



WATER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

2026/2027 K-12TH GRADE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Upper Water's Water Education Grant Program awards grants of up to \$1,000 for the purpose of bringing water-related projects and programs into K-12th grade classrooms.

Purpose

The purpose of the grant program is to fund classroom or school projects that further a better understanding of water and the important role it plays in Southern California. Through this program, water-related environmental issues, including the integral role water plays in the global community, can be examined. It supplements classroom efforts by providing additional funding for creative classroom projects.

Who Can Apply?

Any K-12th grade educator who teaches at a licensed school within the Upper Water service area is eligible to apply for a grant. Visit <https://upperwater.org/leadership/#service-area> to view our service area map. If you have questions regarding a school's eligibility, please e-mail Katherine Vazquez at Katherine@usgvmwd.org or call (626) 443-2297.

Project Focus

- Projects must focus on water or water-related subjects. Examples of grant projects include but are not limited to: examining various properties of water, experimenting with water quality, studying how climate change affects water availability, or researching how pollution impacts water sources.
- Projects may be integrated into one or multiple disciplines. Examples include, but are not limited to: math, social studies, biology, the arts, etc.
- Projects may take one or multiple forms. Examples include, but are not limited to: writing assignments, conducting experiments, building models, creating a video or artwork, etc.

Grant Award Amounts

Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded. The number of grants awarded annually will vary based on the number of applications submitted, amounts requested, and quality/feasibility of proposed projects.

Conditions

- Grant funding may only be used for grade(s) K-12th grade projects/programs.
- Teachers may apply individually or as a group. School administrators may also apply on behalf of their teachers.
- Teachers are limited to one grant award per project, per year.
- A maximum of \$1,000 per grant may be awarded.
- Grant funds must be used for materials or other direct costs associated with the proposed water-related project as listed in the budget section of the grant application.
- Grant funds cannot be used for payment of salaries or teaching stipends.
- Grant funds cannot be used for computers, tablets, or other similar electronic devices.
- Grant recipients cannot re-apply for grants in subsequent years for the same project.
- Grant applications and all grant related documentation must be submitted by scheduled deadlines in electronic copy (sent via email, Dropbox, or Google Docs).
- Final grant documentation must be submitted by the Project Completion deadline and include:
 - A brief (1 page or less) written project summary (saved in MS Word format).
 - A **minimum of 5** color photos (saved in jpg format) highlighting the project. Photos must be saved as individual jpgs (no slide shows) and not embedded into the written project summary.
 - Receipts of all project-related purchases. Receipts must show date of purchase and have a combined total of grant funding spent (receipts may show more than the awarded amount).
 - Any unused portion of grant funds must be returned to Upper Water within 30 days of the

project deadline.

Program Steps

1. Complete a Water Education Grant Program application. Limit responses to the space provided.
2. Describe the project, listing the project activities and objective(s). Include the benefits that students or others will experience from undertaking the proposed project.
3. Submit an itemized budget providing actual costs/expenses for the project. Award amounts may be granted for any amount requested, **up to a maximum of \$1,000**. Funds must be spent on items specified in the application and for the specific project listed in the grant application. No changes to grant applications will be accepted after the application deadline. Applicants will be required to submit copies of all relevant receipts.

Application Review

Submitted applications will be reviewed by staff and grants awarded using the following criteria:

- ✓ Does the proposed project offer a better understanding of water and the important role it plays?
- ✓ Does the proposed project actively engage students in the learning process?
- ✓ Are the proposed project objectives clearly defined?

Grant applications due by 5:00 p.m. on October 16, 2026

Grant funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis while funding is available.

Application Submittal

Completed applications must be submitted in electronic format either through email or providing a link to the uploaded application in either Dropbox or Google Docs. **Please e-mail to Katherine Vazquez at Katherine@usgymwd.org and type "WEGP" in the subject line.** Printed or faxed hard copies of applications will NOT be accepted.

Applications ***MUST*** include a working email address for the contact person.

If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your application within 7 business days after submittal, please contact the Upper Water via email at Katherine@usgymwd.org or phone at (626) 443-2297. Please retain an electronic copy of your application for your records.*

**The Upper Water is not responsible for lost or missing applications, or for any delays in the delivery of applications. Applications received after the submittal deadline may not be considered.*

Timeline
Grant applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on October 16, 2026 .
Distribute Grant Agreements to awarded teachers/administrators. Due back by 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2026 .
Grant disbursement to awarded grant projects during January 2027 .
Project Completion Date – Friday, May 24, 2027, by 5:00 p.m. All documentation must be provided in <u>electronic format</u> (email, Dropbox or Google Docs). Printed or faxed hard copies will <u>not</u> be accepted. Documentation must include: • A brief (1 page or less) <u>written project summary</u> (saved in MS Word format). • A minimum of <u>5 color photos</u> (saved in jpg format) highlighting the project. • <u>Receipts</u> of all project-related purchases. Receipts must show date of purchase and have a combined total of at least the amount of grant funding spent (receipts can show more than the amount of grant funding). • A check for any unused portion of the grant must be returned following 30 days of the project deadline.

For Questions

Please contact Katherine Vazquez at katherine@usgymwd.org or (626) 443-2297, or visit <https://upperwater.org/water-education-grant-program-2/>



WATER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

2026/2027 K-12TH GRADE – PROGRAM APPLICATION

PLEASE TYPE (do not handwrite) responses. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Completed applications must be saved as a pdf document and submitted via email, Dropbox, or Google Docs link sent to Katherine@usgvmwd.org. Type WEGP in the email subject line. **Applications MUST include a working email address** for the contact person. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your application within 7 business days after submittal, please contact Upper Water by email at Katherine@usgvmwd.org or via phone at (626) 443-2297. Upper Water is not responsible for lost or missing applications, or for any delays in the delivery of applications.

Grant Applications Due by 5:00 p.m. on October 16, 2026

Grant funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis while funding is available.

Contact Person's Name _____ Date _____

School Name _____ School District _____

School Physical Address _____

School Mailing Address _____

School Phone # _____ School Fax # _____

Contact Person's Email _____ Contact Person's Phone # _____

Project Title _____

Approx. #of Students Involved with Project _____ Grade Level(s) Involved with Project _____

Description of Project

Project Objectives

Benefit to Students and Others

Budget

Please list projected expenses in detail. Awarded funds are to be spent only on the specific items listed in this application. Copies of receipts for all items purchased with grant funds must be submitted with the final report.

Item	Estimated Cost

Total Amount Requested (Max. \$1,000) _____ Total Project Cost _____

By completing and submitting this application, the applicant acknowledges that they fully understand and accept that grant awardees will be required to:

1. Sign a grant award agreement and have the principal of the school (where the funding will be used) also sign the grant agreement.
2. Spend any/all awarded grant funds only on the project budget items as specified within the completed grant application.
3. Submit all documentation as described within the grant agreement by the listed project deadline.
4. Return any unused grant funds to the Upper Water by the listed project deadline.