OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
D.C. EVEREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approval to Apply for Grant

1. **Please fill out the information below. Then please submit the grant application and this form for your principal's review and signature.**

Project Title: Solar on Schools

Funding Source: Midwest Rnewable Energy Association

Name of Grant Writer: Date of Request: 9/24/25

Name Kelley Strike/Jason Jabolonski Signature Kelley Strike Email kstrike@dce.k12.wi.us

Amount Requested: $ Donate solar panels Total Project Cost: $ Estimated Value $20,462

Targeted age group/grade: n/a School: Admin Bldg

~~Principal~~ Approval Signature:
Director
~~Principal:~~ _____ Date: 9-24-25

2. Submit this form and the grant application to the Assistant Superintendent of Operations. (This will eventually allow the funds to be deposited into the correct account so you can access them when needed.)

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Approval:

Signature: Kelley Strike Date: 9/24/25

Assistant Superintendent of Learning Approval:

Signature: _____ Date: 9/24/25

GRANT ACCEPTANCE AFTER RECEIPT OF GRANT

In order to accept a grant greater than $7,500, School Board approval is required.

Superintendent Signature of Approval _____ Date: 11/14/2025

School Board Clerk Signature of Approval _____ Date: _____

If the grant is from the D.C. Everest Foundation, the Superintendent must approve.

Superintendent Signature of Approval _____ Date: _____

The D.C. Everest Area School District Federal Tax Number is 39-6007952.

Approved 4/21/2025

Solar on Schools Application
(screenshots of online application

Tell us About your School: *

Please provide us with a brief introduction to your school, including your size, how long you've been operating, and any other interesting tidbits of information.

D.C. Everest is a public school district in central Wisconsin, serving the communities of Schofield, Weston, Hatley, Rothschild, Kronenwetter, Easton, Ringle, and parts of other nearby towns and cities. The district covers about 162 square miles. We operate 12 schools in total, including multiple elementary schools, a middle school, junior high, senior high, a charter school (IDEA School), and programs for 4K. Our enrollment is approximately 5,500 students.
Key features & strengths of our district include: strong emphasis on innovation in learning (e.g., project-based learning at IDEA School), early adoption of digital tools, a robust mix of academic, career, and life skills programming, and close engagement with the community.

About your Solar on School's Application: *

Tell us what your motivations are for installing a solar PV system and how this aligns with your school's mission, values, and/or operations.

Our motivation for installing a solar PV system is rooted in our commitment to sustainability and hands-on learning. Each year, our district identifies a "green project," and this initiative represents an ideal opportunity to build on that tradition. Our newer building, with its southern-facing orientation, is perfectly suited for solar and allows us to maximize efficiency and impact. Just as importantly, student interest in renewable energy and environmental stewardship helped spark this project. By integrating solar into our operations, we not only reduce our environmental footprint but also provide a first-of-its-kind learning opportunity for students to explore clean energy in a real-world context. This aligns directly with our school's mission to being an innovative educational leader in developing knowledgeable, productive, caring, creative, responsible individuals prepared to meet the challenges of an ever-changing global society.

About your School and Solar Array: *

Describe the project you plan to install. Please include (1) a description of your school, (2) where the solar array will be located (3) the proposed system size (kW DC) of the solar array you plan to install, and (4) what proportion of your electric needs you anticipate the system will offset annually.

The D.C. Everest School District is a public school district that serves the city of Schofield, the villages of Weston, Hatley, Rothschild, and Kronenwetter, and the towns of Ringle and Easton. The district's administration building, where the solar array will be located, is at 6109 Alderson St., Schofield, WI, 54476. The admin building houses district offices, meeting and training spaces, and serves as a central hub for the district's administrative functions and professional development. The 97.4 kW (DC) array will be placed on the raised-seam metal roof section on the building's east side and will provide about 36% of its electrical needs.

Project Status and Updates:

Please describe the status of your project thus far, what you've accomplished, and what your immediate and long-term next steps are.

We consulted with Legacy Solar Co-op on the planning and implementation of a request for proposal process that was initiated in August 2025 completed in early September. The school district signed a contract with Olson Solar Energy during the week of September 15, 2025 and is working with them to finalize the project timeline. We understand that there is still a possibility of getting on their schedule to start construction in 2025, however, commissioning may need to be completed in early 2026. The project is anticipated well within the 12 month grant timeline.

