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# News Release

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## **Twenty-nine Grants Awarded to Educators in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties**

Fresno, CA – Thousands of students have the opportunity to participate in innovative educational projects, thanks to a long-standing program funded by the California Table Grape Commission (commission) on behalf of California table grape growers.

The “Innovation in Teaching” grant program was created in 1993 to support innovative teaching projects in the California table grape growing regions of the San Joaquin and Coachella valleys. Projects include the areas of agriculture, math, science, art, health, and technology.

In total, 51 education grants worth up to \$750 each are being awarded. The funded projects will be implemented in the current academic year and will reach over 9,000 students. Twenty-nine grants were awarded to educators in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties.

“California grape growers are proud to support this education grant program that benefits students in schools all over the table grape growing regions of the state,” said Kathleen Nave, commission president.

Examples of projects in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties include mannequins that will help teach students how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), learning geometry through quilting, and the creation of mobile applications.

A list of all the projects in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties is listed below.

### **About the California Table Grape Commission**

The California Table Grape Commission was created by the California legislature in 1967 to create worldwide demand for fresh California grapes through a variety of research and promotional programs.

For more information on the “Innovation in Teaching” grant program, go to [www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/community-outreach/](http://www.grapesfromcalifornia.com/community-outreach/).

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Summaries of Funded Education Grant Projects – 2018-19  
Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare Counties

California grape growers are proud to support the following education grants awarded to schools in the San Joaquin Valley.

Central Unified School District

**United Physical Education**

**Theresa Bollier, Central High School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase outdoor recreation and fitness equipment and games for high school students to engage in dynamic learning to improve fitness, flexibility, strength, and endurance in an inclusive class where peer coaches learn leadership skills and apply their knowledge.

Clovis Unified School District

**Innovating with Adafruit Circuit Playground**

**Delaine Johnson, Reyburn Intermediate School**

Seventh and eighth grade students will program and code a design of their own invention all the way to the prototype stage with this grant-funded coding educator's pack of hardware and software.

Coalinga-Huron Unified School District

**Applying Measurement and Geometry Through Quilting**

**Jessica Fairbanks, Coalinga High School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, cutters, and cutting mats for this after school program for ninth through twelfth grade students to learn about quilting, geometry, and measurement as they create their own geometric patterns. Each student will create a block for a "Quilt of Valor" that will be donated to a local veteran.

**Your Body is a Walking Wonder**

**Lauren Andrade, Sunset Elementary School**

Fourth and fifth grade students will use grant fund purchased pedometers to learn about physical education, nutrition, health, mathematics, physiology, and kinesiology.

Firebaugh Las Deltas Unified School District

**Let's Model**

**Ana Herrera, Firebaugh Middle School**

Students in the sixth through eighth grades will explore their creativity as they learn to apply the artistic process and principles of design to sculpt original works of art. Grant funds will be used to purchase wire, clay, and sculpting tools.

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Fresno Unified School District

**Eat Your Pudding and Your Spoon!**

**Janice Kruse, Yokomi Science and Technology Elementary School**

Grant funds will purchase edible spoon makers and groceries for fifth grade students to learn next generation science standards as they figure out how to eat soup, pudding, and frozen yogurt using basic kitchen ingredients to construct an edible spoon.

**Magical Minecraft**

**Suzanne Webster-Jones, Figarden Elementary School**

Fourth grade students will learn about California missions and California farmland as they learn math and history playing Minecraft. Grant funds will be used to purchase 20 Xbox controllers to allow students to build quicker.

**We Need Flexible Seating!**

**Kristy Page, Wilson Elementary School**

Kindergarten through sixth grade students will be able to move, release stress, improve circulation, and stay calm with grant fund purchased balance ball chairs.

Hanford Elementary School District

**Healthiest 5K on the Planet**

**Jennifer Bays, READY Expanded Learning at Roosevelt Elementary**

Third through sixth grade students will learn about the importance of exercise, a healthy diet, and their impact on the body with grant fund purchased t-shirts and dye for team participation in the culminating activity, a 5K run and obstacle course.

Kings River - Hardwick Union Elementary School District

**Fact Fluency Through Games**

**Tim Price, Kings River – Hardwick Elementary School**

Second grade students will learn math fluency through games and fun activities with grant funds purchasing dice, cards, dominoes, locks, and more.

**Stepping it Up**

**Tim Price, Kings River – Hardwick Elementary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase activity trackers for second grade students to learn about health and wellness as they track their progress, learning math and geography in the process.

Kingsburg Elementary School District

**Lepidoptera Life Cycle and Metamorphosis**

**Gini Muradian, Central Valley Home School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase caterpillars to enhance the science curriculum of the kindergarten through eighth grade students as they learn about life-cycles and metamorphosis.

