

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.

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.

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?

Due to the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Piper Trust's Board of Trustees lifted restrictions on these funds enabling schools to purchase items beyond school clothing. Schools may use funds to purchase resources/supplies that support education access for students in need. Examples include hygiene products, technology products/services, school clothes, etc. The Trust hopes this funding will help reduce educational barriers that students may experience.

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. Again, as stated in question five, schools are not required to purchase only school clothing; funds may be used for resources/supplies that support education access for students in need.

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, Chief Communications Officer, at kleland@pipertrust.org / 480.556.7125.

10. What if I have additional questions?

Please contact backtoschool@pipertrust.org or call 480.948.5853.