



## I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors + posted online.

**1-9-2026**

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: Oxford Educational Foundation  
 Address: 125 Bell Tower Lane  
 Phone: (717) 947-0075  
 Website: [www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.oxfordeducationalfoundation.org)  
 Year Incorporated: 1994  
 FEIN: 232774066

ED/CEO Name: Dr. Ray Fischer  
 ED/CEO E-mail: [rfischer@oxfordeducationalfoundation.org](mailto:rfischer@oxfordeducationalfoundation.org)  
 Board Chair Name: Steve Roberts  
 Board Chair Approval (check here):   
 Primary Contact Name: Dr. Ray Fischer  
 Primary Contact E-mail: same as above

**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment, Animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	If other, please describe:		

**Mission:** The mission of the Oxford Educational Foundation is to enhance the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District (six public schools) by providing a mentoring, tutoring and classroom volunteer program for the students. The Foundation also supports professional grants for the faculty that encourage the development of innovative programs but do not replace instructional materials supplied by the school district.

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): The Oxford Educational Foundation serves students in the six Oxford Area School District's schools in southern Chester County.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served.** (Include Chester County # &/or % served.) The Oxford Educational Foundation with approximately 170 volunteers serves approximately 1,200 students (2025-26) in the Oxford Area School District in a mentoring, tutoring and classroom volunteer program. In addition, the OEF provides competitive professional grants for faculty that will fund innovative programs. In 2024-25 sixteen faculty members received professional grants that ranged between \$250 and \$1500. The impact of these grants affected approximately 3200 students.

<b>Annual Budget</b> \$251.757	1 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
74 % of budget for program expenses	15 of Board Volunteers
22% of budget for administrative expenses	5 Active Non-Board Volunteers
4 % of budget for fundraising expenses	2587 Volunteer Hours (2024-25)

100% = total

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Gene and Louise Rahll Donation \$30,000; CCRES \$5,000, Dansko Foundation, \$2,500 Individual donors \$116,750 for OASD scholarships, \$36,000 from donors; Educational Investment Tax Credit donations from Businesses for approved school programs \$35,500

**This grant proposal is for:**  Direct Service Programs & General Operating &/or  Capacity Building

**If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Contingency Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnerships, Collaborations	<input type="checkbox"/> Merger, Closure
---	---	--

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission, Vision, Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board Engagement & Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing, Communication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Operations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	If other, please describe:				

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$10,000

**Proposal Summary:** *(a few sentences, please)*

The grant request is to assist to fund the operations of the volunteer program which would include mentoring, tutoring classroom volunteering and the school ambassador program. Program expenses would include telephone, postage, Randy Sebastian Volunteer of the Year Award Breakfast, mentor, tutor and student picnic, program marketing (brochures, website, facebook, twitter), training of OEF volunteers and training manuals and pro ration of the Volunteer Coordinator’s salary. Our strategic planning goal is 200 volunteers by the end of 2028.

In addition, we are in need for more mentors according to school counselors and the OEF would be interested in several training sessions for our mentors. We have done this in the past with New London Counseling. There is a need for additional tutors and mentors to meet our unmet needs.

**Chester County Community Foundation 2026  
GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

**1. Nonprofit’s overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness**

The mission of the OEF is to enhance the quality of education in the Oxford Area School District and contribute to the success of Oxford students. We do this by collaborating with the Oxford Area School District in assisting them in enhancing the education with respect to, but not limited to, the at-risk student population. We were the first foundation in Chester County to offer a mentoring, tutoring and classroom volunteering in our schools. Our mentoring/tutoring program is designed to augment classroom curriculum with additional study assistance. Mentoring provides an adult to guide the student and improve their performance in school. Tutoring provides assistance in specific subject area. We seek to supplement the students’ studies by bringing together the Oxford community’s human resources and the public education system. For the past 30 years we have recruited 170 volunteers who are mentoring and tutoring students and assisting teachers in classrooms. Our strategic plan with one of the focus areas on increasing volunteerism has been successful in executing its strategies, actions, responsibilities and outcome measures. The OEF is fortunate to have its OASD retired Superintendent as its Executive Director and its Volunteer Coordinator is graduate of the OASD, retired teacher for English as a Second Language and former OEF board member.

