

GRANTS

What types of educational institutions are eligible to receive an Active Learning Center Grant?

Grant eligibility includes academic institutions that focus primarily on formal, instructor-led learning in designated classrooms.

Who within the educational institution should be designated as “the owner” of the grant?

This may vary by type of educational institution. The owner should be the person who will be accountable for all grant recipient responsibilities. This may be different from the person who signs the three-party legal agreement.

Which schools are eligible to apply for a grant?

Schools in the United States, all U.S. Territories, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada are eligible to apply.

Will we receive confirmation of receipt of our proposal?

Yes, through the registration website.

Will you consider my library or media center for this grant?

Yes. The space within the library or media center should focus primarily on formal, instructor-led learning.

When will you offer Active Learning Center options for grades K – 5?

The K – 5 market continues to be very important to us. We will continue to evaluate options for younger grades in future grant cycles.

Can our institution apply for more than one Active Learning Center?

Yes. We welcome multiple proposals from institutions. However, please be aware that if an institution is chosen, only one proposal will be awarded per grant cycle.

CLASSROOM SPACE

Who decides if the classroom space needs to be updated?

Steelcase Education asks the author of the grant to use his/her best professional judgment. Will the classroom reflect favorably on Steelcase and the school? The floor covering, wall treatments and paint should be fresh in appearance, if not new. Adequate lighting should also be incorporated. We ask that photographs of the space be provided.

Does all other furniture in the designated classroom need to be removed? (e.g., storage, book shelves on the walls, etc.)

It is possible to retain storage, book shelves, etc. However, the size of the room may need to be larger than what is shown on our layouts. It is important to ensure that there is enough space for each reconfiguration, that sight lines are maintained and that jurisdictional codes are followed (e.g., International Building Code, American Disability Act, etc.).

How many classes have to be taught in the room that receives the grant? Our teachers switch rooms and any one teacher may not have all five of their classes in the proposed room.

The intent of the grant is to furnish a classroom that will be fully utilized throughout the day. We realize this may include multiple teachers and that is perfectly acceptable.

My classroom size is smaller (or larger) than the one listed in the materials. Can I still apply?

Yes. As long as the square footage per student is maintained within your classroom, you may apply. As an example – if your classroom is 910 square feet and the classroom requires 32 square feet per student, you cannot have more than 28 students in the classroom to receive the grant.

Active Learning Center Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Can our school apply for your grant with a class size of fewer than the recommended students?

Yes. The student class size listed for each classroom only represents the maximum number of students.

Is it possible to substitute the furniture in the classroom design I choose?

While minor changes from the selected layout may be considered with each recipient, this grant does not permit major product substitutions or layout alternatives that would change the design intent and use of the space in a substantial way.

What is Thread, and why is it optional?

Thread is an ultra-thin power distribution system offered in all four of the active learning classrooms this year. It's optional because carpeting is required in order for Thread to run underneath it. The school is required to provide the carpet (existing or new) in order for Thread to be installed. While carpet squares/tiles are strongly preferred, they are not required.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Is it possible to get feedback on our grant proposal from last year, so that we can improve upon our future applications?

Due to the high volume of grant proposals we receive, it is not possible for us to respond to requests for feedback from individual applicants. We encourage you to attend one of our grant writing webinars to gain more insight into what we're looking for as we read through proposals. Information about these webinars can be found on the Active Learning Center Grant website.

Where does training take place? How often will training occur? Can educators at the grant recipient institution who are not directly involved in the Active Learning Center audit the Steelcase training?

The training will take place prior to the beginning of classes in the new classroom. It will be conducted at the school with additional online training support (i.e., videos, webinars, etc.). Any educator within the recipient institution may audit the training.

Will ongoing consultation be provided throughout the grant period?

It depends on the type of consultation requested. Our Regional Education Leaders will be available and able to answer most questions, make observations about the use of the classroom, etc.

What happens after the two-year grant period? Is there any support or ongoing dialog?

Although the formal grant period will end, we look forward to continuing to build a network with Active Learning Center grant recipients from all cycles. One opportunity for grant recipients to foster connections and learn from one another is to attend a Steelcase Education Active Learning Symposium held in Grand Rapids, MI. This exclusive experience allows instructors and administrators to reflect on and discuss real-life experiences in teaching in an active learning space, talk about the impact of space on student learning, and explore ways active learning strategies and spaces can prepare students for the future world of work.