



2019 Champions Grant Program FAQs

Please read this document before starting your LOI. It contains requirements for being considered for a grant and answers to the commonly asked questions about the program.

1. Who is eligible for the Jimmie Johnson Foundation Champions Grant Program?

Any public K-12 school in **California's** Cajon Valley Union School District, Grossmont Union High School District, San Diego Unified School District; **North Carolina's** Cabarrus County School District, Charlotte Mecklenburg School District; **Oklahoma's** Muskogee Independent School District 20, Hilldale Public Schools. **Charter schools** that are geographically located within the eligible school districts listed above are eligible. Charter schools in Tulsa, Oklahoma are also eligible to apply.

Please note: The school must be open, fully operational and serving students for a minimum of 2 years in order to be eligible for a Champions Grant.

Schools that have received a Champions Grant in the past **ARE** eligible to apply, however, schools with an active grant (received in 2018 or have not yet submitted a Final Report) are not eligible.

Parent/Teacher Organizations in the districts listed above are not eligible to apply for a Champions Grant independent of the school. PTOs may assist the school to apply for funding, but the project must be managed by the school and must follow all district guidelines and requirements. Applications must be completed and submitted by school staff. No exceptions.

Pre-schools, private and parochial schools are not eligible to apply. Non-profits and/or community organizations cannot apply on behalf of their organization or the school. No exceptions.

2. How do I submit an application from my school?

Schools interested in applying for a Champions Grant must create an account in the Foundation's online grants management system in order to access the LOI and application materials. ***It is important to note that only school staff members can create an account on behalf of the school. Parent volunteers (PTO/PTA) and representatives of non-profit or community partner organizations SHOULD NOT create an account on behalf of their organization or the school. Accounts created by anyone other than school staff will be deleted.***

JJF Online Grants Management system link:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=johnson>

In order to be considered for a Champions Grant, schools must first complete and submit an LOI, via the Foundation's online grants management system. The information provided within the LOI will assist the Foundation in determining whether the proposed project meets the Champions Grant eligibility requirements. The deadline to submit the LOI is **Thursday, April 18, 2019 by 5:00pm ET***. LOIs will be reviewed as they are submitted, on a rolling basis, but please note that the closer it is to the submission deadline, it could take up to 2 weeks from the date of submission for Foundation staff to complete the review process and notify schools of their status. We recommend

that schools submit their LOIs as early as possible to give plenty of time to complete the full application (if selected).

Projects that meet eligibility requirements will be invited to complete a full Champions Grant application. Unfortunately, schools that do not submit an LOI by the deadline will not be able to apply for Champions Grant funds.

****Please Note:*** Schools in the **Charlotte Mecklenburg School District** must submit their LOI by **March 21, 2019**. Contact the CMS Grant Innovation Team (980-343-6229 or grants@cms.k12.nc.us) with questions or for more information.

Schools that are invited to submit a full application must submit all required documents via the Foundation's online grants management system by **8:00pm ET on Friday, May 31, 2019**. Our recommendation is that you have your completed application submitted at least 1-hour before the deadline. It is important to note that, depending on internet speed, it could take a while to upload the required documents to the site. No exceptions will be made to this deadline.

Please note: Application materials include a written application, budget worksheet and coordinating vendor quotes, as well as written permission from **all** appropriate district departments and complete plans for any technology/school improvement/infrastructure projects. **Applications that do not include all required information will not be considered.**

All required information must be submitted via the Foundation's online grants management system, including uploading your budget worksheet, vendor quotes and any relevant written permissions. Instructions are included within the application. **Please keep in mind that there are size limitations and file type requirements or attachments. Be sure to follow the instructions exactly as stated within the application to ensure that your submission is considered for review.**

Information Call: We strongly recommend that all schools interested in applying for a Champions Grant participate in an Information Call prior to submitting an LOI. Dates and times for Information Calls can be found at <https://jimmiejohnsonfoundation.org/who-we-help/champions-grant-information-calls/>

3. What kinds of projects will qualify for the Champions Grant program?

At a time when schools are struggling to make ends meet, we recognize that we must focus on the most critical needs. We have challenged ourselves to seek ways to provide the tools that help educators through these difficult times efficiently and with the greatest impact. We are looking to the teachers, schools and districts to tell us what their greatest needs are. You are the experts. When considering what constitutes a critical need, think in terms of **needs vs. wants** or **have to haves vs. nice to haves**. What are the things that are necessary for your school to be able to ensure the success of your students? Past projects funded include Science and Technology, Health and Wellness programs, Arts programs, Language and Literacy initiatives, and School Improvement/Infrastructure. The image below provides examples of projects we've funded, but is by no means an exhaustive list.

Champions Grant Categories

Science & Technology*	Language & Literacy	Arts	Health and Wellness	School Improvement/Infrastructure**
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computers, printers, interactive whiteboards, documents cameras, etc Science lab equipment and materials Could include some outdoor education projects Could include CTE/trade based projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagine Learning and other software to assist ESL students Library improvements and enhancements Books for classrooms and media center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials for visual and performing arts programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds Gym Equipment Could include some outdoor education projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements such as window blinds, classroom furniture, etc Wireless access points Could include some outdoor education projects such as school garden, etc

Proposals must be for one cohesive project. Applications that attempt to link multiple projects will not be considered.

