THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**In Partnership with** WAYFINDER

# Purpose-Centered SEL Grant Application SY26.27 & SY27.28

## GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES and EXPECTATIONS

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| **Purpose** | Wayfinder was founded at Stanford University in 2015 with the aim of equipping educators with the tools to help students live healthy lives of meaning and purpose. At Wayfinder, our theory of change is: If educators help students find meaning and purpose, then those students will have a better relationship with themselves and their community and be equipped to make a positive contribution in the world.<br><br>Wayfinder partners with thousands of schools across the county, bringing purpose-centered SEL to over 1 million students through our: 1) Comprehensive, culturally relevant, and research backed SEL curricula; 2) Best-in-class formative and summative assessment tool called Waypoints; and 3) Comprehensive teacher training and ongoing school support. |
| **Award:** | Wayfinder is partnering with The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools to continue to offer our comprehensive SEL solution to 8 of the existing partnering schools and up to 8 new schools for the next two academic years (2026-2027, 2027-2028). |
| **Key Criteria & Eligible Projects:** | Review and award will be based on a school's ability and demonstrated commitment to implementing Wayfinder with fidelity during the 2026-2027 & 2027-2028 school years. Participating schools are committing to:<br>• Send at least one (1), but no more than five (5) staff members to an initial face-to-face training on May 28, 2026 from 12:00-2:30 pm at the Exchangeree in Windsor Mill (2034 F Lord Baltimore Drive, Windsor Mill, MD 21244).<br>• Schedule time for a one-hour virtual kick-off training in August with all participating educators.<br>• Commit to 90 minutes in the Fall of 2026 for an in-person training to be scheduled in consultation with awarded buildings' leaders.<br>• Commit to implementing the program with fidelity for two school years (2026-2027 & 2027-2028) |

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| **Application Deadline:** | **DEADLINE Friday, March 15, 2026 at or before 5:00 p.m.** |
| **Notification of Recipients:** | Recipients will receive an e-mail notification from the foundation's Associate Director, Dr. Heather Wooldridge on or before **April 15, 2026.** A media release/Mission Moment blog post and announcement on The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools website and all social media outlets will be released in April 2026. |
| **Awarding of Materials:** | All participating educators will receive digital access to Wayfinder's online curricula by June 1, 2026. *This date is subject to change. |

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| **Proposal Review:** | Proposals will be competitively reviewed by the Programs and Allocations Committee of The Education Foundation of BCPS, Inc. and staff from Wayfinder. BCPS curriculum and instruction and/or business services professionals may be consulted as part of the proposal review for the purpose of compliance and alignment. All applications will be scored by three experts in the field. |
| **Initiative Summary:** | A final project summary and storyboard with photos and grant highlights must be submitted to The Education Foundation of BCPS, Inc. upon the initiative's conclusion no later than May 21, 2027 & May 26, 2028. (A Purpose-Centered SEL storyboard template will be sent electronically to the grant recipient in the congratulatory e-mail notification). |

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| | A grant recipient who does not submit a summary and storyboard **will not** be eligible for future funding consideration until both have been received. |

# Purpose-Centered SEL Grant Application SY26.27 - SY27-28

**GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET***

Name of Principal or Supervisor: _____ E-mail address: _____

School/Office/Business/Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Name of Applicant/Project Coordinator: _____ E-mail address: _____

Is this a team proposal? ☐ No ☐ Yes *(If yes, list team members in the space below).*

Do you have the permission of your Principal/Supervisor to bring Wayfinder's Purpose-Centered SEL program to your school for the next two years? No Yes
*If yes, please upload a document with the following statement signed by your Principal/Supervisor:

I, _____, Principal/Supervisor of _____ grant permission to bring Wayfinder's Purpose-Centered SEL program to your school for the next two years.

_____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

Title of Proposed Project: _____

Applicant/Project Coordinator, place a √ in each of the boxes below to indicate your acceptance of the following requirements.

- ❑ I have secured the approval of my Principal/Supervisor for this project.
- ❑ We commit to sending 1-5 staff members to the initial face-to-face training to be held on May 28, 2026, from 12:00-2:30 PM at the Exchangeree in Windsor Mill (2034 F Lord Baltimore Drive, Windsor Mill, MD, 21244).
- ❑ We commit to scheduling the required one-hour virtual kick-off training in August with all participating educators.
- ❑ We commit to scheduling the required 90 minute in-person training for Fall 2026.
- ❑ We commit to implementing the program with fidelity for two school years (2026-2027 & 20257-2028).