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Kingsburg Joint Union High School District

**Mobile App Development**

**Joshua Woods, Kingsburg High School**

Ninth through twelfth grade students will use grant fund purchased tablets to test their apps as they collaborate with peers and professionals to research, develop, and present their very own mobile apps.

Madera Unified School District

**Early Literacy Skills Builder**

**Chelsea Cappelluti, Sierra Vista Elementary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase Early Literacy Skills Builder curriculum to focus daily on reading and target comprehension skills for kindergarten through sixth grade students.

**Everyone can be a Hero!**

**Patty Hanson, Madera South High School**

Ninth through twelfth grade students will be able to recognize when someone is choking and respond appropriately with these grant funds being used to purchase five choking “Manikin” vests that students will wear to safely and successfully practice the Heimlich Maneuver.

Porterville Unified School District

**Landscape Management**

**Robert Aguilar, Porterville High School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase roses, perennials, and landscaping tools for ninth through twelfth grade students to design, beautify, and maintain their school campus.

Riverdale Joint Unified School District

**Design and Build 3D Printed Cars for Safety During Collisions**

**Loretta Anders, Riverdale High School**

Twelfth grade students will design and print their own 3D race cars to minimize impact forces during a collision. Computer simulations will assess and test the physics of the car crashes. Grant funds will be used to purchase the sensors required to collect momentum and impulse data.

**Yoga for Kids with Special Needs – Sensory Management**

**Shawna Vital, Fipps Primary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase yoga mats, yoga carpet, bead packs, balance stones, and more for these transitional kindergarten through third grade students to learn spatial awareness, motor skills, self-regulation, and manage symptoms of anxiety for overall learning success.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno School District

**BrainPOP Junior**

**Catherine Cash, Our Lady of Victory Elementary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase a subscription to BrainPOP Junior videos that captivate the attention and imagination of second grade students as they learn about reading, writing, grammar, science, math, health, arts, and more.

**Flexible Seating**

**Jordan Faiman, Our Lady of Victory Elementary School**

Third and fourth grade students will have a choice of flexible seating to regain focus and keep their brain moving at all times. Grant funds will be used to purchase stability ball chairs, wobble stools, and classic adjustable round tables.

**STEM Activities**

**Jordan Faiman, Our Lady of Victory Elementary School**

Third and fourth grade students will learn about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at engaging, hands-on centers. Grant funds will be used to purchase Design & Play, Survive the Quake, Power Tiles Circuit, Shpero BOLT, and Hot Dots Multiplication problem solving STEM kits.

Sanger Unified School District

**Fairmont Fresh Farm Store**

**Christine Klistoff, Fairmont Elementary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase tilt display shelves, basket displays, and a cash register for these kindergarten through eighth grade students to upgrade their fresh farm store from selling under a tent to a dedicated building near their farming operation.

Selma Unified School District

**Building Language Through Science**

**Monica Tovar, Laura Zuniga, Rosa Flores, and Eleanor Salazar; George Washington Elementary School**

Kindergarten students will learn about science and animals, writing about what they learn, as grant funds make possible a field trip to the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, and a follow-up ZooMobile presentation to get up-close and personal with different animals.

The Academies Charter Management Organization

**Project Kindness**

**Jennifer Denham, Sycamore Valley Academy**

Grant funds will be used to purchase kindness curriculum for each grade, kindergarten through sixth, to stop bullying, build self-esteem, and cultivate compassion while building children's self-value and academic achievement.

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**Running on Raspberry Pi**

**Gloria Ramos, Blue Oak Academy Charter**

First through third grade students will use grant funded machine building, coding, and programming kits to collaborate about problem solving, electrical circuits, and electrical engineering as they build robots and machines.

Tulare City School District

**Graphic Design on iPads**

**Ryan Turner, Cherry Avenue Middle School**

Seventh and eighth grade students will create original fliers, posters, business cards, t-shirt designs, and much more as they study graphic design using the iPad and Apple Pencil purchased with grant funds.

Visalia Unified School District

**Fictional Writing with Legos**

**Salvador Campos, Golden Oak Elementary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase Legos for fourth grade students to create characters and scenarios for fictional writing projects.

**Full Steam Ahead... Preparing the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers!**

**Diane Medeiros, Linwood Elementary School**

Fourth through sixth grade students will design, build, and code various kinds of robots as part of their studies in science, engineering, and math. Grant funds will be used to purchase robotic kits.

**“WeDo” Love Hands-on Science in the First Grade!**

**Teresa Conard, Linwood Elementary School**

Grant funds will be used to purchase LEGO Education WeDo 2.0 Core Set software to allow first grade students to construct science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) projects designed for the Next Generation Science Standards.