



2025-26 Math, Science, and Energy Education Impact Grant

Application Fact Sheet

Through a generous \$60,000 Math, Science, and Energy Education grant from the Duke Energy Foundation—matched by a \$60,000 School District Education Foundation Matching Grant—OCPS students and teachers gain access to dynamic STEM education opportunities. These funding programs emphasize workforce development and strengthen proficiency in science, technology, engineering, and math, preparing students for future success in high-demand fields.

Eligibility

- OCPS classroom teachers of science, technology, engineering, and/or math subject areas
- Teachers in grades K-5 may apply for up to \$2,000
- Teachers in grades 6-12 may apply for up to \$3,000
- Proposed project activities must take place within the 2025-26 grant year (October 6-April 15)
- Project activities may occur before, during, and/or after school in STEM-based clubs (i.e., Robotics)
- Teachers who've applied for a 2025-26 Duke Energy STEM Partnership grant or who've been selected for a 2025-26 Lockheed Martin STEM Classroom grant are not eligible for Math, Science, and Energy funding.

Grantor Focus

Funding priority will be given to projects that:

- include a focus on energy education
- include hands-on activities that use an engineering approach or scientific discovery process
- include opportunities for the students to share what they've learned with the school community
- expand access and opportunity for students from groups historically underrepresented in STEM fields, including one or more of the following categories:
 - Females
 - Racial and ethnic minorities: African American, Hispanic/Latino(a), Native American/Alaska
 - Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander
 - Low-income students (% eligible for free/reduced lunch or Title I designation)

Allowable Purchases

- Project supplies
- Equipment
- Software

Grant Will NOT Cover

- Honoraria, salaries, stipends or substitute teachers
- Awards, incentives, t-shirts or food (unless part of an experiment)
- Programs that are state-mandated or existing programs funded by another organization
- Replication/maintenance of a grant awarded in a prior academic year to the same grantee

Application Requirements

- All applications must be approved by the school principal.
- All applications must be submitted via the [TIG application Form](#).

Procurement Considerations

- All equipment and software purchase plans in your grant application must be pre-approved by OCPS Information Technology Services (ITS) before submission. If you are looking to purchase pre approved OCPS computer purchases by ITS please work with your school bookkeeper for a complete list of those items.
- Devices must also be approved by your school's technology coordinator.
- Purchase of devices must be completed through iBuy, following ITS approval.
- All spend activity must follow OCPS procurement guidelines. No purchases made prior to the official grant award may be reimbursed.
- Management Directive B-14 procedures must be followed for any electrical or structural configurations. Approvals must occur prior to a grant submission.

Application Timeline (subject to change):

Application Opens:	January 5, 2026
Application Closes:	February 9, 2026
Application Review:	February 10-18, 2026
Award Notification:	February 23-27, 2026
Unspent Funds Returned:	May 15, 2026
Final Evaluation Due:	May 15, 2026

Evaluation:

Each TIG application is reviewed, evaluated, and scored by a panel of judges that include Duke Energy employees, teachers, district staff, and community volunteers. Reviewers evaluate proposal merit according to the criteria listed in the TIG rubric [link pending].

Note: Most volunteer reviewers are not licensed educators, therefore may not be familiar with education pedagogy/terminology. For best evaluation results, make sure to write clearly and concisely.

Distribution:

Award funds will be sent via check to the school address to be deposited into the school's internal account. If purchases must be made through external vendors, bookkeepers may cut a check for that amount, and send it directly to the OCPS Finance department to be deposited in the school's external account. Unspent funds over \$25 must be returned via check payable to Foundation for Orange County Public Schools.

Note: Supplies, materials and equipment purchased with grant funds may travel to a new school with the grantee should work location change, but are not the personal property of the grantee. Upon resignation or retirement, the grant-funded supplies, materials, and equipment become the property of the OCPS school where grantee was last employed.

Grantee Responsibility:

- Post-award- E-sign the TIG contract upon receipt, upload to your Google Drive, set sharing permissions to "Anyone with the link", and post share link in the TIG tracking form [link pending].
- Post-project- Submit expense summary and copies of all receipts to your Google Drive, set sharing permissions to "Anyone with the link", and post share link in the TIG tracking form.
- Unspent funds must be returned to FOCPS no later than May 15, 2026.