

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT ALLOCATION GRANTS
PILOT PROGRAM 2026-2027
presented by
EI CERRITO STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND (SAF)
through **INVESTING IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE (IAE)**

WHAT ARE IAE GRANTS?

Teachers, in coordination with their department, can apply for grants to support academics at El Cerrito High, to reimburse you for the cost of items or experiences that will benefit your students' learning.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

Each department has an allocation of funds, so that money is spread more evenly throughout the school, based on need and impact. We also have 66% more funds to award as grants this year, totaling \$10,000.00. Department allocations are as follows: *English \$1,000, History \$1,000, Math \$1,000, Science \$2,000, World Languages \$1,000, Dance \$1,000, Material Art \$1,000, Music \$500, Special Education \$500, Library \$500 and Administration \$500. We are making these changes to encourage teachers who have never applied for a grant through IAE to do so this year—the process is simple and your impact is appreciated.*

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

- Grant funds must be used to invest in academic excellence at ECHS.
- Grant requests must be submitted for approval by IAE before purchases are made.
- Grant recipients must purchase needed items and submit receipts to IAE in order to be reimbursed.
- There will be two formal submission periods, one in fall semester and one in spring semester.

WHAT CAN GRANT MONEY BE USED FOR?

As in the past, grant money can be used to support classroom and supplemental programs not regularly supported by the district. Grants funds may support academic excellence through:

- **Academic Rigor** *e.g., educational materials*
- **Student Enrichment** *e.g., study trips*
- **Teacher & Staff Excellence** *e.g., instructional materials*
- **School Climate and Culture** *e.g., social, educational, community building*

Past grants included class sets of books, field trip expenses, instructional materials, etc. We especially welcome partnerships between teachers, and between departments.

Note: Grant money may not be used for individual professional development, student rewards, furniture, office supplies, or food. Consider using the [ECHS Wish List](#) for these requests. If you are unsure if your idea will be covered by IAE, please reach out to us with your questions! InvestinginAcademicExcellence@gmail.com

WHEN CAN WE APPLY?

- Fall 2026: You can apply now. The deadline has been **extended**, and applications will now be accepted through **Friday, November 6, 2026**, with award decisions made later that month.
- Spring 2027: Applications will be accepted through Friday January 22, 2027. Awards will be made in early February 2027.
- *All receipts must be submitted for reimbursement by May 31, 2027.*

WHAT IF A DEPARTMENT DOESN'T USE THEIR FUNDS?

At the start of spring semester, we will review what money remains and will confirm with department chairs if funds will not be used. If money is available, we will redistribute remaining funds. We encourage teachers and departments to submit requests in the fall, even if expenses won't be made until spring semester. As of October, all departments still have available funds.

HOW DO WE APPLY FOR MONEY?

Complete this [Grant Application Form](https://forms.gle/Zso2Txmstcsf4UPB8) at <https://forms.gle/Zso2Txmstcsf4UPB8>, or use the QR code. Please coordinate with your department head, and wait for approval before spending money.



Ensure that your request demonstrates:

- **Curricular Alignment.** The grant request should detail outcomes and/or benefits that are:
 - aligned with either course curriculum or social-emotional, cultural, or mental health supports
 - an enhancement or extension of the existing curriculum
 - clearly articulated and measurable
- **Cost Effectiveness.** The grant request should detail costs that are:
 - reasonable given the number of students served
 - used for materials, activities or vendors that are researched or supported
 - anticipate a reasonable benefit in learning, community, or enrichment on the investment
- **Sustained Impact.** The grant request should detail work that will realize one or more of the following:
 - lasting change
 - renewable resources or tools
 - memorable experiences
 - experiential learning for students, student-centered or other informed pedagogies

Your application will be reviewed by the IAE grants managers, who will be in touch with you to confirm your grant award and/or to ask you to answer additional questions about your grant request. **If an award is granted you will need to make your purchase directly and submit receipts to us for reimbursement. We can not reimburse funds without receipts.**

QUESTIONS? Email InvestingInAcademicExcellence@gmail.com
Thank you for making El Cerrito High School a more enriching place!

[El Cerrito Student Activity Fund \(SAF\)](#) is the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that supports enrichment activities for El Cerrito students in and outside the classroom.

[Investing in Academic Excellence \(IAE\)](#) is a [SAF](#) Sponsored Group Committee led by parents and community members since 2010 to advance academic excellence at ECHS.