Grant Request *

Solar on Schools provides grants in the form of panel donations for half the system size, with a maximum donation size of 50kWdc, or 135 panels. Grant applicants are eligible to apply for one grant per school building installing solar. For example, if School District A is installing solar on their high school and elementary school, each school may be awarded up to 50kW DC.

Total Panel Donation Request (kWdc)

84 panels or approximately 48.7kWdc

System Cost *

What is the total anticipated cost of the solar project (without any grants): ($)

$159,179.11

Focus on Energy Funds *

Have you applied for or received funding from Focus on Energy from this project? If so, indicate the amount of funding and the status of the request.

Not Yet - Will Apply After Contract is Signed

Project Budget & Fundraising Plan *

The Solar on School's program is designed to help fund projects, not fund them entirely. If you are awarded the grant, there are many ways to leverage a Solar on Schools grant to fund the remaining cost: Will you use (1) funding from an existing budget or capital campaign (2) a public fundraising campaign (3) a bank loan or other financing option or (4) some other arrangement? Describe your plan for funding the balance of the system cost.

Our project will be funded primarily through our district's capital projects budget. In addition, we plan to maximize other available supports, including resources through Focus on Energy and the Inflation Reduction Act. The Solar on Schools grant, combined with these financial incentives, provides the necessary support for us to implement this project within our budget. Without these opportunities, the project would not be feasible at this time.

About your Solar Installers and/or Contractors *

Please list the firm(s) you are working with on your installation, including any engineers, consultants, solar contractors, etc. You do not need to list all subcontractors, but please list the primary firms. Please list a point-of-contact at each firm, including a name, email address, and phone number. Please also indicate if these are preliminary relationships or if your school has already gone to bid and awarded a contract to said contractors.

Booker Bredlau
Commercial Solar Specialist
Olson Solar Energy
Office: (608) 780-2347
booker.bredlau@olsonsolarenergy.com

Peter Fiala, Vice President

Site Assessment and/or Proposal

Please attach a copy of a solar site assessment and/or preliminary proposal from a solar company. This information will only be used for internal purposes and will not be shared with any outside party without consent from participating schools. The purpose of collecting these documents is to establish the dedication of your school to completing a solar PV project as well as to confirm that you are beyond the initial planning phase. No other documents are required, but we encourage submitting any additional supporting documents which demonstrate your willingness and ability to commit to your solar project.

Drop files here or

Select files

Max. file size: 512 MB.

- **Request-For-Proposal_DC-Everest_8-7-25_Final.pdf**
- **DC-Everest_Admin-Building_RFP_Estimate_09-02-2025.pdf**
- **Olson-Solar-Energy_Quote-Explanation.pdf**
- **Olson-Solar-Contract.pdf**

Publicity & Education *

One goal of Solar on Schools is to use schools that receive grants as models to educate and inspire more schools to pursue solar energy systems of their own. There are several ways your school could use the visibility of your project to educate your community, students, and/or the public about the benefits of solar, including hosting a dedication ceremony, leading a solar workshop, inviting local officials for a tour, creating case studies, formulating renewable energy classroom material, and more. Please describe your plan for educating your community about solar energy.

Our school is committed to using this project as a platform to educate and inspire students, families, and the broader community about the benefits of solar energy. We plan to create a dedicated webpage to share project updates, energy production data, and resources for learning more about renewable energy. For students, we will develop educational tools and classroom connections that integrate solar energy concepts into science and sustainability lessons. Our Student Advisory group (SSA) played an active role in bringing this project to implementation and will continue to have involvement in promoting awareness and helping design student-led initiatives. To increase visibility on campus, we will install signage that explains the system and highlights its environmental impact. Finally, we will host a "ribbon-cutting" type ceremony to celebrate the installation, recognize partners, and engage local officials and community members in learning about the role solar energy can play in creating a more sustainable future.

Timeline & Path to Success *

Describe your project's timeline. How do you plan to ensure that the solar project is completed and installed within 12 months? What obstacles or challenges do you anticipate that could get in the way of completing this project in that time frame? How will you overcome them?