Please note: The grant money **cannot** be used to pay for *salaries, stipends, artists in residence, memorials, consultant fees, field trips, travel expenses, vehicles, scholarships, modular/mobile classrooms, capital/construction projects (new construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement of an existing facility) or third party funding (ex: paying an outside group to facilitate a program or activity).*

All items/materials/services must be purchased through district-approved vendors. It is your responsibility to confirm all items/vendor are approved by the district **BEFORE** submitting your proposal.

If your project requires teacher/staff training, no more than 10% of any award granted can be used toward fees associated with training. Travel expenses (transportation, lodging, etc.) **cannot** be included in your request.

If your project requires any type of infrastructure changes (such as adding/updating a playground, creating a school garden, etc.), the school is responsible for matching a minimum of 5% of the total project budget. In addition, no more than 10% of any award granted can be used toward outside resources such as consultation, labor, installation, project management, and delivery (cumulative). **For example, if your project budget is \$75,000, the school's commitment would be \$3,750 and your request to the Jimmie Johnson Foundation would be \$71,250. In this scenario, the total cost of the vendor fees listed above could not exceed \$7,125.**

You must get approval in writing from **all** necessary district departments (examples: building services, IT, grounds keeping, etc.) and submit approval(s) and plans with your application in order for a school improvement/infrastructure project to be considered.

If your project involves purchasing any technology items (computers, software, tablets, printers, interactive white boards, etc.), you must get approval in writing from **all** necessary district departments confirming that the district will support your technology purchases. Written approval(s) must be submitted with your application in order for your project to be considered.

Applications that do not follow these guidelines will not be considered.

- How much money is available for our school through the JJF Champions Grant program?** Schools can request between \$20,000 and \$75,000. *Requests for less than \$20,000 or more than \$75,000 will not be considered.* Note: In some cases, partial funding will be awarded that total less than \$20,000, at the sole discretion of the Jimmie Johnson Foundation.

Please note: Only one application will be considered per school.

5. What are Measures of Success?

Measures of Success are your Outputs and Outcomes – the expected results of your proposed project. They must include **specific numeric** outputs and outcomes, including the number of students you are measuring, tools you will use to measure, timelines for measurements, etc. At least one Output and Outcome must measure growth.

Note: Outputs and Outcomes can include data you are already gathering through things like benchmarking, End of Year tests, etc. These are appropriate to use as long as the information directly relates for your proposed project.

- **Outputs** are what and how many activities, services, methods and/or approaches you are using to measure this project. They **MUST** include the number of students/teachers/people served.
- **Outcomes** are the results, impact and/or accomplishments you aim to achieve. They **MUST** include numeric goals.

A few examples of acceptable Measures of Success/Outputs and Outcomes are below:

Output 1: 858 students will be served by this project

Outcome 1: Each student will log a minimum of 10 hours in the Innovative Computer Science Lab

Output 2: 858 students will complete a survey on career choices before and after participating in the 12- week computer science course.

Outcome 2: By the end of the 12-week computer science course, we hope to see 20% growth in the number of students who select the computer science as a career goal.

Output 3: 858 student projects will be evaluated using a teacher-created rubric based on the common core technology standards

Outcome 3: 80% of student projects will score above 90%

Please note: Failure to provide specific numeric data points will impact a school's ability to receive funding.

6. Is there a timeframe by which we will need to complete our project, in order to qualify?

We only consider grants for projects that will be completed within one calendar year (January-December, 2020). In order to be considered complete, all funds must be spent (by March 31, 2020), the project must be fully implemented and in use, and it must be able to be measured using the approved Measures of Success/Outputs and Outcomes. If your project cannot be completed in one calendar year, it will not be considered.

7. What is an EIN #?

An EIN # is your district or school (typically district if your school is part of a district) Employer Identification Number (EIN), also known as a Tax Identification Number or Federal Tax Identification Number. The number should be 9 digits in length. **Please check with your district to ensure you include the correct EIN # when you register for the Foundation's online grants management system.**

8. What is the application deadline?

The deadline for schools to submit an LOI is **5:00pm ET on Thursday, April 18, 2019**. Schools selected to complete a full application must submit all required materials by **8:00pm ET on Friday, May 31, 2019**. The application process will close at this time and you will no longer be able to edit

the application materials. Incomplete applications or those not submitted by the deadline will not be considered.

9. When will we be notified if we are selected to receive a grant?

All applicants will be notified of their status via email no later than December 31, 2019. Please do not contact the Foundation regarding the status of your application unless you do not hear from us by this date.

When submitting an application, the contact email address you provide should be for a contact what will be available throughout the entire grant process. If there are any changes that directly impact your project (main point of contact, principal, project no longer needs funding/viable, etc.), you must let us know ASAP. Neglecting to inform the Foundation of changes can impact your school's ability to receive a grant.

10. My school applied for a grant in the past but was not selected. What did I do wrong?

Likely your school did nothing wrong. The Champions Grant program is a competitive grant process. The program is generously funded by public donations, which means that there are limited funds available and that the Jimmie Johnson Foundation must be a good steward of the funds. Applications must follow all stated instructions and guidelines, must be thorough, well thought-out and provide detailed, empirical evidence that the project has a high likelihood of being successful in order to be considered to receive funding. The Jimmie Johnson Foundation involves multiple individuals and a multi-step review process to ensure fairness in determining which projects will receive funding.

Questions? Please contact Jenny at jmayer@jjracinginc.com or (704) 586-2996.

Visit www.jimmiejohnsonfoundation.org for more information.