

# York Education Foundation Grant Application Information (2025)

The York Education Foundation (YEF) is an independent, non-profit organization of community volunteers committed to excellence in education. Our mission is to provide funding for innovative and challenging programs in the York Public Schools. We strive to enhance and broaden community support for public education.

The York Education Foundation seeks to award grants for exceptional projects and programs proposed by York educators at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

## Directions for Grant Application

1. Review Grant Application Information.
2. Fill out Grant Application form.
3. Review Grant Application with your Principal.
4. Attach any relevant documents and submit.
4. Upon approval, submit grant invoices with the YEF grant number to the central office for reimbursement.
5. Upon the completion of the project fill out and submit the Grant Evaluation Form. There is a link on our website. Consideration for future grants is dependent upon submission of a completed Grant Evaluation Form.

## Grant Application Deadline

Applications must be completed and submitted to YEF by April 18, 2025 (for the 2025/26 school year)

## Eligibility

Any employed school personnel are eligible to apply for grants, as long as direct impact on students can be demonstrated. Previous YEF grant recipients must have submitted a Grant Evaluation form in order to be considered for future grants.

## Purpose

Grants are awarded for the purpose of supporting K-12 curriculum enrichment. They are intended to meet student needs and increase motivation to learn, as well as stimulate creativity in the classroom. Grants may include project-related supplies or equipment, workshop fees, and/or resource materials. Grant awards are intended to be used as seed money to fund new programs and projects rather than previously funded projects.

### Scope and Requirements

Grant awards are based on the merits of the proposed project, the demonstrated needs of the project and the funds available. An award may cover only a portion of the entire project cost. A detailed budget is essential for projected costs, describing how the entire budget will be spent.

All expenditures for equipment or supplies must be consistent with the description outlined in the application. Changes to the project must be approved by the Grant Committee before expenses will be reimbursed. All materials and equipment purchased with YEF funds become the property of the York School System and must be identified accordingly.

All applications require a Principal's signature to ensure the alignment of project with District curriculum goals.

Projects must be completed within one year of funding approval unless the Grant Chair and YEF President have approved other arrangements.

Grants are not intended to pay for college or graduate school courses, or programs for which funds are otherwise available. Grant money is not awarded by YEF for the purpose of funding York School educator stipends. Nor should they be used to purchase materials, such as core curriculum text and standard school supplies, which should be covered in the school's operational budget.

### Criteria

The following criteria will be used to review grant applications:

- Number of students benefiting from project
- Originality of the project
- Impact on colleagues – sharing skills and ideas
- Clarity of the goals and objectives
- Alignment with York's K-12 adopted curriculum and Professional Development Plan
- Accountability for funds as detailed in budget request
- Evaluation plan

### Contact

Feel free to call text or call Chris Leclerc with any questions or concerns. You can also e-mail me any additional information that you would like included in your Grant Application.

e-mail: [christian.leclerc@me.com](mailto:christian.leclerc@me.com)

phone: 207-703-4827

Email \*

mharris@yorkschoools.org

Grant Application

Project Name: \*

Maple Syrup Project

Submission Date: \*

MM DD YYYY

04 / 18 / 25

Contact Person: \*

Michael Harris

Position: \*

Principal

School: \*

- Village Elementary School
- Coastal Ridge Elementary
- York Middle School
- York High School

Best phone number: \*

207-363-1800, ext: 30124

E-mail Address: \*

mharris@yorkschoools.org

Amount Requested: \*

\$620.55

Principal approval: \*

- Yes - I reviewed with my principal and he/she approves
- No - I have not reviewed with my principal

Please check all that apply: \*

- This project borrows from a successful idea used outside of York School District
- This project is a new idea for our school district
- This project is based on research

Please elaborate on your response above: \*

Eliot Elementary School has a maple sugaring program, that involves the entire school.

Give a brief description of your project, including curriculum goals and objectives: \*

Our proposed project, "Coastal Ridge Community Maple Sugaring Program," aims to create a multi-year, experiential learning opportunity centered around the traditional practice of maple sugaring. The program will initially involve our 3rd-grade students, who will learn the science and process of tapping maple trees, collecting and boiling sap, and ultimately producing maple syrup. A key objective is to foster leadership and mentorship skills by having the initial 3rd-grade cohort serve as 4th-grade advisors to the incoming 3rd-grade students the following year, creating a sustainable peer-learning model. The long-term goal is to expand the program to include all grade levels at Coastal Ridge, culminating in an annual "Maple Sugaring Day" event that engages the entire school community.

