

To: All Heads of NAIS Schools Eligible to Make Proposals to the Edward E. Ford Foundation
Executive Directors of Associations of NAIS Schools
Certain Others Involved in EE Ford Foundation Work

From: The Edward E. Ford Foundation

Re: Changes at the Foundation

Date: January, 2019

After extended study on the part of the Board of the Edward E. Ford Foundation, including a facilitated two-day retreat in September, the Board decided, at its November meeting, to make several changes in the annual grant-making calendar the Foundation will follow. This letter describes these changes. This communication updates the information that had been provided in the most recent letters to you from the Foundation which were sent in September, 2016 and September, 2015. Those unfamiliar with the Foundation and its work may find a review of these letters helpful. They can be found on the Foundation's website on the 'Policies' page (Homepage → Policies). Finally, this mailing also includes a listing of some of the most recent grants made by the Foundation and the projects these grants have funded.

Over the history of the Foundation, grants directly to schools, for projects of the school's own choosing, have formed the bulk of the Foundation's philanthropy to independent schools. This has become known as our Traditional Grant Program. We have been running two Traditional Grant Agendas annually (Agenda being our term for a meeting of the Board at which funding decisions are made). These have recently been our November and June Agendas. Beginning with June, 2019 we will schedule one annual Traditional Grant Agenda every June. We will continue to be open to a wide range of ideas as the foci of these proposals and to the types of schools that might make successful proposals. Proposals for grants between \$25,000 and \$100,000 will be considered each June and all grants must be matched, at least \$1 raised by the school for every \$1 from us and directed to the same project. Details can be found on our website and questions can be pursued by contacting the Foundation's office. Placement on a Traditional Grant Agenda can only be made after a telephone conversation between the School Head and the Foundation's Executive Director.

Since 2008, the Foundation has dedicated one of the three annual Agendas to the Edward E. Ford Foundation Educational Leadership Grant program. These are larger grants, up to \$250,000, again matched at least \$1 for \$1, given to a smaller number of schools. This has historically been our early spring (April or March) Agenda. Going forward, however, and starting with the November 2019 Agenda, the Education Leadership Grants will annually be considered at the November Agenda. This means we are now beginning the process to consider preliminary proposals for \$250,000 Educational Leadership Grants for November 2019. This is one of the primary reasons for this letter. Schools interested in pursuing an Educational Leadership Grant as a part of the November 2019 Agenda are encouraged to contact the Foundation's office as soon as possible. Preliminary proposals for consideration for November, 2019 will be due May 1st.

The biggest change the Board recently made in its annual calendar is the creation of a "Flexible" Agenda that each spring (March or April) will be devoted to an annually determined set of goals. That meeting might be focused on a single large grant (as had been the case with our Collaborative Innovation Grant to the Mastery Transcript Consortium in April, 2017), to a combination of Educational Leadership and/or Traditional Grants, to stewardship work on past grants, to funding research projects, to symposia focused on challenges faced by independent schools or to other work in fulfillment of our mission. Each spring the Board will determine the focus of this Flexible Agenda for the subsequent Spring Agenda. While Spring 2019 will be a Leadership Grant Agenda as it was already underway, we will decide this spring on the focus for Spring 2020.

Those reading this far who may be interested in what might be possible as a part of our future Flexible Agendas are welcome to be in touch with me to discuss ideas. I will continue to seek the guidance of the school heads from schools that have received Leadership Grants at our annual breakfast meeting on the Friday morning at the NAIS Annual Conference. Once a decision is made each spring for the subsequent year, information about the focus for the Flexible Agenda will be posted on the Foundation's website.

To summarize, beginning in the fall of 2019, the EE Ford Foundation calendar will look like this:

November Agenda

- Educational Leadership grants of \$250,000
- School Heads interested should contact the Executive Director
- Preliminary proposals due May 1

March / April Flexible Agenda

- Focus determined annually for the subsequent year

June Traditional Grant Agenda

- Proposals from eligible schools for grants from \$25,000 to \$100,000
- School Heads seek placement through conversations with Executive Director
- Proposals due April 1

The process the Foundation follows for both the Traditional and Educational Leadership Grants is outlined in detail on the website and a concise synopsis can be found in the aforementioned September letters. The September 2016 letter describes our current guidance to Associations.

Enclosed you'll also find a listing of recent Traditional and Educational Leadership grants and their purposes and our Collaborative Innovation Grant. A fuller history (along with videos for Leadership Grants) can be found on our website.

I welcome questions, comments or other reactions.

As has been my practice in letters such as this, I'm also pleased to announce changes in the composition of the EE Ford Board. As of November, 2016, just after my last such letter to you, we added the incomparable Reveta Bowers to our Board. Lucky us.

I wish all of you a healthy, productive 2019.

With kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John C. Gulla
Executive Director