

EDUCATION MINI GRANT



APPLY BY APRIL 3

Awards announced by May 1



SCAN ME!

Learn
more and
apply here!

EDUCATION MINI GRANT



DELAWARE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 8006
1610 State Route 521
Delaware, OH 43015



@DelawareSWCD
740-368-1921
soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Delaware SWCD Educator Mini Grant opportunity is designed to help schools and education programs implement conservation education, and is available to those interested educational institutions in Delaware County, Ohio.

Each applicant may apply for up to \$250 in funding per school or educational institution, per year, to establish or enhance an outdoor classroom, garden, or natural area.

This year's Education Mini Grant application is **due by April 3rd, 2026**. Awards will be announced by May 1st, 2026.

Items that are eligible for grant funds include bulk native seed mix, seed packets, cups, soil, native plants, an outdoor compost bin, soil or compost, soil tests, rain barrels, or garden tools.

New in 2026

If you have received our Mini Grant in the past, you know that we used to purchase items for you. We have changed the guidelines, and are requesting that schools purchase their own items for reimbursement. After awards are announced, you can purchase items, submit receipts, and will be reimbursed within 2 months of us receiving your receipts for eligible items. Items must be purchased in the same calendar year that projects are awarded.

Applications can be emailed to efisher@co.delaware.oh.us, or mailed/dropped off to 1610 State Route 521, PO Box 8006, Delaware, OH 43015.

This is a competitive grant, and we regret that not all applicants may receive their requested project. If you are interested in an item not listed here, include your desired item on your application and describe how it will contribute to your project, and we will consider your request. Requests are subject to staff approval.

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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete application: The application is included on the following pages, on our website, or in person at the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District office, 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

2. Send in application by due date: Completed applications must be received by the Delaware SWCD by April 3rd, 2026. Applications can be emailed to Erin Fisher, Communications & Outreach Coordinator, efisher@co.delaware.oh.us, or mailed/dropped off to the above address. Feel free to write or type your answers on a separate document.

We have updated the guidelines and goals of this Mini Grant Program. If you wish to apply for items for your classroom that you don't see here, please refer to the Education Resource Loan Catalog on our website, or reach out to our Communications & Outreach Coordinator, Erin Fisher for your request, at efisher@co.delaware.oh.us.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

NATIVE WILDFLOWER SEED MIX



Want to establish a pollinator plot or land lab at your school? Buying a bulk seed mix with native Ohio wildflower seeds is an efficient way to establish a larger area. Plant at a rate of 5-10 pounds per acre or 4 ounces per 1,000 sq. ft. Seeds should be planted in an area that receives at least 6 hours of sunlight and planted in the spring or fall season. Once established, your pollinator plot is a great opportunity for students to observe and study pollinators, as well as learn the importance of native plants for soil and water quality.

NATIVE PLANTS



If you have a smaller area that you would like to establish as an outdoor classroom, buying pre-established native plants might be a good route to take. We encourage you to buy your plants from nurseries that specialize in native plants. See a list of these nurseries as well as more information on native plants on our website:
soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us/resources/

SEED PACKETS



Receive fast-growing wildflower seeds for your lifecycle unit. Students can plant seeds in the classroom or outdoors, observe them as they grow, and take them home to plant in their yard. This is a good option for teachers who wish to have each student plant individual seeds, instead of the bulk Ohio seed mix that's intended for establishing pollinator plots. We will also provide soil and seed starting cups.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

OUTDOOR COMPOST BIN



An outdoor compost bin is an important tool for your school garden. Teach students how to recycle plant nutrients and turn them into soil. By “recycling” food and yard scraps, you can reduce your reliance on landfills, and produce a natural fertilizer that your plants will love. Your soil health will greatly improve too!

SOIL OR COMPOST



Receive premium organic soil from our friends at Price Farms Organics. We will deliver the soil to your site so you can seamlessly start a garden or enhance your soil with nutrient-rich compost from this local family farm.

FALL SOIL TESTS



Delaware SWCD will pay for the cost of up to four soil test samples for your school garden. Soil testing is important before starting a garden or pollinator plot, so you can make sure it has the proper nutrients to help your plants prosper. We recommend testing in the Fall.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

RAIN BARRELS



Receive up to two EarthMinded brand, 45-50 gallon Rain Barrel kits for your education program. Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from rooftops that would otherwise be lost to runoff. They provide a high-quality source of water for gardening and other non-potable uses while decreasing the impact of runoff. This is a great option if you have a school garden. This is the only option that we will provide for you, rather than having us reimburse you.

GARDEN TOOLS



Every project is easier with the right tools. Shovels, hoes, hand trowels, gloves, hoses, watering cans, wheel barrows, etc. are all eligible purchases to get your land lab up and running.



EDUCATION MINI GRANT APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name

Title

Phone Number

Email

Principal/Director Name

Principal/Director Email

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of School or Organization

District

School Address

Student Grade Level/Age

Number of Students Served



EDUCATION MINI GRANT APPLICATION

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Please describe the overall goal of your request. Are you enhancing an existing outdoor classroom? Would you like to establish a land lab or pollinator habitat at your school? Do you need a rain barrel for a sustainable, free source of water for your plants? Describe the details here.

How will you incorporate the project into your educational program?



EDUCATION MINI GRANT APPLICATION

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

What is your timeline for implementation and completion? Please describe the steps you will take, and when, to use the items you are requesting.

Which learning standards or units of study will your grant item be tied to?

Please attach a sketch or map of the area where your land lab, outdoor classroom, or garden is or will be located.



EDUCATION MINI GRANT APPLICATION

Is there anything else you would like to share about you, your school, or the proposed project? You may list any questions you have here, along with any items you would like to apply for that are not listed on our application.

CERTIFICATION

In submitting this application, I hereby certify that our educational institution will implement the project outlined above, with the intent of establishing or enhancing a learning lab or outdoor classroom. I have permission from my facilities department to implement this project. I agree to purchase items upfront with our own funds, and be reimbursed from Delaware SWCD.

Applicant Printed Name

Applicant Signature