



Program and Project Examples

Lilly Endowment expects that, given the intentionally broad aim of this initiative, the many and varying needs of students in Marion County, and the diverse and distinctive missions of eligible schools, applicants will present a wide array of programs or projects for implementation and competitive grant funding. To illustrate the breadth of possible approaches applicants may propose, some program and project examples that could be favorably viewed by the Endowment, if well developed and supported by convincing research or other evidence, are provided below. These examples are meant to be illustrative, brief descriptions only. Programs and projects presented in proposals and concepts should be more fully developed and described. Many other programs or projects could also be compelling.

- Implementation of a multi-faceted plan to address low reading achievement in elementary schools through the utilization of paid and volunteer reading tutors, new books for classrooms and the school library, and professional development aligned with the Science of Reading for teachers, tutors and families to reinforce evidence-based instruction at school and home.
- Creation of a dual-language immersion program in which a growing population of Spanish-speaking students will learn alongside English-speaking students, with 50 percent of instruction delivered in Spanish and 50 percent of instruction delivered in English. Preparing to launch the program includes visiting other successful dual-language programs, professional development and the acquisition of Spanish-language curricula.
- Enhancement of high school science coursework through the purchase of new lab equipment and technology, facility updates to existing lab spaces and professional development for science faculty that supports their instruction once the new labs are operational.
- Creation and implementation of a new civics education and engagement program that integrates and complies with Social Studies and English/Language Arts standards and seeks to increase students' engagement at school and in their communities.
- Expansion of an existing, successful after-school tutoring program to serve additional students by addressing challenges such as transportation, language-access and cost of materials. In addition to these strategies, facility improvements are made in order to establish several new tutoring rooms to serve as inviting and well-equipped spaces for tutoring to take place.
- Enhancement of a high school counseling program, with a focus on increasing post-secondary education and college-going rates, through a partnership with a national nonprofit that offers personalized virtual college admissions counseling, the planning and conducting of multiple college tours each year and creation of a fund to support students with small expenses associated with the college selection and admissions process.

- Creation of a speaker series program to provide interested students with the opportunity to learn about promising career opportunities from professionals in various fields that may be of interest to them; provide after-school opportunities for students to work towards related industry-recognized credentials.
- Expansion of access to and completion of dual credit coursework by providing opportunities for current high school teachers to earn relevant credentials, launching a communications plan to notify students and families of available dual credit opportunities, and purchasing equipment and curricula to use for dual credit courses.
- Enhancement of performing arts programs, including new instruments for the band and orchestra, equipment for choir and theatre programs, professional development for arts education faculty, and facility improvements to existing event spaces. Enhancements are based on input from the school community, as well as evidence that students who participate in performing arts are often more engaged and more successful in the classroom.
- Expansion of access to low-cost or free before- and after-school programming through a partnership with a local community organization, with a focus on providing more enrichment opportunities that have been shown to increase student engagement in school.
- Initiation of a program in partnership with a local mental health provider to improve student mental health and wellness through efforts such as increased student access to mental health counseling and training for teachers, counselors, support staff and families about how to recognize, prevent and address mental health challenges in school and at home.
- Implementation of a comprehensive teacher retention strategy to include mentorship for novice and mid-career teachers, leadership development pathways, retention bonuses, differentiated professional development, increased planning time and more.
- Establishment of a community room, in partnership with area community-based organizations, to serve as a welcoming space for families to visit before or after school and receive materials and information from trained volunteers, including food, clothing, and referrals to human service organizations that can address other challenges being experienced by students and their families.