Please place a √ in all your school's social media platforms and provide the handles that will be used to celebrate this project:

☐ Twitter ☐ Instagram ☐ Tik Tok ☐ Facebook

☐ LinkedIn ☐ Website Other

***NOTE:** *The application must be completed and submitted electronically* ***on or before March 15, 2026, at 5 p.m.*** *This cover sheet will not be included as part of the actual selection process by the Programs and Allocations Committee. The consideration of your request will be based entirely on the following proposal.*

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# Purpose-Centered SEL GRANT APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**DIRECTIONS:** Respond clearly and specifically to each of the statements/questions below, limiting your response to a maximum of two (2) typed pages. A rubric is attached for reference of assessment of the project.

1. Describe why it is important for your community to have access to Wayfinder's SEL platform. *(20 points)*
2. Describe how your SEL implementation will support academic improvement and is aligned with BCPS academic goals, The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools, Inc.'s mission, and your school's progress plan. *(20 points)*
3. Explain specifically who this project will impact the most and how. *(20 points)*
4. Explain your school's history with SEL work and how Wayfinder will be able to support your ongoing SEL initiative. *(20 points)*
5. Logistics: *(20 points)*
   - Who will be the primary person/team responsible for the implementation of Wayfinder at your school?
   - What is the proposed implementation format and schedule? i.e. teacher-led Tier 1 instruction once per week in advisory, counselor-led small group instruction, etc.

**Self-Checklist for Completion of Application**

| Project application is appropriate for submission if the following questions can be answered in the affirmative: | **YES** | **NO** |
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| • I have the permission of my Principal/Supervisor to bring this training to my school. | | |
| • I have indicated my understanding of all requirements by checking each on the cover page. | | |
| • The project clearly describes why it is important for our community to have access to Purpose-Centered SEL training. | | |
| • The project clearly aligns with BCPS' academic goals, The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools mission, and our school's progress plan. | | |
| • The project clearly explains who this project will impact the most and how. | | |
| • The project articulates the measurable impact of the success of the project. | | |
| • Project includes a detailed description of logistics. | | |

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# Purpose-Centered SEL Grant Application SY26.27 – SY27-28 | RUBRIC

| Key Criteria | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Score |
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| **Description of Your Why** *20 Points* | Describes a need for the selected project to support the community. **13-20 points** | Describes a need that somewhat addresses the selected project to support, the community. **5-12 points** | Does not describe a need that addresses the selected project to support the community. **1-4 points** | No reference to a need or resources needed for implementation. **0 points** | /20 |
| **Explanation of How Project Addresses Identified Need With Alignment** *20 Points* | Explanation is consistent. with BCPS academic goals, aligned with the ED Foundation's mission, and the school's school progress plan. **13-20 points** | Explanation is somewhat consistent with BCPS academic goals, aligned with the ED Foundation's mission, and the school's school progress plan. **5-12 points** | Explanation is not consistent with BCPS academic goals, aligned with the ED Foundation's mission, and the school's school progress plan. **1-4 points** | Does not explain how and is not consistent with BCPS academic goals, aligned with the ED Foundation's mission, and the school's school progress plan. **0 points** | /20 |
| **Impact of the Project and How?** *20 Points* | Project has the potential to impact a large number of students academically and social-emotionally within the classroom/schoolhouse making an impact. **13-20 points** | Project has the potential to impact a large number of students either academically or social-emotionally within the classroom/schoolhouse with some impact. **5-12 points** | Project has the potential to impact a minimal number of students either. academically or social emotionally within the classroom/schoolhouse with little impact. **1-4 points** | Project does not have the potential to impact a large number of students nor address potential academic or social-emotional impact on students. **0 points** | /20 |
| **Connection between your SEL work & Wayfinder** *20 Points* | Connections are clearly defined. **13-20 points** | Connections are defined. **5-12 points** | Connections are referenced but not defined. **1-4 points** | Connections are not referenced. **0 points** | /20 |
| **Logistics** *20 Points* | The logistics are clearly mapped out and all questions are addressed in detail. **13-20 points** | Most of the logistics are mapped out and most of the questions are addressed. **5-12 points** | Some of the logistics are mapped out and some of the questions are addressed. **1-4 points** | The logistics are not mapped out and the questions are not addressed. **0 points** | |
| | | | | **TOTAL** | /100 |

**COMMENTS:**