Dear iEARN Educators,

To support your attendance at the 2018 iEARN International Conference and Youth Summit, iEARN-USA has compiled resources and information in a digital packet, including:

* [**Promotional Flyer**](http://iearn2018.org/assets/imgs/docs/iEARN-Conference-Flier-online.compressed.pdf) - You can share this flyer with other teachers, administrators, students and parents that includes key information for conference registration and session proposals.
* [**Funding Letter**](#yec44jm8ejv5) - We have drafted a request for funding template letter that you can use to reach out to your school administration, ministry, district, PTA, local businesses, and other organizations to support fundraising efforts to attend the conference. Please feel free to copy, edit, add your own project experiences, and use this template in any way you choose. Please let us know if you have ideas that we can share with other teachers that will support everyone in attending the conference this year!
* [**Top 10 Fundraising Tips**](#mf2e2lyx2xot) - Check out this helpful tip list if this is your first time fundraising or for some helpful reminders.
* [**Grants and Resources List**](#ga3a3rdfzc91) - We included a resource sheet with information on grants that fund travel and/or professional development for teachers. This resource sheet also includes other creative ideas for minimizing the cost of travel to the conference.

You can also reach out to your [iEARN country coordinator](https://iearn.org/country-coordinators) to ask if they have any tips for fundraising or grants resources. Another potential resource is the U.S. Embassy in your country, which often have small grants available.

Please let us know if there are additional documents and/or resources that could be helpful to support you and your students to attend the conference. Please check out the conference website - [iearn2018.org](http://iearn2018.org) - for other travel and program information, FAQs, and follow us on social media for conference updates including announcements for an upcoming informational webinars.

Best Regards,

The iEARN-USA Team

conference@us.iearn.org

**Funding Ask Letter Template - Teacher Sponsorships for iEARN Conference**

[Name]

[Business/Institution/Organization]

Dear [Name],

I am writing to you about an experience close to my heart, The 2018 iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) Conference and Youth Summit, in Winchester, VA from July 8-14, 2018, a convening of educators, students, administrators, non-profit partners and other community members from more than 50 countries to meet and discuss how we use technology to build global understanding and enhance teaching and learning.

We are currently seeking funding to support travel and registration scholarships for teachers and students from our school to attend the 2018 iEARN International Conference and Youth Summit. The cost per attendee is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ per participant with airfare, conference fees and meals. You can learn more about the conference at [iearn2018.org](http://iearn2018.org/).

Since 1994, IEARN has held this unique conference bringing together global educators from around the world. Past participants have had life-changing experiences that have increased empathy and understanding of other cultures:

“This experience radically changed my view of education and blew open my mind to what can be achieved in the classroom. The individuals I met and shared this experience with from Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Qatar, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, etc., have touched my heart with their stories and challenged my assumptions and pushed me to grow as a person and educator.” - Katherine Korte, iEARN Educator

As a thank you for your generosity and support, we will post a conference reflection story on iEARN-USA’s website and list individuals, businesses, and organizations that provided support for us to attend this life changing global education event. We hope that we can count on you to help us attend this incredible event.

[include instructions on how to donate such as “Please include your donation in the self-addressed envelope included in this letter” or a link to a donation page]. Thank you in advance for your support of global education for teachers and students in [location].

Sincerely,

[signature]

[name]

**Top Ten Tips for Fundraising**

1. **Craft a** [**pitch**](https://www.classy.org/blog/creating-a-stellar-elevator-pitch-for-your-nonprofit-organization/) **you believe in.** When you can tell a story about what it is you want to do and why you want to do it, and you believe it yourself, you will be a more effective fundraiser.
2. **Talk to your administration.** Ask your administration what funding options are available within your school or district. They might encourage you to write a grant on behalf of your school or department. Ask if they know of, and can connect you with, any other teachers who have successfully received funding for a similar project.
3. **Find grants.** Some foundations and businesses (look for businesses with a Corporate Social Responsibility department) provide grants for educators, schools, or districts. Grant proposals take time and advanced planning to write and can be quite competitive. Due to the grant application cycle, you may need to plan for your grant up to one year in advance before you can receive funding. Don’t forget to check in with your school’s administration or librarian to see if they have any suggestions. For more information on how to [find grants](http://grantspace.org/training/self-paced-elearning/introduction-to-finding-grants) and other great grant writing tips, check out [Grantspace.org](http://grantspace.org/).
4. **Ask friends and family to help you.** If you are going to seek personal donations, your first best bet is to ask your friends and family to help you. This is a great, safe place to practice your “pitch.” Often, our friends and family members want to help us succeed in our goals.
5. **Identify possible donors.** For individuals getting started in fundraising, start by brainstorming a list of people that you have direct connections with including local business owners, community connections, friends and family members. While you are talking with your friends and family, ask them to help you with their suggestions. Do some [research](https://www.thebalance.com/how-to-predict-future-giving-with-donor-prospect-research-2502137) about who your prospective donors are, what are their interests? How much might they be willing to give?
6. **Choose a platform**. There are lots of [online giving platforms](https://doublethedonation.com/crowdfunding-websites/) that individuals can use to easily set up a fundraiser online. Many of these will have an administration fee or platform fee, which is the cost of setting up a web page and using their payment platform.
7. **Write a great fundraising letter/ ”ask letter.”** Once you know who you will ask and how you will be accepting donations, spend some time turning your pitch into a personalized [fundraising letter](#yec44jm8ejv5).
8. **Share your impact.** Whether you receive a donation from a friend, a local business, or receive a grant, you should share the impact your project made. What changes happened as a result of your project? Who benefited? Consider taking photos/video of your students working on their projects or using the Collaboration Centre (be sure to get their parents’ permission!). Share these photos with the people who made it possible.
9. **Say thank you.** Send all of your supporters a sincere thank you letter. Even if you ask somebody for a donation and they say no, a simple thank you can go a long way.
10. **Be brave**. You will be surprised by how many people want to help. Even if they cannot donate themselves, they may be willing to help you identify other donors or brainstorm fundraising strategies. The worst thing that can happen is somebody saying, “No.”

