

# FOCUS GRANT FUNDING CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Updated 11/2018

## FOCUS MISSION STATEMENT:

FRIENDS OF CARMEL UNIFIED SCHOOLS, a California non-profit Corporation (est. 1980) and Public Education Foundation, supports quality education within the Carmel Unified School District. The Foundation raises money for the purpose of providing grants and resources to benefit students, teachers and staff.

## Grant Funding Criteria

The grant funding criteria reflect the mission statement. FOCUS awards grants for learning materials or for classroom or school enhancements that directly impact student engagement and learning. FOCUS awards grants that seek to prepare students for academic and social-emotional success.

FOCUS encourages grant requests that:

1. Seek to close the achievement gap,
2. Propose innovative use of technology, tools, or resources,
3. Pilot creative programs or curricular enhancements,
4. Impact a large number of students or have high frequency of use,
5. Align with district educational goals and priorities.

FOCUS grant funds are intended to augment district, site, and parent-teacher organization budgets. As such, FOCUS funds may not supplant expenditures such as :

- *Payroll*
- *Professional development*
- *Capital maintenance and improvements<sup>1</sup> or structures that require DSA review & approval*
- *Standard classroom furniture (e.g., desks, chairs)*
- *Required curricular materials, such as textbooks*
- *Consumable instructional materials\* (except as part of initial purchase)*
- *Routine or ongoing requests for materials (i.e., requests that FOCUS has previously funded two or more times)*
- *Field trips\**
- *Events or guest speakers\**
- *Scholarships*
- *Site-specific "spirit" items*

\*To accommodate changes in site and student needs, FOCUS will consider and evaluate on an individual exception basis, requests in the following areas: consumable instructional materials, field trips, and events or guest speakers. Exception requests should be innovative and provide compelling evidence of significant/long term student impact. FOCUS will not fund the same or largely similar grant requests for more than 2 years.

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<sup>1</sup> A *capital improvement* is any addition or alteration to real property that meets **all three** of the following conditions: (1) It substantially adds to the value of the real property, or appreciably prolongs the useful life of the real property, (2) It becomes part of the real property or is permanently affixed to the real property so that removal would cause material damage to the property or article itself, (3) It is intended to become a permanent installation.