

# 2023-24 Georgia Outdoor Learning Demo (GOLD) Grant Application

Use this form to apply for GOLD Grant funds from the Georgia Department of Education.

### **Deadline**

The deadline for grant applications is **11:59 pm ON MONDAY OCTOBER 16th, 2023.**

### **Applicant Eligibility**

Eligible applicants include schools; school districts; non-profit tax-exempt organizations with 501c3 status; or public agencies. All must be based in Georgia.

### **Grant Amounts**

Grants may be as small as \$500 or as large as \$5000

### **Grant Purposes**

Grant funds may be used for professional learning, outdoor improvements or facilities, student supplies, or field trips. All grant-funded activities must involve or further outdoor learning for students.

### **Grant Awards Timeframe**

It is anticipated that grant awards will be approved by the Georgia Board of Education at the January 2024 meeting and funds made available to selected applicants in March 2024 for use before the end of the school year. Final grant reports will be due in June 2024.

*\* Indicates required question*

---

1. Email \*

---

2. **Name of Applicant Organization** (must be a School, School District, Non-Profit Organization or Public Agency) \*

---

3. **Name of Application Contact Person \***

---

4. **Contact Person's Work Email Address \***

---

5. **Contact Person's Personal Email Address** (required because grant reports will be due after the end of the school year) \*

---

6. **Contact Person's Cell Phone** (required because grant reports will be due after the end of the school year) \*

---

7. **Address of Applicant Organization *including County* \***

---

8. **Name of School Principal** (or CEO of Non-Profit or Head of Public Agency Applicant) \*

---

---

---

---

---

9. **Email Address and Phone Number of School Principal** (or head of Non-Profit or Public Agency Applicant)

