



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date 9/10/2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: West Chester Friends School
Address: 415 N. High St., West Chester, PA 19382
Phone: 610-696-2962
Website: <https://wcfriends.org/>
Year Incorporated: 1968
FEIN: 23-1690347

ED/CEO Name: Brian Fahey, Head of School
ED/CEO E-mail: bfahey@wcfriends.org
Board Chair Name: Jon Burton
Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒
Primary Contact Name: Kim Walters
Primary Contact E-mail: kwalters@wcfriends.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☐	Arts, Culture, Heritage	☒	Education, Library	☐	Environment, Animals
☐	Health	☐	Human Services	☐	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
☐	Religion	☐	If other, please describe:		

Mission:

West Chester Friends School (WCFS) celebrates and fosters the unique gifts inherent in every child. We develop lifelong learners, contributing community members, and responsible citizens of the world by providing an academic program rooted in Quaker beliefs of community, peace, equality, integrity, stewardship, and simplicity.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

We welcome students from all of Chester County, with the majority of students from the following school districts: Coatesville, Downingtown, Unionville-Chadds Ford, and West Chester.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. (Include Chester County # &/or % served.)

Annually, WCFS serves approximately 130 students ages 3–11, representing a wide range of cultural, racial, religious, and economic backgrounds. During our most recent school year, 15% of students qualified for the National School Lunch Program, and approximately 20% identified as students of color.

Annual Budget \$ <u>2,840,000</u>	<u>26</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>72</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>15</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>23</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>24</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>5</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>525</u> # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

- **Tuition Revenue:** The primary source of funding for WCFS comes from tuition.
- **Tax-Credit Scholarship Support:** WCFS receives scholarship contributions through Pennsylvania's EITC and OSTC programs. These funds come from participating banks that allocate tax-credit dollars directly to WCFS, as well as individuals who contribute through The Friends Collaborative.
- **Individual Donations & Grants:** Additional funding is provided through the WCFS Development Office's efforts, including Annual Fund donations, special event revenue, and grants that support capital improvement projects.

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

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

☐	Contingency Planning	☐	Partnerships, Collaborations	☐	Merger, Closure
☐	Mission, Vision, Strategy	☐	Board Engagement & Leadership	☐	Marketing, Communication
☐	Resource Development	☐	Operations	☐	Technology
☐	If other, please describe:				

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

Proposal Summary:

WCFS is seeking financial support for its Scholarship Fund to provide need-based tuition assistance for Pre-K through 5th-grade students. This funding supports families in Chester County by ensuring that children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds have equitable access to a high-quality, Quaker values-based education in a safe, nurturing environment.

Seventy-five percent of current families receive financial aid, totaling more than \$1,000,000 annually, yet the school continues to face increasing demand for assistance as local families navigate rising living costs. Scholarship support is essential to maintaining this diversity and ensuring that no child is turned away from a WCFS education due to financial hardship.

Grant funds will be applied directly towards tuition bills for eligible families, supplementing WCFS's financial aid program and state tax-credit scholarship funds (EITC/OSTC), which together support roughly 90 students each year. By strengthening the Scholarship Fund, the Chester County Community Foundation will help WCFS sustain an inclusive learning community where children benefit from small class sizes, individualized instruction, and an enriched curriculum. This investment strengthens both individual families and the broader West Chester community by ensuring that high-quality early-childhood education remains accessible, equitable, and reflective of the community's diversity.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information in 1-3 pages. Please be brief.

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

Founded in 1836, West Chester Friends School (WCFS) is the oldest continuously operating school in the Borough of West Chester and remains deeply rooted in the Quaker commitment to education, integrity, and stewardship. Dedicated exclusively to Preschool through Grade 5, WCFS provides a joyful, values-centered learning environment where children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Students learn in the context of Quaker principles, respect for one another, peaceful conflict resolution, self-discipline, and responsibility to community, forming the foundation for lifelong learning and caring leadership.

Located on historic Quaker Hill between the West Chester Monthly Meeting House and The Hickman, WCFS is woven into the fabric of the borough. Students regularly walk to the History Center, local art galleries, historical sites, nearby parks, and the Borough Building, strengthening their connection to the local community.

WCFS aims to:

- Provide an enriched, experiential, whole-child education grounded in Quaker values.
- Cultivate confident, compassionate learners who think critically, collaborate effectively, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.
- Ensure broad access to Quaker education through flexible tuition and a robust financial aid program.
- Foster a diverse, inclusive school community where every child and family feels welcomed, respected, and celebrated.

Key Initiatives

1. Enriched, Integrated Curriculum

Students engage in a lively, interdisciplinary program that includes language arts, math, science, and social studies, complemented by art, music, Spanish, library, technology, Quakerism, service learning, health and guidance, mindfulness, and physical education.

2. Outdoor Learning & Environmental Stewardship

Forest Fridays and weekly outdoor learning experiences take students to local preserves and parks, cultivating curiosity, environmental responsibility, and hands-on scientific inquiry. On campus, students learn in an outdoor classroom, tend raised vegetable beds, observe a small pond ecosystem, and care for resident hens.

3. Community Partnerships

WCFS maintains longstanding partnerships with The Hickman Senior Living Community, West Chester University, Chester County History Center, ChesLen Preserve, and Echo Hill Environmental School, expanding students' learning beyond the classroom.

4. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

WCFS is committed to broad access and representation. Families come from more than fifteen countries; 75% of all families receive flexible tuition, and almost 15% of students qualify for the Federal Free Lunch Program. Diversity is intentionally woven into curriculum, culture, and community life.

Key Achievements for WCFS

- **Strong Academic Outcomes:** WCFS students consistently meet or exceed achievement benchmarks compared to other independent schools and high-performing public schools.
- **Exceptional Student Support:** With an 8:1 student-teacher ratio, WCFS provides individualized attention that supports academic growth, social-emotional development, and whole-child learning.
- **Impactful Alumni:** Graduates carry forward Quaker values, collaborative skills, and a strong sense of responsibility. They attend a wide range of middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities, reflecting their diverse strengths and interests. Many young alumni also return to WCFS in the summer as Counselors-in-Training and later as camp counselors, often experiencing their first job in a community that knows them well and continues to nurture their growth.
- **Accreditation:** WCFS is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS). The school is currently undergoing its full evaluation during the 2026–27 school year, part of PAIS’s ten-year accreditation cycle that affirms educational quality, institutional integrity, and continuous improvement.
- **Community Recognition:** Alumni and families consistently affirm the school’s transformative impact, often noting that WCFS is “the school that made the greatest difference” in their lives.

Distinctiveness

WCFS stands out for its:

- Quaker-centered approach to whole-child education. WCFS offers a learning environment where children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, supported by dedicated teachers, engaged families, and a community rooted in Quaker values.
- Experiential learning model that integrates academics, arts, outdoor exploration, and service.
- Deep community partnerships that enrich learning and strengthen civic engagement.
- Commitment to diversity and access, ensuring families of all backgrounds can participate fully in the school community.
- Warm, inclusive culture where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to shine.
- Historic campus and intergenerational connections, including a unique partnership with The Hickman Senior Living Community.

2. Funding request

Specific Needs & Issues Being Addressed, and Through What Programs and Services

West Chester Friends School seeks support for its Scholarship Fund, which provides need-based tuition assistance for Pre-K through 5th-grade students. This fund addresses a critical community need: ensuring that children from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds have equitable access to a high-quality, Quaker values-based education in a safe, nurturing environment.

WCFS serves approximately 130 children ages 3–11, representing a wide range of cultural, racial, religious, and economic backgrounds. Maintaining this diversity is central to the school’s mission and is made possible through a robust financial aid program that distributes more than \$1,000,000 annually. Currently, 75% of families receive flexible tuition, close to 15% qualify for the National School Lunch Program, and 20% of students identify as students of color. Rising living costs have increased the number of families seeking assistance, making scholarship support more essential than ever.

Grant funds will be applied directly to tuition bills for eligible families, supplementing WCFS’s financial aid program and state tax-credit scholarship funds (EITC/OSTC), which together support roughly 90 students

each year. These scholarships ensure that children can fully participate in WCFS's enriched academic program.

Why is it important to fund this now?

Funding is urgently needed now due to:

- Increased financial need among local families, driven by rising housing, childcare, and cost-of-living pressures in Chester County.
- Growing demand for flexible tuition, with more families requesting assistance than in previous years.
- The school's commitment to maintaining socioeconomic diversity, which is essential to its mission and to the learning environment children experience.
- Each academic year's budget cycle requires scholarship commitments to ensure families can enroll and remain enrolled at WCFS.
- Without additional scholarship support, WCFS risks being unable to meet the needs of families who rely on financial aid to access a Quaker education. Timely funding ensures that no child is turned away due to financial hardship and that the school's diverse, inclusive community remains strong.

How will results & impact be demonstrated?

WCFS will measure and demonstrate impact through:

- Number of students receiving scholarship support each school year.
- Retention and enrollment stability among families receiving aid.
- Demographic data showing sustained socioeconomic, cultural, and racial diversity within the student body.
- Academic and social-emotional outcomes, reflected in student progress, engagement, and readiness for middle school.
- Family feedback, including testimonials that illustrate the transformative effect of scholarship access.
- Annual reporting to funders summarizing scholarship distribution, student demographics, and program impact.

The results of scholarship support are immediate and visible: children remain enrolled, families experience stability, and the school community continues to reflect the diversity and values that define WCFS.

As one alumni-parent shared, "This school has been life-changing for our family. This is where their future begins. And it is not just one teacher, it's everybody... all working together to create a vision that works." This sentiment captures the long-term impact that access to scholarships has on children's well-being, confidence, and educational trajectory.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter: **Attached in email**
 2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations: **Attached in email**
 3. Most recent **annual report** **URL:** <https://www.wcfriends.org/fs/resource-manager/view/88e00c4f-6c6e-4f3d-90ef-b7e85d8b809f>
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement**: **Attached in email**
 5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date: **Attached in email**
 6. If capacity building initiative, **itemized budget** (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
 7. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**.
 - a. West Chester Friends School does not have a fully completed strategic plan at this time. The Board of Directors is actively revising the school's strategic plan as part of its preparation for the upcoming PAIS accreditation evaluation. Several components of the plan are already developed and can be shared upon request. The full plan is expected to be completed by March 2027.
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- Visit our website to learn more at www.chescocf.org
 - Proposals are only accepted electronically: <https://chescocf.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>
 - **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.org**
 - Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
 - Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
 - Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax-exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

Please contact Kevin Baffa, Grants Administrator
at **(610) 696-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their philanthropy makes a difference, now & forever.*