

# Back-to-School Grants Program Frequently Asked Questions FOR DISTRICTS

## 1. What is Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust?

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust is a private foundation supporting organizations that enrich health, well-being, and opportunity for the people of Maricopa County. The Trust focuses its grantmaking in six core areas: healthcare and medical research, children, older adults, arts and culture, education and religious organizations. For more information, visit [pipertrust.org](http://pipertrust.org).

## 2. Why is my district receiving this grant?

Your district is one of Maricopa County's public elementary school districts identified with a significant population of students in need and as such, it was selected by Piper Trust's Board of Trustees for a Back-to-School grant award.

## 3. Can I apply for a grant for our other schools?

There is no application process for the program. The highest-need schools are selected based on data provided by the Arizona Department of Education.

## 4. Why were some Title I schools in our district not included?

Title I designation alone is not the defining factor for this program. Schools are selected for Back-to-School grants based on a number of factors which include; Free and Reduced Lunch Program data, enrollment numbers, and grades served. Some schools that have schoolwide Title I designation may not meet other requirements for this grant program.

## 5. What can and can't these funds be used for?

Piper Trust's Board of Trustees want to help ensure that children in need have necessary school clothing and shoes; funds must be used to purchase only these items. Funds may not be used for personnel, transportation costs, or school supplies.

## 6. How do schools use these funds?

Prior school grantees have leveraged their funds by negotiating partnerships with local stores to purchase clothing at a discounted rate. Schools are encouraged to use this approach and seek discounts and/or matching fund opportunities. It is critical that purchase order procedures allow schools the flexibility they need to utilize the grant funds as designated.

## 7. What does the district need to do to fulfill the grant?

Two things will enable the district to easily fulfill the grant:  
a) review the grant agreement to ensure understanding and,  
b) facilitate schools' access to the funds. School principals are notified about the grant awards but they will need the district's assistance to access the funds.

## 8. What are the reporting requirements for this grant?

There are no formal reporting requirements. Piper Trust will contact a random sample of schools to discuss program results and how the Back-to-School funds were used.

## 9. Can I announce this gift to the public?

Yes. We request that individual schools coordinate communication efforts with their district. Our policy is to review all external communications prior to distribution to ensure accuracy of reference to the grant and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Please email a draft of your press release or other communications to Karen Leland, Director of Communications and External Relations, at [kleland@pipertrust.org](mailto:kleland@pipertrust.org).

## 10. What if I have additional questions?

Please contact Erin Goodman at 480.556.7135 or [egoodman@pipertrust.org](mailto:egoodman@pipertrust.org)  
[pipertrust.org/backtoschool](http://pipertrust.org/backtoschool)

## Changes to Piper Trust's Back-to-School Grants Program for the 2017-2019 School Years

- Back-to-School clothing grants were awarded for a three-year grant term, covering the 2016/17, 2017/18, and 2018/19 school years. Recipient schools will receive the same grant award each year of the grant term as long as the school remains open and is serving the same mix of grades. This shift will provide greater predictability for recipient schools and streamline administration of the grants.
- Based on feedback from school staff, Piper Trust decided to forego convening Back-to-School luncheon events. We understand that daytime events may be challenging for busy school staff to attend. Instead, for quick and easy access to questions that school staff may have, please visit our Back-to-School Grants webpage at: [pipertrust.org/backtoschool](http://pipertrust.org/backtoschool) or email Erin Goodman at [egoodman@pipertrust.org](mailto:egoodman@pipertrust.org).