIPS: WE ARE LOOKING FOR PROPOSALS THAT CAN:

- Spark student engagement & creativity
- Elevate personalized learning & student voice
- Promote 21st-century skills and foster real-world problem-solving
- Test new approaches for learning, teaching, or technology integration
- Expand equity & access for all learners
- Strengthen social, emotional, or environmental impact
- Improve staff productivity, workflow, and instructional efficiency
- Inspire joy through creativity and enjoyment
- Empower replication in other learning spaces and schools



EXAMPLES: (Generated by Google Gemini utilizing the guidelines and rubric of the NEF Edu-preneur Grant):

A "Global Classroom Exchange" Program: A social studies or language arts teacher could propose a project that uses virtual reality (VR) to connect students with peers in another country. Instead of just a video call, students could use VR headsets to "visit" a classroom in France or Japan, experiencing a virtual tour of the school and engaging in collaborative projects with their global counterparts. This would increase student engagement and foster 21st-century skills by using innovative technology to create a new way to connect learning to students' lives.

Community Story-Mapping and Interactive Public Art Project: A Fine Arts, Technology, or English teacher could propose a project where students collaborate with local artists and community members to create an interactive public art installation that visualizes the community's history, aspirations, and current engagement opportunities.

THE FINE PRINT:

- Physical and intellectual materials related to the grant become property of Naperville Community Unit School District 203 and not the property of individuals or groups.
- Unused project funds will remain with the Naperville Education Foundation.