**Fundraising and Grant Opportunities**

**Fund for Teachers [U.S. Educators]**

<http://www.fundforteachers.org/>

Fund for Teachers provides educators, possessing a broad vision of what it means to teach and learn, the resources needed to pursue self-designed professional learning experiences. FFT grants are used for an unlimited variety of projects; all designed to create enhanced learning environments for teachers, their students and their school communities. This is a flexible grant which can be used for a variety of education-related projects, but many teachers choose to use it for travel.

**Application Deadline January 31, 2018**

**McCarthey Dressman Teacher Development Grants [U.S. Educators]**  
<https://mccartheydressman.org/teacher-development-grants/>  
The McCarthey Dressman Education Foundation provides Teacher Development Grants for individual teachers or small teams working in K-12 education. To foster insightful and innovative professional training and growth, the grants allow you to implement new teaching methods and strategies in the classroom. Projects can take a variety of forms, but each of them must be geared towards having a significant and lasting impact in the classroom. Winners work closely with the foundation to implement their ideas and are awarded up to $10,000 for the first three years of the project.

**Applications accepted January 15 - April 15**

**NEA Foundation [U.S. Educators]**

[http://www.neafoundation.org](http://www.neafoundation.org/)

The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education awards grants that support the professional development of public school teachers and faculty in public institutions of higher education. NEA gives preference to proposals that incorporate STEM and/or global competence in their projects.

Grants may fund professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research, mentoring experiences or lesson study. Professional development must improve practice, curriculum and student achievement, and recipients must put professional leadership into practice by sharing what they learn with their colleagues. Must become NEA member to apply.

**Application Deadline Feb 1, 2018**

**NJEA Hipp Foundation [U.S. Educators - New Jersey Only]**

<https://www.njea.org/grants/hipp-foundation/>

This grant opportunity is for public school teachers in New Jersey. The *NJEA Frederick L. Hipp Foundation for Excellence in Education* is dedicated to supporting projects that will enhance and improve the learning environment in our public schools. Since its creation, the Foundation has awarded nearly $2 million in support of 361 innovative educational projects that represent a bold, fresh approach by public school employees.

**Application Deadline is March 1, 2018**

**Qatar Foundation [U.S. Educators]**

<http://www.qfi.org/grants/teacher-opportunities/teacher-professional-development-awards/>

Qatar Foundation International (QFI) offers Teacher Professional Development Grants for **K-12 educators in the social sciences/humanities and arts fields** to participate in high-quality professional development events that will enhance his/her ability to teach about the Arab world or Arab culture.

**Applications accepted on a rolling basis**

**Grant Resources, Lists, and Databases**

**The Big List of Educational Grants and Resources**

This is a comprehensive list of grants for teachers that is updated frequently.

<https://www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources>

**Foundation Center**

This is the gold standard of grants databases, but you have to be a paid member to access their database. Ask your administration if they have a subscription. Non-members can access the Foundation Center’s database for free at a participating libraries and community centers. Non-members who search for resources can still access Requests for Proposals (RFP) through the Foundation Center’s blog service, Philanthropy News Digest (see below).

<http://foundationcenter.org/>

**Funding Global Learning**

A brief by Asia Society with a high-level overview for how districts and schools can find funding for global learning. Since the brief is from 2011, many of the links no longer work, but the information is still pertinent and may be useful.

<https://asiasociety.org/sites/default/files/fundingbriefs-schools_0.pdf>

**GetEdFunding**

GetEdFunding is a grant-finding resource, dedicated to helping educators, schools, and institutions identify the funding they need. GetEdFunding hosts thousands of education, classroom, and teacher grants; awards for outstanding teachers and educators; and funding opportunities from federal, state, regional, and community sources. Its opportunities are available to public and private preK–12 schools and districts; individual teachers, librarians, and administrators.

<https://www.getedfunding.com/c/index.web?s@LOzWmHUuZ5aqo>

**Grantswatch**

List of grants for teachers with their due dates. Login required.

<https://www.grantwatch.com/cat/42/teachers-grants.html>

**Grants for Teachers**

A free and updated list of grants for teachers.

<http://www.grantsforteachers.com/>

**Philanthropy News Digest**

A service of the Foundation Center. An updated list of currently open Requests for Proposals.

[https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps/(search)/?tags\_interest[]=education](https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/rfps/(search)/?tags_interest%5B%5D=education).

**Teach.com**

A list of grants for teachers.

<https://teach.com/what/teachers-change-lives/grants-for-teachers/>

**Twitter**

Using social media is a great way to connect with local foundations and hear about grant opportunities.

<https://twitter.com/>