

## LWPTSA Financial Equity Program: Frequently Asked Questions

We've received additional questions about the Financial Equity Program. We are glad to hear that this program is being discussed among so many local PTAs. We are in year one of this program so there will be some unknowns and we look forward to being able to share more program feedback and data for year two as we review, expand, and make any amendments to this program to ensure it meets the needs of our local PTAs.

### **How did this program start?**

This program was initiated by a local PTA that wanted to provide support to other PTAs at the start of the pandemic. They called it the Partner School Program. For two years they worked with the LWSD equity and family engagement department and building administrators to identify school communities/PTAs that could benefit from some additional support. After membership support and budget approval they worked with two local PTAs to fund remote learning necessities for families; social and emotional resource tools; playground improvements; food, clothing and school supply needs, sensory tools and more. They brought this concept to LWPTSA who worked with a committee to adopt this program in Spring 2022. It was approved by LWPTSA membership for launch Fall 2022.

### **How will grant requests be prioritized?**

Financial need of the local PTA and the community it supports will be given consideration (Title 1, free/reduced lunch, special circumstances). Please review our [grant application](#) to see full program evaluation criteria. A member of the review committee will serve as a coach to the applicant to gather the rest of the information needed for the committee to decide.

### **What will PTAs use these funds for?**

The funds may be used toward the purchase of supplies, equipment or experiences that will enhance the educational experience or safety for students but cannot be provided by the applicant due to lack of financial or volunteer resources.

### **How much should PTAs donate?**

We do not have a suggested donation as each PTA has different budgets and fundraising goals. We welcome and appreciate all donations. We have received donations ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 currently. We remind PTAs that donations should be proportionate to their budgets both giving and receiving.

### **Can PTAs donate after October 31?**

Yes you can donate after October 31. We realize PTAs are still fundraising and budgets may need to be amended at membership meetings. All donations received will be put in a restricted fund only to be used for this program. We are hoping to confirm as many donations as possible by October 31 so we can start encouraging PTAs to submit grant requests to use the funds within this school year. Approximately 75% of the funding available will be awarded through the initial grant process, and 25% will be reserved to respond to emergent requests throughout the school year.

**Can individuals make donations to this program?**

Individual donations to this purpose will be accepted as long as they come with no additional restrictions (may be restricted to Financial Equity grants, but not further restricted based on school level, location, or purpose of funding).

**How will LWPTSA Council evaluate requests and the effectiveness of this program?**

LWPTSA Council will designate a board member that will serve as program chair for this effort each year. There will be a committee of 3-5 members (may include non-board members, but all will be PTA members in a LWPTSA Council PTA) who will evaluate available funds and grant applications and make a funding recommendation to the Board for approval. All efforts will be made to respect the dignity of local communities by keeping financial status confidential. The committee will report on the total amount of funds donated and awarded, and the items/experiences provided, but individual PTAs will not be named publicly.

**How do we give?**

Council will make local PTAs aware of this opportunity through communication in the spring and early fall. PTAs will be encouraged to make any financial contribution their membership approves by Oct 31. Funds will be received as restricted to a "Financial Equity Fund - Restricted Donations" line item. By receiving funds early in the PTA year, LWPTSA Council membership will be able to approve an amount to make available for grant funding. Giving is voluntary, and there will be no pressure for a local PTA to participate.

Please send donations to:

LWPTSA Council 2.8

Attn: Financial Equity Program

PO Box 97039

Redmond WA 98073

**How do we receive?**

LWPTSA Council has established a simple grant application that local PTAs can use to request funding for a specific item or experience. Applications will be made available in September. Approximately 75% of the funding available will be awarded through the initial grant process, and 25% will be reserved to respond to emergent requests throughout the school year. Funds should be utilized in the year they are given to the greatest extent possible. Any unawarded funds remaining at the end of one fiscal year will be part of the total funding available in the fall of the next fiscal year.

If you have additional questions please contact LWPTSA DEI Chair, Thea Warner at [diversity@lwptsa.net](mailto:diversity@lwptsa.net).