Curriculum Goals and Objectives:

This project directly aligns with several curriculum goals, including:

**Hands-on Science Exploration:** Providing students with direct, tangible experiences in nature and scientific processes.

**Interdisciplinary Learning:** Naturally integrating concepts from science, mathematics (measurement, ratios), social studies (local history, traditions), and potentially language arts (journaling, descriptive writing).

**Development of Leadership and Collaboration Skills:** Empowering older students to mentor younger peers and fostering teamwork throughout the sugaring process.

**Community Engagement:** Building connections between the school and the wider community through the culminating Maple Sugaring Day.

**Environmental Awareness:** Increasing students' understanding of local ecosystems, sustainable practices, and the natural resources around them.

**Example for 3rd Grade NGSS Standard:**

This project would beautifully complement a 3rd-grade science unit focused on 3-LS1-1: Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.<sup>1</sup>

**Connection:** The maple tree itself is an organism with a life cycle. Students can observe the tree in different seasons, learning about its growth (increasing in size each year), reproduction (producing seeds), and eventual death. The process of tapping the tree for sap can be discussed in the context of how humans interact with and utilize natural resources within the tree's life cycle.

**Activities:**

Students can create models (drawings, diagrams) illustrating the life cycle of a maple tree.

They can observe and document changes in the maple trees on school grounds throughout the year.

Discussions can focus on the needs of the maple tree for survival (water, sunlight, nutrients) and how these relate to its life cycle.

The sugaring process can be framed as a human interaction with a mature tree, utilizing its stored energy (sap) without harming its ability to continue its life cycle.

This project offers a rich and engaging way to bring abstract scientific concepts to life while fostering valuable skills and community connections. Let me know if you'd like to explore other NGSS connections or further refine this description!

**How does this project fit York's K-12 adopted curriculum and Professional Development Plan?:** \*

Increased Hands-On Experimental Learning: You've directly identified this connection, and it's a strong

one. Maple sugaring naturally lends itself to hands-on activities in science (understanding tree physiology, boiling points, density), math (measuring, ratios, data analysis), and literacy (researching, journaling, creating informational texts). This experiential approach is often a cornerstone of modern curriculum design, aiming to make learning more engaging and meaningful.

**Intergrade Level Learning:** The maple sugaring program offers fantastic opportunities for older students to mentor younger ones in various aspects of the process, from tapping trees to the final tasting. This fosters collaboration, builds leadership skills, and creates a sense of community within the school. This aligns with initiatives that promote cross-grade interaction and peer teaching.

**Leadership Opportunities for All Students:** By involving students in different stages of the project, from collecting sap to processing and potentially marketing syrup, you're creating natural leadership roles. Students can take ownership of specific tasks, develop responsibility, and learn to guide others. This supports the goal of empowering all students and fostering their leadership potential.

**Community Engagement:** The potential for the project to expand and involve the wider York community is a significant asset. This not only enriches the learning experience for students by connecting it to the real world but also strengthens the school's ties with families and community members. This aligns with many schools' goals of fostering community partnerships and providing authentic learning experiences.

In terms of the Professional Development Plan, this project could offer rich opportunities for teachers as well:

**Collaborative Teaching and Learning:** Implementing an intergrade level project like this encourages collaboration among teachers from different disciplines and grade levels. This can lead to shared planning, innovative teaching strategies, and a stronger sense of professional community.

**Project-Based Learning (PBL):** The maple sugaring program is inherently project-based. Documenting the process, student roles, and learning outcomes could serve as a valuable case study and contribute to professional development around effective PBL implementation.

**STEM Integration:** The natural integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics within this project provides a tangible example of STEM education in action. Sharing your experiences and student outcomes could be a valuable contribution to professional development initiatives focused on STEM.

Overall, the maple sugaring program appears to be a very strong fit with York's educational goals, offering a unique and engaging way to enhance hands-on learning, foster intergrade collaboration, develop leadership skills, and build community connections. I can see why you're excited about its potential!

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List additional York school personnel to be involved. Include name and position: \*

Annette Slone (STEAM Teacher), Michael Harris Principal, third grade teachers.

How will you share what you have learned from your project with your colleagues?: \*

The process will be shared through hands on learning, presentations, and culminating event to share the learning of the sugaring process. Final products will be raffled off to the school community to benefit school wide initiatives.

