



# Announcing a NEW Multi-Year Grant Opportunity for Rural Colorado School Districts!

In celebration of **ten years** of championing rural education in Colorado, the **Nathan Yip Foundation** is proud to launch a bold **new multi-year grant opportunity** for rural K–12 school districts across the state. This initiative is grounded in a belief that **teachers are the heart of innovation and vision** in rural schools. We invite districts to **build their proposals by partnering with educators** who see what's possible—those closest to students and classrooms—while district leaders provide the structure, stewardship, and sustainability needed to bring these ideas to life. ***This new grant philosophy represents an evolution of our funding approach and will replace the individual school, district, and teacher grants we've supported in the past.***

At its core, this grant is about supporting the **whole student**—academically, socially, and emotionally—through bold ideas and strong relationships. We are seeking **teacher-driven, district-supported** proposals that reflect shared aspirations for student success. Superintendents will formally submit the application with a **Lead Teacher and a team of committed educators** who will collaborate to design and carry out the work. We encourage districts to empower these teams to **dream big** and lead the creation of strategic, student-centered plans that respond to local needs and build lasting impact across their schools and communities.

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## Our Funding Priorities

We invite districts to submit strategic, student-centered proposals focused on one or more of the following priority areas:

- **Career Exploration & Workforce Pathways:** Create hands-on career-connected learning aligned with local industries, helping students see a future in their communities.
- **Early Literacy:** Strengthen reading instruction and family engagement in literacy, ensuring all students build strong foundations in the early grades.
- **Equitable Academic Access:** Increase opportunities for rural students to participate in advanced coursework, concurrent enrollment, and inclusive learning experiences.
- **Family & Community Partnerships:** Foster collaboration with families and local partners to boost student attendance, engagement, and success.
- **STEAM Education & Creative Expression:** Expand access to integrated science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics learning experiences that foster creativity, critical thinking, and student identity through hands-on, interdisciplinary exploration.
- **Student Mental Health & Belonging:** Expand mental health supports, social-emotional learning (SEL), and relationship-building practices.

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## Grant Details

### Eligible Applicants:

Public rural Colorado school districts (**must be submitted by the Superintendent and a Lead Teacher**)

**Total Award:** Up to \$75,000 over three years

- Year 1: up to \$30,000
  - Year 2: up to \$25,000
  - Year 3: up to \$20,000
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### Timeline

- **Full Application Due:** November 21, 2025
  - **Grant Announcement:** February 1, 2026
  - **Chinese New Year Gala:** February 21, 2026
  - **Grant Disbursement:** no later than May 1, 2026
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### What We're Looking For

We're seeking **bold, thoughtful, and strategic proposals** with a clear three-year vision for improving student outcomes. Proposals should respond to local challenges and outline **sustainable, relationship-centered strategies** that will leave a lasting impact on students, families, and communities.

In our inaugural cohort, we will fund **5–7 rural school district proposals**. It is our goal to **walk alongside each district over the full three years, bringing additional financial, community, and business support** to help rural students thrive—now and into the future.


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### Ongoing Partnership & Leadership Expectations

If your district is selected for funding, we ask that the **Superintendent and Lead Teacher attend the Nathan Yip Foundation's Chinese New Year Gala in Denver on Saturday, February 21st**, at NYF's expense, where you'll have the opportunity to share your vision with our supporters.

**Superintendents and Lead Teachers** will also participate in **two virtual cohort calls per year** to reflect on successes, share challenges, and identify areas of need. Our goal is to build **sustainable, shareable implementation plans** so students across rural Colorado benefit from your learning and leadership.

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 By investing in rural education, we invest in students—their potential, their well-being, and their future—**one educator, one family, and one community at a time.**

**We're updating our website and can't wait to share more details about the grant application starting September 19! In the meantime, if you have any questions, [Stacey](#) is happy to help—just reach out.**

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