

110 Campus Lane, Butler, PA 16001 (724) 214-3104

TO: Butler Area School District Personnel

FROM: The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc.

SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Creative Teaching Grant Applications (Fall Deadline: Tuesday, September 30, 2025)

The Butler Area School District is now receiving applications for Creative Teaching Grant programs funded by The Golden Tornado Scholastic Foundation, Inc.

The Creative Teaching Grant Review Committee will prioritize projects that reflect a student-centered approach — shifting the focus from what the teacher is doing to how students are engaging in their own learning. At the heart of this view is a belief that when we center the learner, we empower our teachers to become facilitators who guide and inspire deep, meaningful student engagement—in the classroom or out of regular instructional time.

Our ultimate aim is that this student-centered view of education will help bring the BASD Portrait of a Graduate goals to life for all students.

The application and scoring process will give greater weight to proposals that promote these types of innovative, impactful, and student-focused instructional practices. **Student use of technology is encouraged as part of the project**, but is not required.

Applications may be picked up in the Principal's Office of your respective school(s) or on the Foundation website at www.goldentornadoscholasticfoundation.org. Timeline for submission and determination of recipients are as follows:

- ❖ **Completed applications with supporting documentation are to be submitted to your building principal no later than Tuesday, September 30, 2025. Please use the provided application for your submission.**
- ❖ **Applications will be reviewed by the building principals from October 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025, with recommendations made to the District Superintendents by November 3, 2025. The building principal recommendation section must be completed on the application prior to being submitted to the District Superintendents. If comments are typed, the building principal must initial in ink. Please forward applications to the attention of Ellen Scott/Administration Building.**
- ❖ **The District Superintendents will review the applications and make recommendations to the appointed Foundation Board Grant Subcommittee by November 28, 2025.**
- ❖ **The Foundation Board Grant Subcommittee will review all applications recommended by the District Superintendents and make recommendations to the Foundation Board as a whole at the January 15, 2026, meeting. The Foundation Board will vote to accept the recommendations of the Grant Subcommittee and the recipients will be notified no later than January 16, 2026.**
- ❖ **Please note: Funding to support approved grants will only be available Friday, January 16, 2026, through Friday, February 6, 2026. The grant recipient, building principal, and building secretary will be provided the instructions for ordering supplies for the approved grants.**

Creative Teaching Grants will be awarded to applicants who develop projects that promote excellence in teaching and learning.

- 1) All grant winners will be required to prepare a 1-3 minute video and/or photo presentation which showcases the project and outcomes. One or more grant winners will be asked to present at the **2027 FAB Showcase** to highlight their grant program and benefits to children as well as detail how fundraising activities directly impact students.
- 2) All grant winners who seek continuation of their project, either with or without funding through the Foundation, will have to provide a brief, written essay of the educational outcomes.
- 3) All grant requests shall be grade appropriate and shall complement the current curriculum.
- 4) Grant requests may encompass projects, technology or student experiences.
- 5) All grant requests must detail how the project, technology or experience supplements curriculum while being new and innovative.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dr. Brian Slamecka at 724-214-3101.



THE GOLDEN TORNADO SCHOLASTIC FOUNDATION, INC.

2025-2026 Creative Teaching Grant Application

**FORWARD PROPOSAL TO YOUR BUILDING PRINCIPAL NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Building: _____ Position: _____

Phone Number (School): _____ Home: _____

Project Name: _____

Amount of Grant Sought: _____ Project Start/Finish/Length: _____

Grade(s) Served: _____ Number of Students Served Per School Year: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of Building Principal: _____

Attach Budget (1 page). Shipping costs should be included in your Amount of Grant Sought and Budget. Do not include sales tax as the school district is tax exempt.

Please complete the following in no more than two pages, double spaced, 12-point font.

Provide a Brief Description of the Project

(Include details concerning how the project complements or supplements the current grade level curriculum; what is timeline for, and the anticipated longevity of, the project; how does the project address specific student or school needs; how will the project be sustained if projected to run for more than one year).

What makes this Project unique, creative or innovative?

(Significant consideration will be given to projects that are “outside of the box” and employ new and different approaches to teaching.)

What are the anticipated educational outcomes and how would you measure those outcomes in Year 1? *(All grant recipients will have to prepare a 1-3 minute video and/or photographic presentation demonstrating their project, student participation and outcomes)*

Building Principal Comments: (Must be completed prior to submitting to the District Superintendents. Building Principal, please initial in ink if your comments are typed.

Assistant Superintendents/Superintendent Comments:

GTSF Grant Committee Comments: