ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Please answer each of the following questions. If more space is needed, please attach extra pages. Please avoid using names of specific teachers and/or schools in your responses as all grants are blinded for review.

PROJECT TITLE: The LaunchPad Innovation Station

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Briefly describe the project, please include the project's goals and how they will be attained and measured.

The "LaunchPad" Classroom Innovation Station project will transform a standard classroom space into a dynamic, flexible learning environment designed to foster creativity, computational thinking, and hands-on problem-solving. This space will feature flexible seating, colorful storage cabinets, accessible storage for fun STEM manipulatives (Keva blocks, Magnetic tiles, Plus Plus Building Blocks, Micro:Bit circuitry kits, and STEM tubes), and a dedicated display areas for student work. Our core goal is to increase student engagement in interdisciplinary STEM and computer science activities and promote tactile design skills. See attached images of proposed layout of the space and early designs for a future proposal for a classroom mural titled "Code your future".

Goals of the space:

	Goal Statement	Measurement	Timeline
1. Engagement & Participation	Increase student use of the Innovation Station for self-directed and group-based project work.	Track weekly usage logs to show a minimum of 85% of all students in participating classes utilize the space for at least one unstructured project per month.	By the end of the X6 rotation
2. Skill Development	Improve students' self-efficacy and collaborative skills related to design, coding, and problem-solving.	Pre- and post-program self-efficacy surveys (using a 5-point Likert scale) administered to participating students will show an average increase of 20% in scores related to "ability to solve a complex problem in a team."	By the end of the first full academic year.

Innovation and Enhancement of Learning

2. Explain what makes this project innovative. How will assist you in meeting the needs of our students? Please be specific and provide data to support the need if possible.

The LaunchPad Innovation Station is innovative because it shifts the classroom from a traditional, static learning environment into a student-driven, interdisciplinary studio where the physical space itself is a pedagogical tool.

- Integrated Design (Space as Pedagogy): The innovation lies in the deliberate, holistic integration of three elements that are typically siloed: flexible furniture, hands-on STEM materials, and a purpose-driven aesthetic. The space is designed to *mandate* student choice, movement, and collaboration—essential skills for the 21st-century economy—which few traditional classrooms can support.

- Equity of Access: By installing this station directly into the classroom, it innovatively ensures that all students, regardless of their family's ability to purchase take-home kits or enroll in outside programs, have consistent, required access to high-quality robotics, coding, and design tools.

AUDIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

3 (a). Describe the student population targeted by this project. Might this project be repeated with new students in future years? Explain.

The Innovation Station is situated within the compulsory Computer Applications classroom, ensuring that every student, regardless of academic track, prior experience, or socioeconomic status, receives exposure to hands-on STEM and design thinking.

The key characteristics of this targeted population include:

- Universal Reach: By integrating the station into a required course, we ensure equity of access to high-quality robotics, coding manipulatives, and design tools, directly meeting the needs of students who lack these resources at home.

- Critical Age Group: The 6th and 7th grades are crucial for identity formation and career interest development. The hands-on activities are specifically designed to counteract the documented decline in female and minority student interest in STEM fields often observed during the transition to middle school.

- Diverse Readiness: The flexible design supports both beginners (using the space for basic building and foundational coding) and advanced students (using the space for complex iteration and problem-solving), allowing for differentiated instruction within the same environment.

3 (b).How many students will be served?

This project targets the entire population of 6th and 7th grade students at the middle school, a diverse group totaling over 600 students annually.

The core investment is in the physical infrastructure (flexible seating, shelving), which has a high durability and a long useful life. The recurring costs are minimal, primarily limited to consumables and occasional replacement parts for manipulatives. The Computer Applications course budget will absorb these minor recurring supply costs, ensuring the station remains fully operational year after year.

PROJECT EVALUATION

4. How will you evaluate the success of this project? What data, criteria, assessments, surveys, statistics or other measures will you use to assess its impact?

The success of the LaunchPad Classroom Innovation Station will be evaluated using a multi-faceted approach, combining quantitative data, structured qualitative feedback, and clear achievement criteria directly tied to our two measurable goals.

1. Quantitative Measures (Data & Statistics)

We will collect hard data that directly measures behavioral changes and skill acquisition:

- Usage Logs (Goal 1: Engagement): Weekly tracking logs will document student usage of the space. Success criterion: 85% of students must utilize the space for at least one structured project per month.

2. Qualitative Measures (Surveys & Assessments)

We will use targeted assessments and feedback mechanisms to measure soft skills and attitudinal changes:

- Self-Efficacy Surveys (Goal 2: Skill Development): A pre- and post-program survey (5-point Likert scale) will assess student self-perception regarding confidence in collaborative problem-solving, design thinking, and coding abilities. Success criterion: A 20% average increase in positive scores related to collaborative skills.

BUDGET

5. Please provide the following information for the items you intend to purchase for this project (please include shipping costs, if applicable). If some of the items you will use to carry out this project are being paid by using funds from sources other than the GEO Grant (i.e., the school district, other grants, etc.) please include these items but enter zero (0) for the amount. This will let the reviewers know that the project is completely sustainable even if the Foundation is not financing the entire budget. Attach additional pages if necessary. Briefly describe any items that may be unfamiliar to the application reviewers.

