



The Book Love Foundation believes that a love of reading is essential. We assist teachers and leaders in the United States and Canada with building inclusive libraries and literacy practices to inspire and nurture a lasting love of reading in all students.

The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers and leaders who demonstrate a passion for promoting a hunger for books. These teachers and leaders recognize the diversity of every class of students, and they support each student in building an independent reading life of increasing depth and joy.

The Book Love Foundation seeks teachers who will lead colleagues and their school community to a deeper understanding of the importance of an individual reading life that is as diverse as the students we teach.

By submitting your application, you agree to meet the Book Love Foundation requirements listed below and declare that all information in your application is complete, accurate, and written by YOU, not AI.

Book Love Foundation **The Leader's Grant Application 2026**

Requirements for Book Love Foundation Leader's grant:

- Applicant **must be a full-time school leader** in the United States or Canada.
- Applicant must demonstrate support for equitable literacy practices. This might include independent reading and book clubs as regular classroom practices as well as diversifying authors and titles in the core curriculum. This grant can also be used for summer reading.
- Applicant must be willing to be included in Book Love Foundation promotional materials and participate in research into the effectiveness of leadership practices on student outcomes in reading. **This is a partnership. If we choose you, we expect you to help us help others.**
- This grant is given to **you** to support your work as a school leader. If you leave your role in this building during the three years of this grant, please notify the **Book Love Foundation** of the change.

Every year we are inspired by the work of leaders like you.

Thank you for giving us a window into your world.

Part I: Who are you? Where do you lead?

Your name:

Home email:

School email:

How many years have you been in education? What roles have you held?

Explain your **current role as a school leader** in a few sentences. Who and what are you responsible for?

School Name:

School Mailing Address: (include street, town, state, zip code):

School Phone Number:

How does your school define itself? (e.g., private, public, or public charter, independent, freedom school):

Is your setting urban, suburban, or rural?

What is the free/reduced lunch population? (If your school does not keep these statistics, please describe the needs and demographics of your student population.)

Your average class size:

PART II: The culture of reading in your school

1. Does your school have a schoolwide culture of reading? What are the intentional moves you make to support and maintain it? (We do not want you to just name effective instructional practices. Winning applications offer stories of how these practices have directly impacted students in the school.)
2. What do you see as barriers to your vision in your school? What gets in the way of every student building a love of reading every year? How do you know?
3. What actions are you taking to increase just and equitable practices for all people in your school?
4. Has your school experienced book bans? Tell us how it has impacted the life in your school for students and teachers.

Part III: Your Reading Beliefs and Professional Practices

1. Please describe significant factors in your professional learning about reading in the last five years (e.g., your mentors; professional association memberships; conferences you've attended; articles or podcasts you've published or been influenced by; areas of personal research; blogging; social media; your personal learning network, etc.)
2. Describe your school library. What percentage of books would you estimate are out of date/low interest books versus high interest books that most students want to read? Compare the circulation numbers over the last several years and comment on trends/changes.
3. Is there a certified librarian in your school? Why or why not? How is your librarian a decision-maker in the teaching of reading?

Part IV: how you will use this three-year grant?

1. We will sustain your work with a \$6000 grant each year for three years. Please explain how you foresee using the money over time:
 - **Year one:** list some of the titles and/or author collections you plan to order and explain why these books are the right fit for your students. How did you decide on these books? Where will the books be housed? Who will get them into the hands of students? How will you involve teachers in the purchasing and use of the books? **What data will you collect to help determine next steps in using this grant? What are your plans for professional learning in this first year?**
 - **Year two:** What revisions or expansions to your plan for ordering and using the books in this grant do you imagine for year two? How will students, teachers, and caregivers be involved in the purchasing and use of books in your school? How will you expand professional learning?
 - **Year three:** Explain how the practices put in place in years one and two might grow in year three. What moves must you make to sustain this literacy effort in your school? What moves will you make towards diversity and justice for all students as readers? How do you imagine this impacting your school community? How will you sustain this focus once this grant runs out?

Part V: Video

In a video of 5 minutes or less, please show us your school and tell us a story from your life as a school leader. Why would you believe it would be wise for us **to invest in YOU and your school** with this Book **Love** Foundation three-year grant? You are welcome to include teachers and students in your video.

Your digital submission must be posted to Loom or YouTube. Please make sure you have checked permissions to make this video accessible to readers of your application.

Part VI: Support for You and Your Application (optional)

Please include not more than two recommendations from parents or colleagues or students or teachers. These are an important testimony to your work.

Process for submission of your application:

1. Complete the grant application by April 1, 2026, and submit the application electronically through the Book **Love** Foundation Grant Application Form. All parts of the application (including optional letters of recommendation) must be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF document titled with the applicant's first and last names (ex. **Your name BLF Leader's Grant application**)
 - **We receive hundreds of applications each year, so please follow these directions exactly as stated.** We hate to do it, but we must discard applications that are not labeled and sent correctly.
 - Our applications manager will acknowledge the receipt of your application.
2. All applicants will be notified by email of grant decisions by June 30, 2026. *Please be sure both your school and summer email addresses are correct when you submit your application, so that we can contact you. Check your spam folder.*
3. Books will be delivered to grant winners as vendors have them available. We hope to complete delivery during the fall of 2026. The sooner you order, the sooner you'll receive your books.
4. We cannot provide feedback on applications. If you are not awarded a grant this year, we encourage you to apply again in 2027.