Our project is scheduled to begin in the third week of November, with installation expected to be completed by the end of January. This timeline ensures that the system will be fully operational well within the 12-month requirement. The only anticipated challenges that could impact this schedule are related to equipment procurement and installer availability. To address this, we will work closely with our selected vendor to confirm procurement timelines in advance, secure materials early, and coordinate scheduling to avoid delays. With proactive communication and advance planning, we are confident that the project will be completed on time.

Anything Else?

Please use this space to explain anything else you think we should know about your school or your project.

This is our first solar project in our school district. We are excited to learn and potentially expand green opportunities. It is part of our 10 year capital plan to implement a "green" project each year. We desire to be innovative, a leader with technology and green initiatives in our region.

Outlook

Solar on Schools MOU for DC Everest Area School District

From Evonne Waugh <evonne@midwestrenew.org>
Date Thu 10/30/2025 5:20 PM
To Kelley Strike <kstrike@dce.k12.wi.us>

1 attachment (252 KB)
DC Everest Area School District Solar on Schools MOU.pdf;

This Message Is From an External Sender
This message came from outside your organization.

Dear Assist. Superintendent Strike,

Congratulations on the solar installation at DC Everest Area School District**!** The Couillard Solar Foundation is pleased to be part of the success of the project by granting 84 **p**anels (48.7 kW) toward the system. Per the Solar on Schools application for the donation, please **sign the attached MOU** and return it to me at your earliest convenience.

Please note the MOU lists the specific deliverables required for accepting the grant. These deliverables accomplish two things: (1) they serve to promote the district's investment in energy efficiency through the new solar installation, and (2) recognize the Couillard Solar Foundation's Solar on Schools program. Specific deliverables include:

- **Publicly recognize the Couillard Solar Foundation Solar on Schools Grant via a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and/or announcement on the District website.**
- **Work with the MREA to complete a Case Study by providing photos of the system installation, a 1 – 2 paragraph narrative about the project along with a quote from the school, and System Performance Data.**
- **Complete 2 follow-up surveys sent from the MREA: 1 after system completion and again at approximately 1 year after system commissioning.**

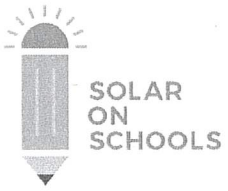
This link will take you to example Case Studies on the Solar on School website. As you'll see, a case study is a great way to **promote the system and the school.** Photos with students can add a lot to the power of these! Please send me photos for your school's case study as they become available.

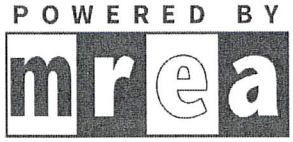
Again, congratulations to the DC Everest Area School District on taking this major step toward energy efficiency and receiving the Couillard Solar Foundation Solar on Schools Grant!

All the best,

Evonne Waugh, Ph.D.
Program Manager, Grow Solar/Solar on Schools
evonne@midwestrenew.org
608-571-6428

Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
7558 Deer Road, Custer, WI 54423
www.midwestrenew.org





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – Solar on Schools:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is designed to establish mutual understanding and detail the terms of participation for **DC Everest Area School District** (Grantee) to participate in and receive a grant from the Couillard Solar Foundation's Solar on Schools initiative being administered by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA).

The Couillard Solar Foundation (CSF) strives to promote the expansion of solar energy in the great state of Wisconsin. The foundation partners with Wisconsin local non-profits to create innovative programs to support renewable energy because when Wisconsin goes solar, we all benefit. CSF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The foundation aims to spread the message that solar energy is not only green environmentally, but financially as well.

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Together with partners around the Midwest, we work to expand renewable energy adoption through innovative programs, renewable energy training, and educational events. The MREA promotes renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living through education and demonstration.

The Solar on Schools initiative fosters the expansion of solar power among schools in Wisconsin, issuing grants and providing support for schools to install solar arrays on their facilities.

This MOU outlines the terms and details of program assistance from the MREA and the Solar on Schools donation program from the Couillard Solar Foundation.