**2. Funding request**

**What specific needs & issues are being addressed, via what programs and services?**

According to our strategic plan focus area of volunteerism is to increase our volunteerism to 200 by 2028. The needs are in the areas of mentoring and tutoring to fill unmet needs of students. Mentoring is provided to students who have been identified as at-risk by school counselors and teachers. These past four years we have seen an increase of students who have been identified due to possible regression in their studies or are feeling more anxious. Volunteer mentors meet one-on-one with their mentee weekly, either during the school day, or immediately after school. Mentoring addresses the social, educational needs in order to improve the academic performance and mental health of the student.

The volunteer tutors work one-on-one, or with small groups of students. In elementary schools, some tutors work with small groups of students in a class to review new material and other tutors work with the students who need to improve their study skills. Tutoring in the middle school high school is provided for students whose teachers and school counselors have identified as needing additional assistance in a particular subject area (algebra, geometry, statistics, chemistry, physics), and the sessions are typically one hour per week but additional hours have been given. The tutors communicate regularly with the teacher/parent/guardian and adhere to the approved OASD school curriculum.

We continue our collaboration with the Oxford Lighthouse Youth Center in providing volunteers to the after-school Homework Help program on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have also collaborated with Chester County Futures in

providing mentors for their students in the Oxford Area High School. In addition, we have several National Honor Society high school students who participate in peer tutoring.

In order to continue to recruit more volunteers the OEF is interested in providing an additional five hours per week for the volunteer coordinator. The part-time volunteer coordinator is presently working 15 hours per week.

The OEF provides competitive professional grants to teachers ranging from \$250 to \$1500 to the faculty of the OASD. This program was established to stimulate innovative ideas to enhance a teacher's classroom activities. These fresh new ideas and program pilots when tied to the educational goals of the school district are often key catalysts for student improvement and achievement. Proposals are accepted four times during the school year. These proposals are reviewed by the building administrator and district administration to ensure that they coordinate with the curriculum. They then are reviewed by the OEF Special Projects Committee to assess how it supports the mission of the Foundation, the number of students to be served, and whether it can be replicated by other teachers. Due to the limited funds in the school district's budget there is a need to fund more professional grants to teachers. Presently, professional grants are provided by OEF constituents donations. The specific need is to provide up to 3 additional professional grants.

### **3. Why is it important to fund this now?**

As with any program(s) our challenging obstacle is our operating budget. We are interested in providing additional grant opportunities for our teachers and train additional volunteers (mentors, tutors and classroom volunteers) to assist the staff and students existing economic conditions still negatively impact low-income children within the county specifically in the Oxford Area. In 2025-26 the Oxford Area School District continued to show an increase in the number of students participating in the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program (approximately 44%) In addition, test scores have been on the rise but a steady increase is noted for identified students who are at risk. Our students confront diverse challenges in their quest to earn an education. A percentage of these students may lack a responsible adult role model and are unable to receive the assistance from home to help them in their educational endeavors.

### **4. How will results & impact be demonstrated?**

The mentoring, tutoring and classroom volunteer program will continue to improve student performance in school, which will be seen by improved grades, attendance and increased character in and out of the classroom.

Each year we conduct a survey to measure the effectiveness of the mentoring and tutoring program and to learn what we can do to improve our work. The surveys are distributed to parents, faculty, and mentors and tutors in the spring and analyzed during the summer. The evaluation of the past two school years found that 85% of the parents who responded to the survey saw a positive influence on the students in the program and 91% would recommend the program to others. It showed that mentoring and tutoring increases the self-confidence of the student, which often resulted in improved academic performance. One parent wrote, "The mentor has been a wonderful influence on my daughter. She has helped her develop a love of learning and self-confidence."

The Oxford Area School District views the Oxford Educational Foundation as a positive supplemental resource for its educational programs.

This data and information will be analyzed and incorporated in future program strategic planning and reported in the Annual Report which is published in October of each year.