

Glassboro Education Foundation, Inc.

Send the completed application to the attention of:

Mr. Craig Stephenson
Beach Administration Building
Joseph L. Bowe Blvd
Glassboro, NJ 08028

A. General Information

Applicant(s): Nicole Werner & Lisa Montana

School: Thomas E. Bowe Middle School

Principal: Lauren Kerr

Grade Level or Subject: Instructional Coach & School Psychologist

Phone: (school) 856- 652- 2700

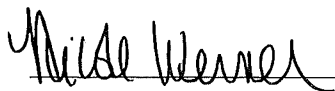
E-mail(s): nwerner@gpsd.us/ lmontana@gpsd.us

B. Statement of Assurances:

The applicant hereby assures the Glassboro Education Foundation that:

1. The applicant(s) meet(s) the eligibility criteria.
2. The activities and services for which the grant is sought will be implemented as written.
3. Any monies not expended within the school year shall revert back to the Glassboro Education Foundation, unless permission to carry it into the next school year is granted.
4. All publicity releases regarding a funded project will acknowledge the Glassboro Education Foundation and/or a particular mini-grant sponsor as the funding agency.
5. The grant recipient(s) will submit a final report summarizing the project's evaluation results.
6. The Board of Education authorizes the filing of this application.

We do hereby certify that all of the facts, figures and representations made in this application are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and that the assurances as stated above are understood and will be followed in their entirety.



Signature of Applicant



Signature of Principal

Please note: from this page on, please do not include your name or your school in any of your descriptions as all applications are coded to prevent bias.

C. Project Title and Description

Title of Project: Learning Without Walls: An Outdoor Classroom for the Whole Child

Subject Area(s): Interdisciplinary (ELA, Science, Math, Social Studies, SEL, Special Education, Intervention, Counseling)

Approximate Number of Students Participating: All Grades 6–8 students

Project Starting Date: Fall 2026

Project Completion Date: Spring 2027

Need: Describe the problem or deficiencies that exist which require the improvements described.

Middle school students spend the vast majority of their school day confined to traditional classroom environments. However, students do not learn or regulate exclusively within four walls. Currently, our school possesses a large, open, and underutilized grassy outdoor space. While the physical space exists, it lacks the necessary basic infrastructure- seating, tables, shade, and portable instructional tools- to make it a practical, functional learning and support environment.

Additionally, there is a growing need across Grades 6–8 for flexible settings to support diverse student needs. Some students become overwhelmed or dysregulated in traditional settings and require a structured alternative environment to reset with a trusted adult before re-engaging with instruction. Furthermore, interventionists, special education staff, counselors, and core academic teachers require adaptable spaces for small-group instruction, study skills, SEL activities, and collaborative projects. Without proper outdoor seating and materials, this valuable campus asset remains unusable for instructional and support purposes.

Strategy: Briefly describe your plan to alleviate the need/problem.

The proposed strategy is to convert this underutilized open space into a multi-purpose Outdoor Learning Commons serving all Grades 6–8 students. With grant funding, we will purchase durable, weather-resistant outdoor picnic tables, benches, shade umbrellas, portable whiteboards, and storage containers. Rather than serving solely as a recreational space or a single-subject classroom, this environment will act as a versatile, schoolwide support space ("One space can meet many needs"). The project will provide:

1. **Academic Instruction:** A setting for whole-group, small-group, and collaborative activities across ELA, Science, Math, and Social Studies.
2. **Student Support & Special Services:** A dedicated outdoor area for special education support, reading intervention, study skills, and tutoring.
3. **SEL & Counseling:** A welcoming environment for counselor check-ins, SEL groups, mindfulness, and student-adult conferences.
4. **Behavioral Regulation:** A structured, less restrictive option for students needing a brief change of environment to regulate, reset, and return to learning.
5. By establishing this basic infrastructure without requiring costly construction, the project transforms an existing campus resource into an active, long-term extension of the school. Because all purchased items (tables, benches, umbrellas, and heavy-duty storage) consist of high-durability, weather-resistant physical assets, this grant represents a one-time capital investment. The space will remain

fully functional for years to come without requiring annual replenishment or ongoing consumable costs.

**Glassboro Education Foundation
Grant Application**

6. Objectives, Activities and Evaluation Techniques (This page may be duplicated if necessary)

Objectives	Program Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Completion Date	Evaluation Techniques
1. Establish Infrastructure Establish 1 fully functional Outdoor Learning Commons for Grades 6–8 equipped with seating, shade, and instructional materials.	• Select and layout designated outdoor area. • Assemble and place tables, benches, and shade umbrellas. • Assemble portable whiteboard, clipboards, and storage containers for easy teacher/staff access.	Phase 1–2 (Fall 2026)	Inventory check and facility walkthrough verifying complete setup and readiness.
2. Multi-Disciplinary & Support Usage Utilize the space for at least 30 documented instructional or support sessions across at least 3 distinct categories (Academic, SEL/Counseling, Special Ed/Intervention).	• Orient staff, counselors, and interventionists on space availability and booking. • Conduct core lessons (nature observation, writing workshops, math measurements). • Facilitate small-group reading intervention, study skills, SEL groups, and student check-ins • Utilize space for structured regulation resets.	Ongoing through Spring 2027	Teacher/Staff Usage Log: Staff will document session date, grade level, number of students, subject/purpose, and activity type.

3. Student Engagement & Perception Achieve at least 75% positive student response regarding engagement, collaboration, comfort, or enjoyment of learning	• Provide partner/group learning opportunities. • Deliver hands-on outdoor learning experiences. • Conduct small-group collaborative problem-solving.	Ongoing / End of School Year 2027	Student Feedback Survey: Brief post-activity survey measuring engagement, collaboration, comfort, and focus.
4. Instructional & Support Utility Achieve at least 75% positive teacher/staff rating regarding the space's effectiveness for instruction, small-group support, or student regulation.	• Incorporate outdoor environment into existing curriculum. • Use space for differentiated instruction and small-group support. • Collect representative student work samples.	End of School Year 2027	• Staff Feedback Survey: Evaluates usability, impact on engagement, collaboration, and regulation. • Student Work Samples: Portfolio of representative student work completed in the space. • End-of-Year Review: Final evaluation of usage data and outcomes.

**Glassboro Education Foundation
Grant Application**
7. Itemized Budget

Materials/Equipment	Services	Evaluation Techniques
<u>Item(s)</u> Outdoor picnic / instructional tables \$900.00 Outdoor benches \$350.00 Large outdoor shade umbrellas \$600.00 Portable outdoor whiteboard / easel \$250.00 Weather-resistant storage containers \$150.00 Outdoor clipboards & reusable learning materials \$150.00 Outdoor signage & organization materials \$100.00 Sub-total: \$2,500.00	<u>Item(s)</u> <u>Cost</u> N/A (All setup & implementation conducted by existing school staff) Sub-total: \$0	<u>Item(s)</u> <u>Cost</u> Printing costs for usage logs, student/staff evaluation surveys, and student work portfolios (<i>covered by school supply budget</i>) Sub-total: \$0
		<u>Grand Total: \$2,500.00</u>

Budget Justification GEF application & Sustainability Note: All items listed above are durable, long-lasting assets that will remain on school grounds for multi-year use. **No recurring annual funding or consumable replenishment will be required after the initial grant period.** Beyond academic and support programming, the infrastructure provides immediate daily utility for positive behavior rewards (such as outdoor lunch privileges), maximizing the return on investment for the school community.