Grantee Name: DC Everest Area School District

Grantee Primary Contact: Kelley Strike, Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Grantee Address: 6100 Alderson St., Weston, WI 54476

Grantee Phone: (715) 359-4221, ext. 1243

Grantee Email: kstrike@dce.k12.wi.us

As part of receiving this Solar on Schools grant, MREA and (Grantee) will work together, as defined below, to publicly highlight the installation of the solar array to spread the word and educate Wisconsin about the benefits of solar.

Commitment by the MREA (for module donations)

As part of this initiative, MREA will:

1. Reserve and hold the grant for **84** modules, totaling 48.7 kW DC until Dec 30, 2025.
2. Guarantee that modules referenced in (1) will be new modules (not recycled or reused) that have valid factory (manufacturer and/or performance) warranties and tested to IEC/UL 61730 - The New Harmonized Standard for Safety USA and International Access in One Standard. Module warranties will be honored by the manufacturer and organized directly through the Couillard Solar Foundation.
3. Work with CSF to specify and guarantee the module type referenced in (1) – (2).
4. If circumstances arise where a change order becomes necessary on above (3), MREA will make every effort to give advance notice to grantee and will provide equal or comparable modules to grantee meeting (1)-(2) commitments.
5. Guarantee module shipping or pickup location from the CSF warehouse in Deerfield, WI. If shipped, modules will be sent direct to the installation site once construction begins. **Shipping is to be organized and paid for solely by the installer**; modules can be loaded free of charge at the Deerfield warehouse location.
6. Provide support and guidance as needed to the grantee throughout the fundraising, project development, and/or installation process.
7. Make a good faith effort to attend, help publicize, and help coordinate any solar education sessions, dedication ceremonies, or other related events hosted by Grantee.

Commitment by Grantee

As part of this initiative, Grantee will:

1. Provide all the time and resources needed to install a **97.4 kW DC roof mount PV system**, including collaborating with and overseeing contractors, providing materials and documentation and any other needed administration.
2. Use this grant exclusively for its solar project (i.e. for no other project/purpose).
3. Complete installation of the solar project within 12 months. If grantee does not install the solar array within 12 months, they understand that MREA will cancel the grant reservation and make the funds available to other grantees.
4. Communicate regularly with MREA throughout the project process, making available to MREA the following promotional materials, at minimum: project updates, key milestones, commissioning, timeline, system dashboard URL, and project photographs.
5. Grantee will coordinate with MREA to develop a **project case study** to include at minimum: system photos, system technical details, system dashboard URL, key milestones/timelines of the project, and short summary with quote from the school about the project.

6. Within 6 months of project completion, **grantee will host a ribbon cutting/other ceremony and/or post information on the district website publicly highlighting (at minimum) (1) the project and benefits of solar for your school and (2) the Couillard Solar Foundation Solar on Schools grant through the MREA.** These are encouraged to be coordinated with the MREA Solar on Schools program.
7. After project completion and again at approximately 1 year after project commissioning, grantee will complete **2 follow-up surveys** coordinated through the MREA, to share information on the experience with the installer, energy impact of the array, system maintenance, and promotion of the CSF/MREA Solar on Schools program.
8. By signing this MOU, Grantee certifies that it is eligible to participate in this program as a Wisconsin school in good financial standing to make this investment and with authority to make this decision.

This MOU does not constitute a contract detailing service delivery and terms to be signed between the grantee and its solar contractor. Any contract(s) signed between grantee and its chosen installation contractor(s) will be exclusively between the two parties; MREA is not responsible for those contract(s) and will not be a party to those contract(s).

No rights, responsibilities or liabilities will be assigned to MREA through this program or grantee's pursuit of a solar array. Grantee will release and hold harmless MREA and its affiliates, officers, agents and employees from any claims, damages, expenses, and obligations arising from this program or any circumstances related to its facility or its pursuit of a solar array.

The undersigned District Representative has reviewed the terms of this MOU and agrees to the specific **grant deliverables** as described in the above paragraphs.

_____	Kelley Strike 11/10/25
Signature *Date*	*Signature* *Date*
Evonne Waugh Solar Program Manager Midwest Renewable Energy Association 608-571-6428 evonne@midwestrenew.org	Representative's Name: Kelley Strike Title: Assistant Superintendent, Operations Organization: DC Everest Area School District Phone: (715) 359-4221, ext. 1243 Email: kstrike@dce.k12.wi.us