



WILMINGTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Joanne Benton Educator's Exploration Grant Information & Application Summer 2024

WHAT IS THE EDUCATOR EXPLORATION PROGRAM?

Educator's Exploration Program is a grant from the Wilmington Educational Foundation whose mission is to enrich the lives of school teachers and students by providing outstanding teachers with recognition and opportunities for summer learning and exploration. Making a difference one teacher at a time, the JB Educator's Exploration Program provides funds for direct grants to teachers to support summer sabbaticals of their own design. The Educator's Exploration Grant will enable some of you to fulfill your professional development dreams. Here is an example of what the foundation could do in Wilmington to make some of your dreams come true. Imagine attending the Malaga Plus Language Institute in Malaga, Spain for two weeks for an intensive study of grammar, Spanish culture, and education. Can you picture the hands-on activities that you could bring back to your classroom in the fall? This is just one specific example of professional development opportunities that teachers could experience. **The Joanne Benton Educator's Exploration Grant could fulfill some of your dreams!!!**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

You are eligible to apply if you are a certified staff member with professional status currently working in a Wilmington Public School and you will be returning as a Wilmington Public School certified staff member in the academic year 2024-2025.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SUMMER FELLOWSHIP?

To apply for an Educator's Exploration Grant, please fill out the attached application form. Your proposal should be no longer than two pages and be as detailed and specific as possible. Summer Fellowships may be granted for a maximum of \$2,500.00 per fellowship.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN APPLICATION?

The proposal must include:

- The purpose of your fellowship;
- How the fellowship will improve your teaching practice, enhance your students' learning and benefit your school;
- A description of how you will share the results of your fellowship; e.g., by presenting a paper or conducting a workshop for colleagues, or meeting with your curriculum leader to discuss results;
- The dollar amount, up to \$2,500, that you are requesting;
- A detailed breakdown of how you will spend your fellowship monies,
 - Expenses can include** tuition, registration fees, and travel, purchases of materials or supplies, and room and board at WPS rates
 - Expenses cannot include** stipends.
- Information about any time-sensitive deadlines (registration or tuition costs, for example) pertaining to your request;
- A statement certifying that (a) you are currently a Wilmington Public School certified staff member with professional status, and (b), you will be returning as a Wilmington Public School certified staff member for the 2024-2025 academic year.

WHAT ARE THE FUNDING CRITERIA?

WEF will fund fellowship proposals based on merit and availability of funds, giving particular attention to how the program/project will enhance student learning and/or improve teaching practice. Grant monies must be used for the purposes stated in the applicant's proposal.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE PROPOSALS DUE?

Grant proposals must be received on or before Thursday, February 29, 2024 for fellowships awarded for Summer 2024. Proposals can be emailed to wilmingtonedfoundation@gmail.com or mailed to the Wilmington Educational Foundation, 668 Main Street, Box 190, Wilmington, MA 01887.

WHEN WILL APPLICANTS BE NOTIFIED?

Applicants will be notified by the end of March for the 2024 Summer Fellowship program.



WILMINGTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

**Joanne Benton - Educator's Exploration Grant
Application - Summer 2024**

Applicant Name(s)/Position or Title:

School(s)/Grade Level/Curriculum Area(s):

Contact Person (if more than one applicant):

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

E-mail Address:

I certify that I am currently a Wilmington Public School certified staff member with professional status, and I will be returning as a certified staff member in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

I have provided a letter or letters of recommendation from:

Note: a letter of recommendation from your school principal, department head or supervisor is required, and additional letters are optional. All recommendation letters should be placed in a separately sealed envelope by the person writing the recommendation. Include the sealed envelope with your Summer Fellowship application.

FORMAT OF PROPOSAL

In no more than two printed pages (not counting the cover sheet), please answer the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of your fellowship?
2. How will the fellowship:
 - Improve your teaching practice?
 - Enhance your students' learning?
 - Benefit your school?
3. How will you share the results of your fellowship with your principal, curriculum, leaders, and colleagues?
4. WEF Summer Fellowships provide an award of up to \$2,500. How much are you requesting for this fellowship?
5. How will you be spending your award money? It is very important that you give detailed, itemized accounting.
6. Do you have any time-sensitive deadlines (registration fees, for example) pertaining to this request? If so, what are they?
7. Please attach background information about courses or workshops, including time, location, fees or refer to the appropriate web site. Also indicate how you learned of the course or workshop.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Thursday, February 29, 2024 by 5:00PM.

Please email your copy to wilmingtonedfoundation@gmail.com (please be sure to get a confirmation from us if you email your application) or mail your fellowship proposal application to:

**Wilmington Education Foundation
668 Main Street, Box 190
Wilmington, MA 01887**

Applicants will be advised of funding decisions by the end of March. If you have any questions, please email us at wilmingtonedfoundation@gmail.com