

# Overview of 2023-24 Wisconsin Gifted/Talented Grantees & Grant Activities

As of Feb. 2024



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**  
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

# WI G/T Education Grants

Authorizing Statute: Wis. Stat. sec. 118.35(4). From the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (fy), the department shall award grants to nonprofit organizations, cooperative educational service agencies, institutions within the University of Wisconsin System, and school districts for the purpose of providing to gifted and talented pupils those services and activities not ordinarily provided in a regular school program that allow such pupils to fully develop their capabilities.

Appropriation: \$474,400 for FY24

# List of 2023-24 Grantees

CESA 1 - \$29,626

CESA 5 - \$18,478

CESA 7 - \$36,191

CESA 10 - \$21,248

CESA 11 - \$50,654

CESA 12 - \$33,250

Elmbrook - \$23,498

GSAFE - \$65,000

Howard Suamico - \$28,032

Madison Metropolitan - \$65,000

Menominee Indian - \$28,500

The Center for Adv. Academics - \$31,706

UW-Madison/WCER - \$10,000

Wisconsin Rapids - \$33,217

# Self-Report from Grantees

On the following slides, each 2023-24 G/T grantee has provided a brief overview of their grant, grant focus area(s), overarching goals, and student activities.

The grantees are in random order.

# Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools - slide 1

## Grant Description:

WRPS will implement the use of Dash robots beginning with our 2nd grade classrooms. Second grade students will learn to code and design programs utilizing Dash the Robot.

## Grant Focus Area(s):

- Increase engagement and enrichment opportunities in the areas of Science, Technology and Engineering
- Improve and build upon our abilities to identify underserved populations

# Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools - slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

- Better identify gifted learners within our marginalized populations
- Create a district-wide approach to offer activities with Dash robots
- Increase student engagement while reducing barriers with underserved students.

## Student Activities:

- Complete online training in use of Dash Robot
- Create a program to follow a designed course & reflect on their learning
- Work collaboratively with peers to design their own program for Dash

## Miscellaneous Information:

Kelly Bluell - WRPS K-12 GT Coordinator - [kelly.bluell@wrps.net](mailto:kelly.bluell@wrps.net)

# CESA 10- slide 1

Grant Description: In this grant, CESA 10 will increase the capacity of our rural districts to provide GT programming. We will do this by providing GT networking and coaching opportunities

Grant Focus Area(s):

- GT Networking
- GT program coaching
- STEM project invention ( student creativity)

# CESA 10 - slide 2

Overarching Goal(s): Expand GT capacity in our rural areas.

Student Activities: Project Invention for students in grades 3 to 8.

Miscellaneous Information: Districts value coaching in order to move GT programming forward.



# Elmbrook School District - slide 1

## Grant Description:

*Share Your Story: A Creativity Program*, Elmbrook will address the underrepresentation of students using research-based culturally and linguistically responsive practices and tools that will help reduce disproportionality in the identification and programming of GT students. This project will target the underserved student populations: twice-exceptional, ELL, immigrant students currently not equitably represented in our current GT programming.

## Grant Focus Area(s):

- culturally responsive identification practices
- underserved student populations
- creativity in writing, the arts, and interdisciplinary studies

# Elmbrook School District- slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

Improve and increase services for students who are not represented in current GT programming. Increase specific creativity program results for individual students, and increase reading MAP growth for target student groups.

## Student Activities:

- Creative writing workshops throughout the semester
- Book publishing in English and home languages
- Cultural Writing+Art tours with guiding specialists
- Interdisciplinary Creativity+STEM programming for 2e students

## Miscellaneous Information:

Contact: Elizabeth Mallegni: [malleigne@elmbrookschoools.org](mailto:malleigne@elmbrookschoools.org)

# Menominee Indian School District- slide 1

## Grant Description:

- Provide enhanced academic opportunities for the MISD Gifted and Talented program.

## Grant Focus Area(s):

- Provide tuition for college level courses to challenge our Gifted and Talented students and those with high abilities to continue to make progress in school.
- At MISD, we do not have AP classes available for students. This grant gives our students options to take challenging college level courses.
- Remove financial barriers for economically disadvantaged Gifted and Talented students so they can enroll in college level courses to increase their academic skills and increase their skill areas in their area of interest that highlights their talents in these areas.

# Menominee Indian School District - slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

- Identify students who scored proficient and advanced on the spring state assessment and increase the number of students enrolling in college classes.

## Student Activities:

- Identified student & guardian conference with school counselor to determine areas of interest and college course opportunities to enhance their skills.
- Students collaborate with MIHS College and Career Advisors for support in career and academic planning that highlights their gifts.

