





For MDEF Use Only **MDEF Grant Application** _____ **-2024-2025** **Score** _____

**McCall-Donnelly Education Foundation
Grant Application – 2023-24**

Applicant name: Sarah Covault

Mailing address: 401 Mission St McCall, ID 83638

Contact Person: Tim Thomas

Telephone: 541-207-4993 Email: scovault@mdsd.org

Check the category this grant application represents:

✓ **Academic Innovation:** This category supports innovative programs and projects that enhance learning, foster critical thinking, and prepare students for a dynamic future. Special consideration given for upper-level foreign language programs.

✓ **Student Engagement and Well Being:** Initiatives that promote mental health, well-being, and a sense of belonging among students. Special consideration given to programs that promote kindness, social well-being, and/or address bullying.

Health & Nutrition: Projects focused on innovative approaches to healthier lifestyles, particularly in nutrition. Special consideration given to programs that promote lifetime sports.

Arts and Creativity: Programs that encourage creative thinking and sustainable growth in the arts and music.

Project Title: Ipads to Support Multilingual Students Language Acquisition at the Intermediate and Secondary level

Brief narrative of the proposed project/project summary:



Over the last six years, I have watched our multilingual learner population grow from 25 students my first year to over 70 this last year. The last two consecutive years we have had over 20 new students each year and most of these newcomer students speak little to no English upon their arrival. During this time, it has become quite clear that there are certain tools and devices that help ease the transition into a new language, a completely new learning environment, and a whole host of difficult social interactions, especially at the middle and high school levels. iPads and smartphones with the latest google translate application allow students to understand classwork as needed and interact with teachers and peers when necessary. At the middle and secondary level this can mean the difference between months of feeling lost and disconnected and having a lifeline that helps to bridge the gap between two languages until greater comfort and confidence are achieved.

1. How is applicant affiliated with the McCall-Donnelly School District? If not directly affiliated, what grades/age children does your project benefit and in what communities?

I have been the k-12 ENL specialist and ENL program coordinator for the last six years. I have taught an ELD class at the high school every year and this year am teaching two classes at both the middle school and high school due to increased numbers at both schools.

2. Why is this project needed?

Before this year, ML students could use their cell phones for translations. With the latest version of google translate students can translate entire documents in seconds, have a conversation with their teacher back and forth in real time, and can also interact with peers during group work and activities. Now that cell phones are not allowed at school, (ML students were as bad as any other when it came to the misuse of social media and texting during school hours and it is important that they adhere to the same rules as their peers in this case) middle and high school ML students



are having to use outdated iPads that we have pieced together from across the district.

We have two newcomers at the high school who especially benefit from this technology but have found it increasingly difficult to use since it is outdated and unable to do what their phones could.

3. What are the proposed outcomes of the project and how will they be measured?

When students understand what is being asked of them and communicate with their teacher and those around them, they feel more connected and capable. With updated and specific technology, they can better face the challenges of not only being a new student but one who is also learning a second language. The latest iPads will allow our students with the lowest levels of English to have some way to understand pieces of their day and make personal connections in a way that was not possible just six years ago. Teachers will be able to get to know their students better and much quicker, lowering the affective filter for all and helping language to be acquired on both sides. When I think about how much this technology would have helped some of my first ML students who were so lost and discouraged by the day in and day out difficulties of student life, it saddens me.

A simple survey can be provided to students before they receive the new devices to check in and see how class work is going. A similar survey can be given through out the year to monitor progress and see how the device is helping in their classrooms. Teachers can also provide feedback as well.

4. How is the project innovative and new in its approach to achieving its proposed outcomes?

For so long upper-level ML students in rural schools such as McCall-Donnelly High school were in a sink or swim model of language acquisition. Those who persevered may have graduated and those who were unable to, found themselves part of the general work force long before graduation



arrived. With the advent of better technology, we now have the opportunity to support our new students and provide them a tool by which to share their knowledge, understanding, and hopefully a piece of who they are with their teachers and classmates on a regular basis. It is my hope that these technologies can help lessen the burden of stress that each of our ML students carries in their new educational journey and make graduation a reality for many of them.

I would also like to allow students access to some of the latest ed tech tools that will provide them with opportunities for further speaking practice as well as creating beautiful digital content that can be shared with their peers and families.

5. What is the timeline for the project? When would funds be needed?

I would like to see the iPads ready to go and in use for the beginning of the 25-26 school year. Getting the funds at the beginning of summer would give the tech department enough time to purchase, set up, and distribute the new devices to each school site.

6. Are there other sources of funds that will be used for the project? How is the applicant contributing to the overall cost of the project? (donations, in-kind contributions, staff time, etc.)

Not at this time.

7. If only partial funding for the project is awarded, how will this affect the project?

We will use whatever funding is received to provide as many iPads as we can to newcomer and level 1 students at PLMS and MDHS.

8. Explain how the project will continue after the end of this year's grant funding?



With proper care and updating it is my hope that the iPads will last at least five years before the possibility of replacing may need to begin. We will have the charging stations to use for many, many years and can use program funds to replace a couple a year when the time comes.

9. Tell us why this project is exciting to you, and include any additional information you would like us to know about the project.

This project is exciting because it invests in modern technologies that can provide students with confidence and understanding, while working with their teachers and peers. It is an opportunity to keep our district up to date with the latest technologies that can make a challenging and stressful transition a bit easier and more meaningful for all.

Applicant's signature

Date

Principal's signature*

Date

*If Applicant is affiliated with the MDSD, then their Principal or Superintendent must sign.





Proposed Project Budget

Budget Item Description (Itemize)	Grant funds Requested from MDEF	Matching funds provided by other sources (if any)	Total Item Cost (from all sources)
<u>10.9 in, 64 GB iPads:</u> 10 pack= \$3,240 5 additional= \$1,645			
<u>Droptech Cases:</u> 15 x \$29.95= \$449.25			
<u>Bretford Charging Station:</u> \$1,291.75 <u>Bretford Tray Charging Station:</u> \$684.28			
<u>Ed Tech tool subscriptions:</u> Educreations, Flip, Popplet, Canva, et \$500			
<u>Logitech Keyboard:</u> 8 x \$109.95= \$879.60			
Totals: \$8,689.88	MDEF Funds \$8,689.88	Matching Funds \$0	Total Cost \$8,689.88

Total grant funds requested from MDEF: \$8,689.88