

Grant Applications

December 2025

For your information, the Assistant Superintendent and/or the CFO, Executive Director of Business Services have approved the following grant applications during the above month:

Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Amount Requested	Terms
Northland Foundation Youth in Philanthropy Grant	Kaitlin Erpestad/Charlie Keenan-4 th grade student	Myers-Wilkins Elementary School/PTO	\$1,000.00	Charlie's \$1000 grant would be used towards the initial \$6000 needed to bring Playworks to Myers-Wilkins this school year and to leverage additional grant funding for the \$18,000 needed to bring the full Playworks program to Myers-Wilkins for the 2026-27 school year.
MN DNR	Kaitlin Erpestad	Myers-Wilkins Elementary School/PTO	\$5,000.00	The Myers-Wilkins PTO and school community is pursuing a \$6000 Playworks Youth Leader program to do a reset on our recess culture. The Playworks Youth Leader program will impact all 150 4th and 5th grade students as well as the full student body of 461 students. The Youth Leader program and supportive staff training pieces will increase student mental and physical health, reduce bullying, increase school engagement, and decrease chronic absenteeism and challenging behaviors. This \$5000 No Child Left Inside MN DNR mini-grant will go towards the \$18,000 in grant funding that we are raising to bring the full Playworks program to Myers-Wilkins for the 2026-27 school year. Specifically, it will be used in

				the spring to bridge the 2025-26 Youth Leader program and the full implementation of the Playworks program so we can start day one of the 2026-27 school year.
Minnesota Dept of Education No Child Left Inside	Sonja Hakanson/Alison Wood	CTE AFNR/Teachers in AFNR (East and Denfeld)	\$25,000.00	Funds will be used to purchase needed equipment, pay for field trip experiences offsite, and allow for 2 professional days to revise and improve the new curriculum as needed to make the course successful.
Minnesota Historical Society	Danielle Vang	Ordean East Middle School - History Day Club	\$480.00	The funds will help cover transportation costs and admission to the Minnesota History Center.
National Head Start Association	Becky Gamache	Duluth Preschool	It can be up to \$5,000; I do not have all the estimates in, but wanted to submit to move forward with writing the grant.	Teachers have submitted garden material requests. Once all the estimates are in, I will decide which ones we can purchase. What the teachers are asking for: apple/pear trees & raspberry bushes for Lowell; grow lights; cold frame; mud kitchen; gardening tools for children and vegetable starter kits for each child to send home in the spring.
Young Athlete's Foundation	Kaitlin Erpestad	Myers-Wilkins Elementary School	\$3,000.00	The funds would be used to launch a Youth Leadership Program for 4th and 5th graders this winter.
MN Power	Kaitlin Erpestad	Myers-Wilkins Elementary School	\$5,000.00	The funds will be used to launch a Youth Leadership Program for 4th and 5th graders this winter. We will bring Playworks MN to Myers-Wilkins to launch the Youth Leadership Program and help create a safe, positive recess experience for all students. This project will support student physical and mental health and well-being and

				create a positive school climate that will impact all parts of the school day. Any remaining funds will be used to launch the full Playworks program at Myers-Wilkins starting day 1 of the 2026-27 school year.
Arrowhead Library System	Geraldine Davidson	Piedmont Elementary/Library Media Center	\$250.00	The funds would be used to help develop the "Battle of the Books" book collection.
Essentia Health Foundation	Kaitlin Erpestad	Myers-Wilkins Elementary School	\$15,000.00	<p>\$7000 of the funds will be used to launch a Youth Leadership Program for 4th and 5th graders this winter. We will bring Playworks MN to Myers-Wilkins to launch the Youth Leadership Program and help create a safe, positive recess experience for all students.</p> <p>This project will support student physical and mental health and well-being and create a positive school climate that will impact all parts of the school day. The remaining \$8000 will be used to help launch the full Playworks program at Myers-Wilkins starting day 1 of the 2026-27 school year in combination with other grant funding we are currently seeking.</p>