Please consider your "ideal" request and also what you would be willing to accept if funds are limited. (For example, if 20 items for your classroom is ideal, but you would accept 5 or 10 and have students work in groups please indicate that below.)

	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL	TOTAL* (if you will accept less based on funds available)
1	See attached Amazon cart for pricing			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
		BUDGET TOTAL:	$1,070.87	

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to ensure that projects including technology are priced properly, employees requesting technology or technology related items must submit prices for review to Adam Swinchock, Director of Instructional Technology. **Technology proposals without his signature will not be considered by the committee.** Please also consider allowing for a 2-4% increase in pricing as pre-holiday prices typically increase in the new year when we are purchasing the items.

Required for proposals including technology items:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

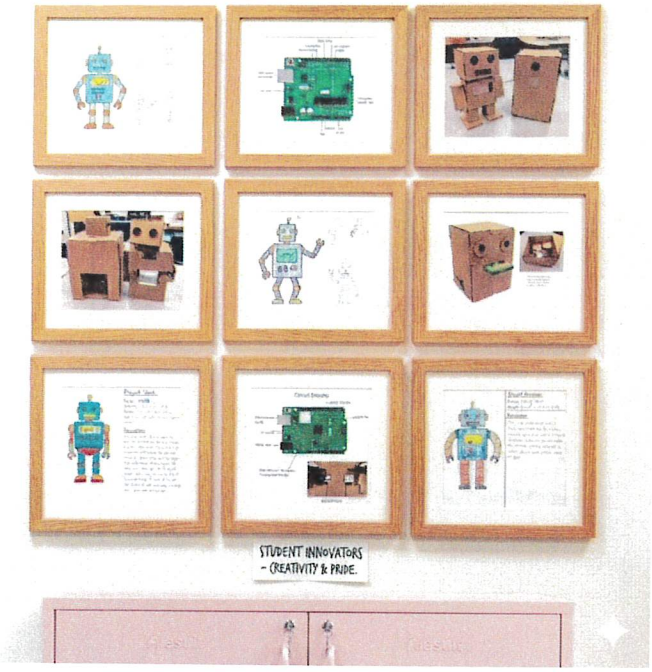


Figure 1 Student artwork above Innovation Station which will store STEM manipulatives

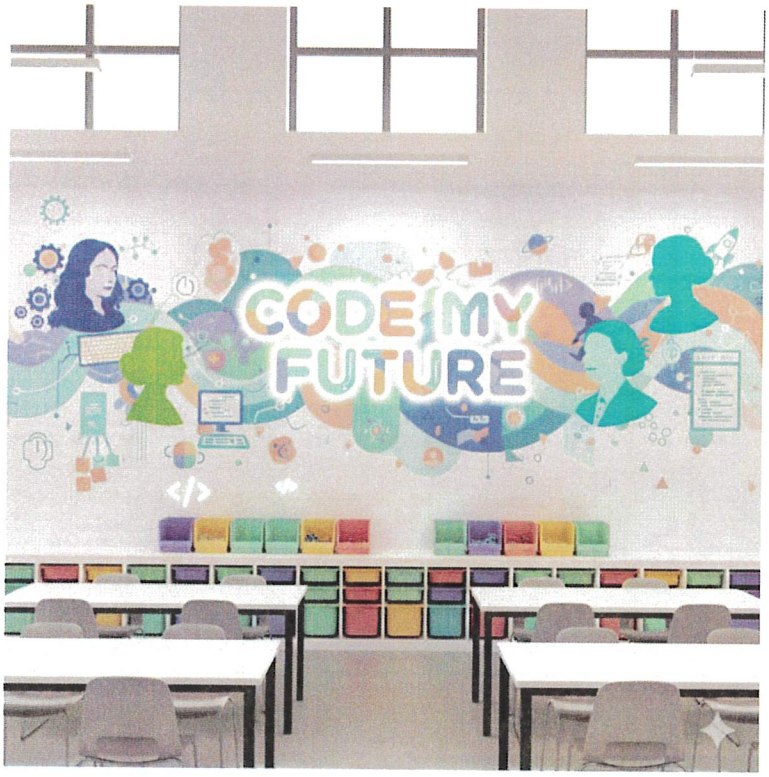
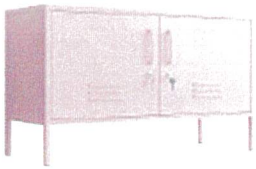


Figure 2 Future Proposed Mural to match the visual aesthetic of the LaunchPad Innovation Station (not included in this grant application)

Shopping Cart

Price



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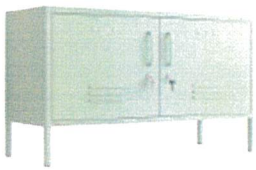

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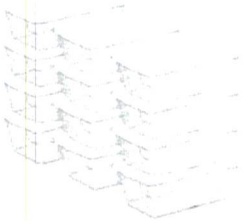

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