



Frequently Asked Questions 2008 ELS Program

1. **How do I know if my school is eligible?** Visit: www.fundforteachers.org/apply for a list. All ELS schools with current contracts are eligible.
2. **How can I learn more about completing a successful application?** The website, fundforteachers.org, contains lots of information to support the process. You can also contact your ELS School Designer for support.
3. **Are there restrictions on the types of grants Fund for Teachers awards?**
Grant funds may not be used to: pursue degrees, pay indirect costs of salaries, pay stipends for summer work, or support travel costs or conference fees for more than one person (with the exception of team applications).
4. **Why is my school or district not eligible?**
Eligibility is dependent upon a current contract with ELS schools.
5. **What if others travel with me?**
All reimbursed expenses must be those incurred by you or your team members. Friends or family may accompany you, but the grant cannot support their expenses.
6. **Do we have to travel? What types of grants were awarded in the past?**
No. Proposals have been funded where fellows never left their community. Ask your school designer, or visit the fundforteachers.org to see examples of funded fellowships from the past.
7. **Can individuals / teams submit more than one application?**
Applicants may only submit **ONE** application, whether on a team or as an individual. Applications are judged on quality not quantity. Identical applications will not be considered. Two teams or a set of individuals cannot submit identical applications to increase their spending limit. Proposals must be written by the person(s) participating in the fellowship. Proposals written by other parties will not be considered.
8. **Why do I need my principal's signature?**
Your principal's signature is only verifying that the information you have provided on your cover sheet. It is not "permission" or approval for your proposed fellowship.

9. **What if my project and/or prices change after I am awarded?**
Please contact your Fund for Teachers representative immediately if you have changes to your project. In terms of prices, it is hoped that your proposed budget is realistic, but there is flexibility between categories. For example, if the cost of airfare actually comes in lower than projected, but the cost for accommodations comes in higher, a trade-off in funds is permissible. However, there are no supplemental funds to increase grants once they are awarded. Expenses incurred beyond grant limits are the responsibility of the fellow.
10. **What if a team member drops out after the grant is awarded?**
If a team member drops out, you must contact Fund for Teachers to negotiate a new budget or have a new team member cleared. If a portion of the grant must be returned, it should be returned to Fund for Teachers.
11. **Are there additional funds available?**
Fund for Teachers funds eligible grant recipients annually. Awardees may only receive funding once every five years.
12. **Can the selection committee make adjustments to my budget?**
Yes, if they feel you have under/ over budgeted or submitted unrealistic/unfounded estimates in your proposal.
13. **Are grants considered taxable income?**
Since grants vary, individuals are encouraged to check with their own tax preparers to ascertain how to report the funds received by Fund for Teachers.
14. **Will I receive individual feedback if my proposal is not awarded?**
Due to the number of applications received, we are unable to provide individual feedback. If your application was not chosen for funding, you are encouraged to reapply the following year.
15. **Whom do I contact if I have more questions?** Your ELS School Designer.