



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
- Create workflows to streamline educator time
- 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.

EVALUATION RUBRIC



Mission: NEF encourages creativity, innovation and excellence in our students by helping to ensure that every Naperville 203 student can take advantage of opportunities that make the most of their education.

Category	0 – Not Evident	1 – Weak	2 – Satisfactory	3 – Excellent
Alignment to NEF Mission	No clear connection to the NEF mission.	Vague or minimal alignment; unclear how goals connect.	Clear connection to at least one NEF priority.	Strong alignment with multiple aspects of the NEF mission; clearly articulated and compelling.
Alignment to District Mission	No clear connection to Profile of a Learner, curricular area or standard.	Vague or minimal alignment; unclear how goals connect.	Clear connection to at least one Profile of a Learner area, curricular area or standard.	Strong alignment with multiple district priorities; clearly articulated and compelling.
Transformational Potential	Proposal is common practice or lacks originality.	Proposal shows minor creativity but is not significantly new to classroom/program/level.	Proposal is creative and adds value; somewhat new to classroom/program/level.	Proposal is bold, original, and transformative; significantly new to classroom/program/level.
Impact on Students	No evidence of impact on student engagement, creativity, or learning.	Limited scope; unclear or minimal student benefit.	Clearly identifies student group and expected outcomes; reasonable impact.	Strong evidence of meaningful, wide-reaching student impact; transformative potential.
Pilot & Iteration	No clear plan and timeline.	Plan is incomplete, lacks detail, or unrealistic.	Plan includes timeline and necessary materials.	Thorough, detailed plan with strong feasibility.
Success Measures	No success criteria identified.	Vague or unclear measures of success.	Identifies success measures and evaluation methods.	Strong, specific success measures; includes both qualitative and quantitative data collection.
Budget	Budget missing or unrealistic.	Budget is vague or misaligned with goals.	Clear, reasonable budget tied to goals.	Detailed, transparent budget directly aligned to goals.