---

---

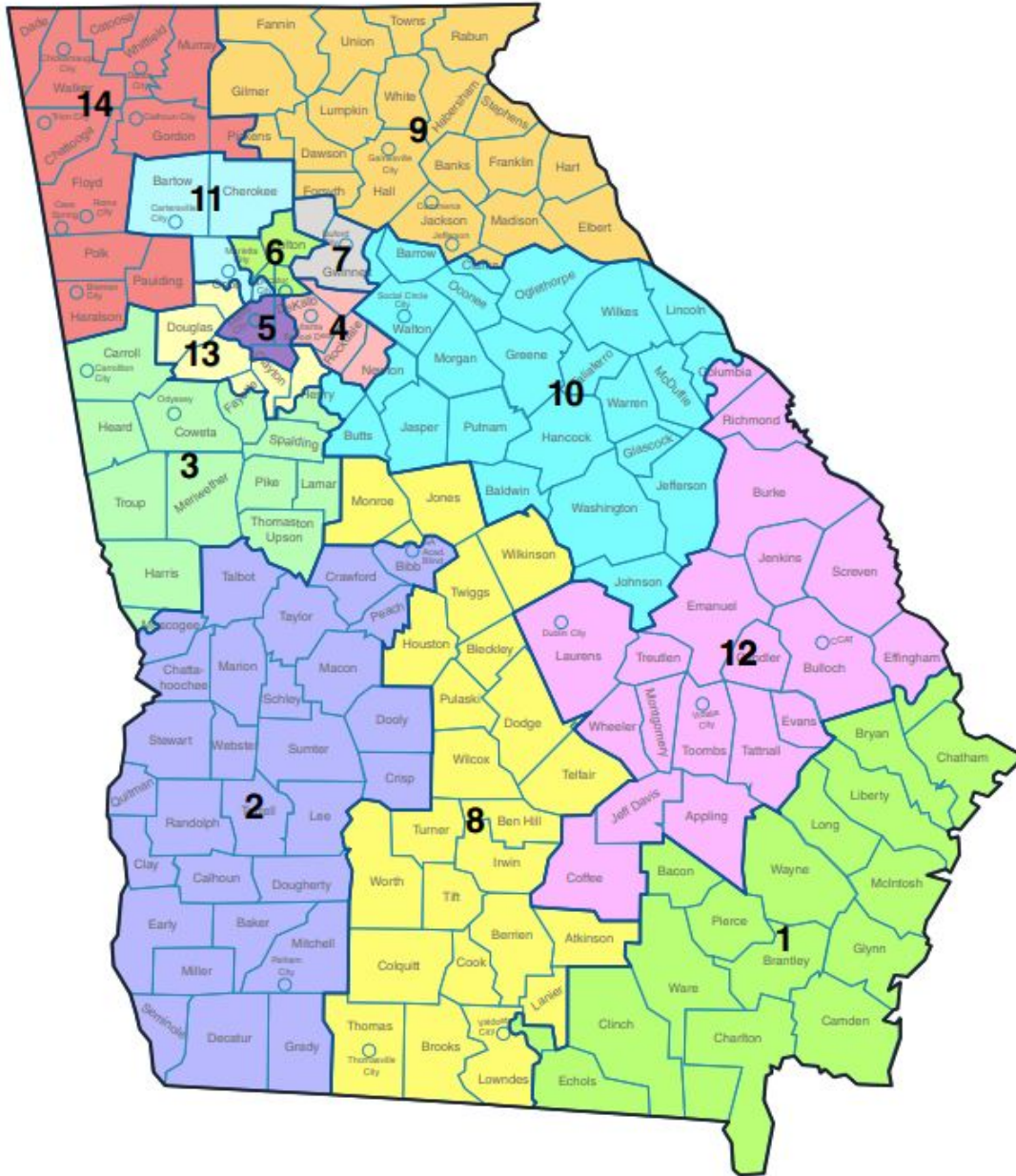
---

---

---

**GA BOE District Map** (To enlarge the map, click [here](#) or [here](#)).

In which Georgia Board of Education District will the project take place? Please locate the project and find the district number with the map. Use this information to answer the next question.



10. **GaBOE District # in which Project will be Located \***

---

11. **Setting of Project Location \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

12. **Type of Applicant Organization \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Public Elementary School
- Public Middle School
- Public High School
- Multi- School or School District
- Public Charter School
- State School
- Dept. of Juvenile Justice School
- Independent (Private) School
- Non-profit Tax-exempt Organization
- Public Agency

13. **If the applicant is not a school**, with what public school(s) will your organization partner to provide benefits to students? (Note that the Principal of that school must have agreed to participate and be willing to provide a letter of partnership, if funds are awarded).

---

---

---

---

---

14. **Title 1 Status**

\*

List all schools that will be partners in the proposed project. Then provide an I.D. number from the far left column of [this chart](#), for any of those schools that are listed as Title 1 institutions. If not listed as Title 1, respond "N/A" next to the school name.

---

---

---

---

---

15. **Free and Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility**

According to [this data](#), what percentage of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch at your school (or each school with which you are partnering)? Please click the link and use the information there.

---

---

---

---

---

16. **GA House District of Project Location**

\*

Go to [this link](#) and enter a project address in the box on the website (typically, the school or organization address). Provide the **district number** that shows for the State Lower Chamber (meaning the Georgia House of Representatives)

---

17. **GA Senate District of Project Location**

\*

Go to [this link](#) and enter a project location address in the box on the website (typically, the school or organization address). Provide the **district number** it lists for the State Upper Chamber (meaning the Georgia Senate)

---

18. **EE Landscape Analysis Survey**

Has someone at your school, organization or agency already completed the Georgia Environmental Education Landscape Survey? (Here is the survey [link for schools](#). And here is the survey [link for non-formal environmental education providers](#)) Completing the survey is optional, but every Georgia teacher and administrator is invited to share their ideas and perceptions about environmental and outdoor learning - regardless of previous experience. The survey will contribute to understanding about the extent to which outdoor learning is currently taking place in Georgia but has *no bearing on whether your proposal will be funded*. Please consider completing the survey now. No response is required.

---

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

The following questions relate to the outdoor learning project you propose.

Note: the term "outdoor classroom" is not often used today because it conjures up an image of children sitting in a field on rows of benches in front of a lectern or whiteboard. Effective outdoor learning can take many forms such as engaging students in investigations, project-based learning, community science, explorations, observation of phenomena, and making real-world connections related to any subject area, interdisciplinary studies, and crosscutting concepts. Feel free to consider the [CoOL Outdoor Learning Toolkit](#) for ideas.

**Four categories of expenses are eligible for this grant: a) professional learning, b) schoolyard improvements, c) student supplies, and d) field trips. It is not necessary for a project to include all four types of expenses.**

19. **Overview:** Please summarize the purpose, process, and outcomes of your proposed project in three sentences or less. (Example: X High School plans to accomplish Y by doing Z) \*

---

---

---

---

---

20.

**a) Professional Learning**

Please tell about professional learning (**if any**) that will be funded by the proposed grant. (*Example: "Project WET Training will be provided for X teachers"*)

---

---

---

---

---

21. **b) Schoolyard Improvements**

Please describe outdoor learning spaces, schoolyard improvements or amenities that will be funded by the proposed grant (**if any**); tell whether they are already approved by the principal and facilities management staff; and explain how they will be maintained. *Example: "a portable chicken coop (or weather station, pollinator habitat, vegetable garden, tumbling composter, etc.) will be installed on school grounds by X and maintained by Y, so students can explore Z"*

---

---

---

---

---



22. **c) Student Supplies**

Please tell about outdoor learning supplies or equipment (**if any**) that will be funded by the proposed grant. *Example: "the grant will be used to purchase a water quality test kit and dissolved oxygen probes so that an entire class of 30 can be actively engaged in small groups of 3, collecting and analyzing the following data: . . "*

---

---

---

---

---

23. **d) Field Trips**

Please tell about field trips to nature centers or natural areas, or in-school programs (**if any**) that will be funded by the proposed grant. *Example: "XYZ Nature Center will engage one class of 25 third graders in three field trips, where they will 1) participate in an introduced species scavenger hunt, 2) remove introduced species and plant native seedlings in the same area; and 3) return to the project site and analyze changes since the first visit."*