## Miscellaneous Information

- MISD is 98% Native American students and 93% of our students receive free and reduced lunch.
- As a result of receiving these grant funds, 44 students were able to take college level courses for 2023-24 School Year.
- Courses taken: Abnormal Psychology, American Government, Anatomy, College Algebra, Diversity, Emergency Medical Services, Employability Skills, English 1, English 2, Ethics, Intermediate Algebra, Menominee Language, Menominee Language 2, Oral Communication, Renewable Energy, Social Media Marketing, Sociology, Student Success, Visual Images
- Each student can earn up to 18 post secondary credits

# Howard-Suamico School District - slide 1

## Grant Description:

- Expand and enhance our capabilities to better identify gifted learners
- Better serve our tier one students in the classroom

## Grant Focus Area(s):

- Implementation of the TOPS program to enhance the identification process
- Tier one talent development through the use of game based learning kits

# Howard-Suamico School District - slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

- GT team implementation of professional development to help teachers and staff fully understand and utilize the TOPS tool
- Identify potentially advanced learners that may not have been traditionally identified
- Develop and utilize game based learning kits to challenge and develop the talents of our advanced learners

## Student Activities:

- Youth Apprentice helps students learn how to play the games
- Students help to develop videos to teach others how to play the games
- Students play the games in their classroom as a tier one enrichment

## Miscellaneous Information:

- Contact: Brenda Rank Howard-Suamico School District

# CESA #11 - slide 1

## Grant Description:

Provide authentic opportunities for CESA #11 gifted and talented students in the non-academic domains of leadership, creativity, and visual arts as well as social emotional learning specific to giftedness.

## Grant Focus Area(s):

- Leadership
- Creativity
- Visual Arts
- Specific Academic Area of ELA
- Social Emotional Learning Specific to Gifted & Talented Learners

# CESA #11 - slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

Provide enrichment opportunities for CESA #11 gifted and talented students in leadership, creativity, visual arts, and social emotional learning.

## Student Activities:

- Regional Student Leadership Day
- Regional Student Leadership Project Showcase
- Writing Scripts to Screen Series
- Sweet 2B Me
- Fun with Photography

## Contact Information:

Paula Moore - CESA 11 Educational Consultant - paulam@cesa11.k12.wi.us



# Madison Metropolitan School District - Slide 1

## Grant Description:

- The Madison Metropolitan School District focused its grant on meeting the needs of Hmong Elementary Scholars at Lakeview Elementary School in the state's only bilingual Hmong program.
- The program is an after school program focused on developing and identifying the traditions, culture, and language of Hmong scholars through the medium of performing arts.
- The program has partnered with UW School of Dance

Grant Focus Area(s): Performing Arts-Dance Identification and learning for historically marginalized populations, specifically Hmong.

# Madison Metropolitan School District - Slide 2

**Overarching Goal(s):** To introduce, address, and identify the gifted and talented needs of Hmong Elementary Scholars through the domain of performing arts.

**Student Activities:** After School Hmong practice 2-4 days a week with a trained Hmong Dance Teacher who is mentored and partnering with Dr. Chell Parkins from UW in creation of Hmong Dance lesson plans

**Miscellaneous Information:** Dr. Sharon Y. Alexander, Director of Advanced Learning at [syalexander@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:syalexander@madison.k12.wi.us)

# GSAFE (1)

## Grant Description:

GSAFE is seeking funding to create educational programming centered around equity, inclusion, resilience, and leadership for predominantly BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth enrolled in the Madison Metropolitan School District. GSAFE created Foundations of Leadership (FOL) as a high school leadership course, Club L.E.A.D. (Learn, Educate, Advocate, Diversify) as a middle school program, and we host a statewide middle school leadership summit to strengthen BIPOC and LGBTQ+ student leaders in a supportive and inclusive environment. We empower youth to take knowledge back to their communities and promote change.

## Grant Focus Area(s):

- FOL curriculum is designed to empower student leaders and encourage the agency of students. FOL provides additional resources and curriculum for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth who want additional support and community from their MMSD peers.
- Club L.E.A.D. is designed to give middle school students leadership opportunities, a safe space to be their authentic selves and get to know one another, and express any concerns they may be having that day pertaining to school or life in general. We actively try to recruit BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students for this club.
- The Middle School Leadership Summit: INSPIRE 2024 is a day-long conference GSAFE hosted in Milwaukee. This summit is designed to bring middle school student leaders from around the state together for a day of learning and building community. Students are able to attend two workshops about activism, art, movement, identity, and more.

# GSAFE (2)

## Overarching Goal(s):

Create educational programming centered around equity, inclusion, resilience, and leadership for predominantly BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth.

