



Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

2025-2026 GRANT APPLICATION

Grant Timeline

January 27, 2025: Grant Applications Open Online

March 7, 2025: Grant Applications Due

Week of March 10 & 17, 2025: Grant committee & applicant interviews conducted

April 28, 2025: Grant Award Winners Announced

Instructions

Please electronically submit via the online form. Applications and documentation are due by **March 7, 2025**.

There are four forms to include:

1. Application
2. MTSS Pyramid
3. Letter from the school on what inclusion means to them and what direction the school is taking to grow their current environment.
4. Letter from priest sharing how he plans to support the school grow their inclusion efforts.

If you have any questions about the application, please contact Erin Schmitz at 319.529.1109

Grant Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria must be satisfied *prior to application* for a school to be eligible for a grant:

- The School is a diocesan school within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.
- The School is accepting student(s) *who would not be able to attend* without additional educational support.
- The School has a degreed Special Education teacher on staff or the School Administrator must validate the existence of appropriate educational support for the student(s).
- The School can demonstrate the commitment of its Administrator and Pastor to inclusive education.
- If awarded a grant the school will have a fundraiser for FIRE during the 2025-2026 school year and will support FIRE's annual fundraising events. The school will also be active on the ignite committee throughout the year.
- The School will distribute at least one general communication provided by the FIRE Office to all parishioners and/or school families to help educate the community on the mission and role of FIRE, as well as the benefits of inclusive education, and will provide the opportunity for a representative of FIRE to speak annually to its parishioners and/or school community.



Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

Items Funded

- Assistance for salaries of Para Educators
- Assistance for salaries of Special Education Teachers
- Professional Development on Inclusive Education
- Learning Materials, Technology, and Equipment

Application Review Process

A Grant Application must satisfy the Grant Eligibility Criteria for the application to be considered. Eligible Applicants will be invited to discuss their grant application in a meeting. The grant meeting will last approximately 30 minutes. Appointments will be scheduled through the FIRE office upon receipt of the Grant Application. Grant awards will be determined based on compliance with Eligibility Criteria, need for assistance and the availability of Foundation funds. **All grant monies received must be used specifically to support children with significant special needs *who would not be able to attend the school without the additional support.***

Grantees will receive a letter of notification regarding their grant no later than April 28, 2025.

Please note that all grant recipients are required to submit a mid-year report documenting use of grant funds. Any changes in the way grant funds are used that deviate from descriptions outlined in the grant application must be reported to the FIRE Foundation of Northeast Iowa. Mid-year report forms will be sent to grant recipients in December and the end of the year report will be due in May.

Grants are NOT awarded for the following uses: Operating expenses including rent payments, lease payments, and utilities, debt incurred or purchases made prior to IF award notification, travel expenses, participation in capital campaigns, endowment funds, and tuition assistance.



Northeast Iowa

Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of School: _____

Principal: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Contact Person(s): _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Address: _____

Total Enrollment _____

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST

2025-26 Project Request \$ _____

Total Project Cost \$ _____

Please select the category of the funding request.

- _____ Assistance for salaries of Para Educators
- _____ Assistance for salaries of Special Education Teacher
- _____ Professional Development on Inclusive Education
- _____ Learning Materials, Technology and Equipment



Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

1. Itemized Grant Request

Assistance for Salaries of Paraprofessionals				
Title	Description	Hours per week	Total Cost (Salary + Other Costs)	
Assistance for Salaries of Special Education Teachers				
Item	Description	Unit Cost	Number Requested	Total Cost
Professional Development on Inclusive Education				
Course/Training	Cost per participant	Number of participants	Substitute costs	Total Cost
Learning Materials, Technology and Equipment				
Item	Description	Unit Cost	Number Requested	Total Cost

1a. If you are applying for funds to be used for a paraeducator explain how you plan to train them to provide support in an inclusive environment?



Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

2a. What is the intended use of the funds requested?

2b. How will the use of these funds specifically allow the student to attend the Catholic school?

3. If you do not receive the requested funds, what will be the outcome?

4. Did you receive funds from any sources, other than general budget, during the 2024-2025 school year to support students with disabilities? If yes, please list additional funding sources and amounts received.

5. Is the funding request identified in an IEP (individual education plan)? If yes, explain why it is not being provided through the IEP.

6. How will successful use of the funds be defined and measured?

7. Who will benefit from the requested funds? (please no names)

Grade	Gender	Disability/Learning Need	Educational Plan (Check all that apply)				
			IEP	504 Plan	School Dev Acco Plan	ELL	None



Igniting Inclusive Catholic Education

8. Describe how the requested funds will promote inclusion of students with disabilities within your building.

9. Do you anticipate a need for professional development on best practices in inclusive education? What topics would most benefit your education team?

10. Current Services

Services Provided by the Private School

- Describe who provides services to students with disabilities within your building.
(employed by the private school, ie - certified special education teacher, designated certified teacher)
- Describe the instructional model of services within your building.
(pull-out, push-in, individual instruction, small group instruction, co-teaching)

Services Provided by the Public School

- How many students enrolled in your building are on an IEP? Explain what types of IEP's are being serviced at your school (instructional, speech, ot, pt)
- Describe how the student(s) are served by the local public school?
(students transported to the public school, public school teacher sent to non-public building, etc.)

The foregoing information is accurate, and I agree to promptly notify the FIRE Board of any changes with respect to the information contained herein. I will immediately contact the FIRE Board regarding requests for change in the use of funds. I have attached the requested supporting documents. On behalf of the above referenced school, I agree and understand that this Application must satisfy the Grant Eligibility Criteria in order to be considered.

School Administrator **Date**

Pastor **Date**

Special Educator **Date**