Estimate the number of students who will be involved. How will they be selected?: \*

110, the entire 3rd grade team.

When will your project begin and end?: \*

We begin tapping trees in late winter, and usually goes through late march. Collecting of the sap will be a weekly event done in groups aligned with Mrs. Slone's STEAM class. All sap that is collected will be taken by Sean Eager (parent) owner of Porcupine Hill Maple Syrup will take our sap, and boil it down and bottle our final product.

How will you evaluate whether the objectives of the project have been met? \*

We will evaluate the project based on student participation, presentation of learning to school community, volunteer involvement, and final product of syrup.

What will be the ongoing use of benefits of the project?: \*

#### For the Students:

**Annual Hands-on Learning:** This won't be a one-time event. Each year, new cohorts of students will get to experience the entire maple sugaring process firsthand. This provides a consistent, tangible link to science (botany, physics, chemistry), math (measurement, ratios), history (traditional practices), and even language arts (journaling, storytelling).

**Leadership Development:** As the program matures, older students who have participated before can take on leadership roles in guiding younger students. This fosters responsibility, communication skills, and the ability to mentor others. Imagine a "Maple Crew" of experienced students leading tapping demonstrations or explaining the boiling process.

**Deeper Connection with Nature:** The annual cycle of tapping, collecting, and boiling will create a lasting connection with the natural world. Students will learn about local ecosystems, tree identification, weather patterns, and the seasonality of nature in a deeply personal way. This can foster a sense of environmental stewardship.

**Community Engagement Skills:** Interacting with community members who come to learn about the project will build confidence and communication skills. Students will learn how to explain the process, share their knowledge, and represent their school in a positive light.

**Potential for Entrepreneurial Skills:** Depending on how the school decides to use the syrup, there could be opportunities for students to learn about marketing, sales, and managing a small-scale "business."

#### For the School:

**Unique Educational Opportunity:** The maple sugaring project will become a signature program at Coastal Ridge Elementary, setting it apart and attracting students and families who value hands-on, experiential learning.

**Stronger Community Ties:** Inviting the community to witness the process, perhaps through open house events or syrup sales, will strengthen the school's connection with local residents and businesses. It creates a shared experience and a point of pride.

**Interdisciplinary Learning Hub:** The sugaring project can serve as a springboard for other related learning activities across different subjects. For example, art classes could design labels for syrup containers, social studies could explore the history of maple sugaring in the region, and writing classes could create informational brochures.

**Potential Revenue Source:** Depending on the scale and regulations, the sale of the maple syrup could generate funds for the school, which could be reinvested in the program or other educational initiatives.

**Living Laboratory:** The sugar bush becomes a living laboratory right on school grounds, providing endless opportunities for observation, data collection, and scientific inquiry throughout the year, not just during sugaring season.

#### For the Community:

**Educational Outreach:** The school becomes a resource for the community to learn about maple sugaring, local ecology, and sustainable practices.

**Intergenerational Learning:** Opportunities for community members to interact with students and learn alongside them can bridge generational gaps and foster a sense of shared learning.

**Local Pride and Identity:** The maple sugaring project can become a source of local pride, highlighting the unique natural resources and educational initiatives within York.

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What part of your budget are you seeking from YEF? Do you have additional sources of funding?: \*

100 %

Provide an itemized list of all budget items accounting for your project total. Include a list of materials, equipment, sources of supply, and other costs. Be sure to include any shipping and handling expenses: \*

Here's a breakdown of the estimated costs to start maple sugaring at Coastal Ridge Elementary School:

Item

Unit Cost

Quantity

Total Cost

Notes

Plastic Sap Bucket, 3 gallon

\$6.50

12

\$78.00

5/16 Plastic Bucket Spout with Swivel Hook

\$1.15

15

\$17.25

8 oz glass bottle with drop lock thread (12 per case)

\$8.40

2

\$16.80

5/16 H2O tapping bit

1

\$22.50

Assuming midpoint of \$22-\$25 range

Food Grade buckets

\$7.00

7

\$49.00

Hammer

\$12.00

1

\$12.00

Drill

\$70.00

1

\$70.00

Sap collection tank

\$100.00

1

\$100.00

Bottle Lables

\$25.00

1

\$25.00

Stipend

\$200.00

1

\$200.00

Stipend for teacher time after working hours.

Shipping and Handling Estimate

@ 5% of cost

\$30.00

Total

\$620.55

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