## Student Activities:

- High School: Book readings, watching documentaries and movies centered around BIPOC/ LGBTQ+ history and stories, followed by writing and discussion
- High School: Read articles and watch news clips on current events pertaining to marginalized groups such as BIPOC/LGBTQ+ communities, followed by discussion around advocacy and activism.
- Middle School Workshops: Coming Out / Inviting In, Mindful Movement, Drag & Real Life, Intersectionality

## Miscellaneous Information:

Lane Hanson  
*Grants and Compliance Manager*  
she/they  
[lane@gsafewi.org](mailto:lane@gsafewi.org)

Sue Neeley  
*Director of Youth Programming & Family Engagement*  
she/her  
[sue@gsafewi.org](mailto:sue@gsafewi.org)

# CESA 1 - slide 1

## Grant Description:

### Take Flight Drone Academy

CESA #1 & Carroll University's Aviation Science and Unmanned Aircraft Systems department host 5 Academy days for 30 students from 5 districts. Students learn about the science of aviation, including unmanned, remotely operated drone technology. Groups will work together to build sensors, undergo flight training, and ultimately operate drones to complete "missions".

## Grant Focus Area(s):

- STEM
- Underserved Populations
- Problem-solving & leadership

# CESA 1 - slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

Provide middle school students with opportunities to explore aviation science, technology and the unmanned aircraft field while developing collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership skills.

## Student Activities:

Build & operate drones, learn & experiment with aviation science, program drone sensors & operate, hypothesize & reflect on experiments & experiences, team building activities

## Miscellaneous Information:

Rachel Scherrer; [Rscherrer@cesa1.k12.wi.us](mailto:Rscherrer@cesa1.k12.wi.us)

# The Center for Advanced Academics - slide 1

## Grant Description:

- Replacement ELA curriculum for 5th-8th graders
- Online classwork about elections, running for election, and negotiating
- In person days (3 times) to meet people from other districts and dig further into the ideas.

## Grant Focus Area(s):

Leadership and ELA

# The Center for Advanced Academics - slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

Give students a leadership experience and the chance to learn how elections work.

## Student Activities:

9 weeks of online class work and 12 hours (3 days) of in person time. Speeches given and votes held on the last day.

## Miscellaneous Information:

Mandi Buehl, [mbuehl@centerforadvancedacademics.com](mailto:mbuehl@centerforadvancedacademics.com)



# CESA 5 - slide 1

## Grant Description:

Exposing Teachers of Grades 3-6 to the 4 frames of leadership so they can help facilitate classroom experiences the identification and development of the skills used in each frame with students.

## Grant Focus Area(s):

Leadership in Upper Elementary

# CESA 5 - slide 2

**Overarching Goal(s):** Expose Elementary students to leadership qualities to be better prepared for leadership experiences in middle school and high school.

**Student Activities:** Hands on or simulation, writing and connecting to people, both fictional and non-fictional for each leadership frame.

**Miscellaneous Information:**

Chris Boettcher [boettcherc@cesa5.org](mailto:boettcherc@cesa5.org)

# Wisconsin Center for Education Research (1)

Grant Description: Through a partnership between WCER and Capital High School, we build spaces for youth-adult partnerships (or “Think Tanks”) where students and staff have the opportunity to develop research and policy projects, leadership skills, and strategies for engaging youth voice in decision making.

Grant Focus Area(s): Leadership

# Wisconsin Center for Education Research (2)

Overarching Goals: Build a) students' leadership mindsets, skills and experience, b) exposure and experience with higher education spaces, c) the infrastructure for advanced learning at Capital High School

Student Activities: Participate in biweekly Think Tanks where they learn about leadership, and work together on projects to improve the experience of students and access to advanced learning.

# CESA 12 - slide 1

Grant Description: Provide enrichment activities that teachers can do with students within the regular classroom.

Grant Focus Area(s): Creativity, leadership, global competency

# CESA 12 - slide 2

Overarching Goal(s): Increase student writing and research skills, global awareness, project management.

Student Activities: Creative Writers, Global X, Public Service Announcement project.

Miscellaneous Information: [marym@cesa12.org](mailto:marym@cesa12.org)

# CESA 7 - slide 1

## Grant Description:

This proposed grant seeks to enhance the educational experience of GT students by providing a range of diverse learning opportunities including sessions on STEM, coding, robotics, mental wellness, leadership, chess and logic and the engineering design process

## Grant Focus Area(s):

Identify and engage students from traditionally underrepresented populations

To provide students with the tools and resources they need to achieve their full potential and become leaders in their respective fields

# CESA 7 - slide 2

## Overarching Goal(s):

Increase student participation in enrichment activities, SEL, knowledge of problem solving and collaborative techniques to apply in their everyday life.

## Student Activities:

ES and MS Chess and Logic

ES and MS Engineering Design and Problem Solving

ES and MS STEM via the Einstein Project at UWGB

ES and MS SEL incorporated in all events



# For more information on this grant ...

Contact Mark Schwingle, DPI consultant for  
gifted/talented education, at  
[mark.schwingle@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:mark.schwingle@dpi.wi.gov) or  
608-267-9273