---

---

---

---

---

24. **Scale:** How many children will DIRECTLY participate in and benefit from the proposed project this school year? \*

---

---

---

---

---

25. **Students:** Describe the children who will benefit from the proposed project, including their grade level(s), subject area(s), or course name(s). \*

---

---

---

---

---

26. **Learning Goals:** What will students learn - or what will teachers learn, if professional learning is proposed - as a result of grant funding? (If there is a connection to the [Georgia Standards of Excellence](#), please identify the grade level or course, subject, and standard.) \*

---

---

---

---

---

27. **Impact:** How will the proposed project make an impact on student attitudes, behaviors, academic success, or self-efficacy? *Examples: Will students be engaged on a long-term, ongoing basis? In what ways will the proposed project help students make real-world connections to the curriculum? How will the project increase student confidence in their ability to solve authentic problems? Will the project expose students to career paths?* \*

---

---

---

---

---

28. **Educator Experience and Interest:** What experience do you have engaging students in outdoor learning? *Examples: Have you planted a garden with students in the past? Completed the [ATEEG nationally-accredited certification](#) in environmental education? Participated in a community science project such as collecting data on insects in the schoolyard?* \*

Experience (or lack thereof) will not affect consideration of the proposed project. Everyone has to start somewhere! In the absence of experience, please tell about your interest in teaching students outdoors.

---


---

---

---

---

- 29. **EE Continuum:** Environmental education and outdoor learning can take many forms, from nature experiences to gaining knowledge about the environment, investigating phenomena, solving problems, making informed decisions, to designing and carrying out projects. Where on the continuum do you see your proposed project? (Note: there is no preferred answer).




Environmental education is anchored by experiences that connect people with nature. It progresses from enjoyment and a sense of wonder to awareness, knowledge, problem-solving and decision-making, resulting in people who are prepared, motivated and hopeful enough to protect earth.

**Environmental Education Continuum**

Awareness → Knowledge → Critical Thinking → Problem Solving → Decision Making → Action → Stewardship

Environmental Information and Outreach

Feeling empowered to make a difference is not simply a matter of becoming environmentally literate. It also requires experience gathering evidence, identifying bite-sized problems, researching solutions, designing projects and carrying them out.



---

---

---

---

---

30. **Partners and Plans:** What relationships have you cultivated in the community and who has agreed to help you with this project (if anyone)? What else do you need for success? Will additional phases or other funding be necessary to complete the work or project? \*

---

---

---

---

---

31. **Assets:** What assets are you building on, if any, that will contribute to project success? *(Examples: Have some teachers or staff been trained in outdoor learning? Are there some natural spaces on campus where students can conduct investigations? Do you have existing schoolyard improvements and amenities -such as bird feeders or garden beds- that will be useful for the project you propose?)* \*

---

---

---

---

---

32. **Project Challenges:** It is important to recognize and plan for challenges. What is the greatest obstacle you anticipate and how will you deal with it? \*

---

---

---

---

---

33. **Project Success:** How will you know if your project is successful? List at least one project goal and how will it will be measured. *Example: "Project will provide outdoor work surfaces for 30 students to conduct labs and investigations." or "Project will enable 60 students to visit XYZ Nature Center to learn about GA ecoregions related to 3rd grade GSES (science standards)" or "Students will design and plant a 30' x 10' (300 sf) pollinator garden to provide habitat for larval and adult stages of monarch butterflies"*

---



---



---



---



---

34. **Project Continuation after Grant Period** \*

In the late '90s and early 2000s, Georgia Department of Education had a statewide outdoor learning program that awarded 1,000 grants over 10 years. An evaluation of that program - called "[Planning First to Make Your Outdoor Classroom Last](#)" - offers some valuable insights into which projects lasted and which were soon abandoned.

Tell about an aspect of your proposed project that is intended to contribute to its duration, longevity, sustainability or success, and why.

---



---



---



---



---

**BUDGET**

Grant proposals may range from \$500 to \$5000.

**35. Budget Spreadsheet Upload**

Please follow these directions exactly so that your proposal can be reviewed: Make a copy of the [GOLD Grant budget form](#), add your organization's name to the title, complete the project budget, explain and justify expenses in the Budget Narrative section, click File --> Download and save to your computer, and then browse your files to upload the spreadsheet to this application. (Alternatively, you may provide a link to the google spreadsheet instead of uploading the document by clicking Share and then selecting "Anyone with Link may View", and pasting the link in response to the next question on this form).

Files submitted:

**36. Budget Spreadsheet Link**

You may provide a link to your budget (which must be in a google spreadsheet) instead of uploading the document. To provide a link, go to your budget document, click Share, select "Anyone with Link may View", and paste the link below.

---

---

---

---

---

**THANK YOU**

We appreciate the energy and care that went into your proposal. It is anticipated that award notifications will be made in January, 2024. If you have any problems with submission, please contact [info@eealliance.org](mailto:info@eealliance.org) before the October 16, 2023 deadline.

**37. Additional Information or Comments**

---

---

---

---

---

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

# Google Forms



