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

Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust is a private foundation committed to honoring Virginia Galvin Piper’s legacy of 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.

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

Your school is one of Maricopa County’s public elementary schools 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 each year.

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, clothing for extra-curricular activities, or school supplies.

6. **How do schools use these funds?**

These grant funds are intended to augment the valuable support provided by Back-To-School Clothing Drive, Assistance League chapters, and other nonprofit organizations and can be used throughout the year as emergency needs arise. Some grantee schools 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.

Three local nonprofit agencies offer programs that provide assistance with clothing and uniforms:

- **Assistance League of Phoenix**, Operation School Bell
  http://alphx.org/operation-school-bell
  602.944.7636

- **Assistance League East Valley**, Operation School Bell
  http://www.assistanceleagueeastvalley.org
  480.792.1606

- **Back-To-School Clothing Drive Association**, SAFE (Student Attire For Education) Program
  http://www.backtoschoolclothingdrive.com
  602.256.9408

7. **How do I access the grant funds?**

Contact your school district about accessing your grant 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. Please coordinate with your 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, Chief Communications Officer, at kleland@pipertrust.org.

10. **What if I have additional questions?**

Please contact Chloe Silva at 480.556.7120 or cswilva@pipertrust.org
pipertrust.org/backtoschool