



Fund For Teachers



Connecticut State Department of Education

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Learning Targets for Today

1. Explore information about the Fund for Teachers program and how it might enhance the quality of teaching and learning in your school community
2. Discover the mission, vision, and goals for the Fund For Teachers Fellowship
3. Understand eligibility requirements and the online application process



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What is Fund For Teachers?

Is a Grant Fellowship Program that inspires teacher leadership, creativity, curiosity and exploration through an individualized professional learning grant proposal.



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What is the Mission & Vision?



Fund for Teachers strengthens instruction by investing in outstanding teachers' self-determined professional growth and development in order to support student success, enrich their own practice, and strengthen their schools and communities

Fund for Teachers Fellows transform instruction and become a national corps of empowered and validated educators, sought after in their communities and nationally as leaders, innovators and change-makers:

- Who make learning relevant, meaningful and empowering for their students;
- Who inspire and lead professional growth of their colleagues;
- Who collaborate in sharing best practices, collective visioning, and solving shared problems;
- Whose input helps close the gap between sound policy and best practice.



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What are the values & goals of Fund for Teachers fellowship?

Values:

1. Excellence
2. Respect for the Teacher Profession
3. Opportunity Finder and Risk Taker
4. Self Directed Life Learners
5. Catalyst
6. Collaboration
7. Empathy

Goals:

1. Serve as problem solvers and innovators who create solutions to real problems of practice;
2. Reflect on their experience as a learner and transfer the most powerful aspects of their experience to student learning;
3. Integrate their experiences as Fund for Teachers Fellows into their teaching to create more globally minded students who are empowered to take action;
4. Grow as leaders and change makers





How much has Fund for Teachers invested in educators since 2001?

Fund for Teachers has awarded **\$33.5 million** in grants to nearly **9,000** of America's top educators for **27 million** students in **5,900** schools.



FFT Fellows have traveled to **170** different countries in all seven continents.



Fund for Teachers honors the professionalism of dedicated teachers and values their judgment as to what best impacts their practice. In CT, nearly **800** teachers have received fellowships from **97** school districts.



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Teacher Fellow Spotlight!



Tracey-Ann is a teacher at Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy, where she has founded a statewide Leaders in Diversity initiative for BIPOC teachers. For her FFT fellowship, Tracey-Ann and a colleague researched the history of apartheid in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, to empower elementary students in social activism and restorative justice.

“My FFT fellowship was transformative for my teaching because it allowed me to engage in authentic learning experiences. Learning in South Africa about Apartheid made me curious about the local histories that are surrounding me that I haven’t considered. It also solidified the importance of teaching students about social justice and social comprehension, reminded me of the power that passionate individuals can have, and showed me the impact that children can have on their communities.”

“I continually shared with my students’ experiences and knowledge rooted in our fellowship—especially student activism while in South Africa. I think it’s important to teach my students to think critically and form their own opinions about the world, so I try to give them information about a variety of topics that really make them think.”



Tim used his FFT grant to join a photography tour in Cuba with professional artist and documentarian Louis Alarcon to create learning that combines insights about Cuba with photography and digital literacy skills.

“The photography skills I learned on my photo tour, along with the knowledge and experience gained in Cuba, helped me to create an engaging and meaningful unit on Cuban culture for my students. This experience has given me the confidence to take on new challenges like leading a photography club this year. I will continue to draw upon this fellowship as I plan activities for the coming school year.”

“I thought Cuba was like other countries I’ve visited in Latin America. I thought it was changing at a rapid pace. I thought I could easily understand Cuba after having spent time living in South America. I was wrong about these assumptions, and many more. This fellowship has taught me that when I teach about the world, I have a very limited knowledge and perspective. I need to work harder at giving my students access to more authentic learning experiences about the world beyond our classroom.”

During her 2019 fellowship, Michelle attended a conference in Australia focused on social skill development for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities. She toured special education programs in Australia and New Zealand to learn new approaches to social skills curricula and to prepare adults with disabilities to become successfully employed.

“It has become clear to me that the greatest need is in the students developing appropriate social skills with their peers and supervisors...being able to specifically design my own staff development through Fund for Teachers helped me center my learning based on this student need. In Australia, I had the opportunity to learn research-based practices at the Australian Association of Special Educators conference. There, I was immersed in social emotional learning and innovative ways to impact our students. I had the opportunity to collaborate with passionate educators in both Australia and New Zealand, watching their program structures and natural social skills development. This gave me a new perspective on how to teach social emotional skills.”

“After my fellowship, I was able to give personalized lessons and truly prepare [students] for their next step...my graduating seniors are now more prepared by having the skills to advocate for themselves. In addition to the impact that it has made on my classroom, I was able to present my findings to both my campus and district transition to employment teachers. It has encouraged teachers to continue their own educational growth and to use innovative methods to support our students.”



Why Fund for Teachers?



We trust that you know :

- What you need to enrich your own practice
- How to make learning meaningful and relevant to your students
- How to strengthen your classroom, school and community



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How does it ignite Teacher Leadership?



Teachers are most effective, and improve in their practice, when they are problem solvers and innovators, who take risks, learn, reflect and collaborate. Teachers who pursue FFT's transformational learning experiences catalyze these problem-solving experiences for themselves and students, ultimately changing schools and communities.



What Are The Eligibility Requirements?

1. Full Time Prek-12 Teacher
2. Teaching Next Year
3. Three-Years' Experience
4. Five Year Waiting Period (After First Award Participants May Re-apply)





What steps should teachers take to ensure success with the Grant Proposal?

1. Visit the Online Learning Center
2. Read the Application Guidelines
3. Download the Scoring Criteria
4. Ask Others for Help
5. Go! Apply Online



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What are the major indicators on the Scoring Rubric?

- Fellowship Purpose
- Fellowship Learning Plan
- Teacher Growth in Learning
- Student Growth in Learning
- Budget Narrative



What tips should teachers keep in mind when writing the grant?

- ASK FOR HELP
- Details. Details.
- Use the Rubric as a Guide
- Watch your tone
- Take your time
- Proofread/ Self-evaluate
- Avoid jargon



What is the Application Process?

- Online Application: fft.fundforteachers.org
- Deadline: January 20, 2022, 5 pm CST
- Word Processing: Compose your grant proposal in a word processing program first, then cut and paste your proposal into the online application
- Notification: Applicants will be notified by email on March 29 the results of the Selection Committee's recommendations.



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Who should Teachers contact for additional questions?

Dale Bernardoni
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fundforteachers.org



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Works Cited Page

[Fund For Teachers®: Investing in prek-12 teachers' professional development.](#)



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