

**Franklin-Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation, Inc.**  
**GRANT APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

*Application must be typed. If you experience difficulty completing, please contact our office at email [fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com](mailto:fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com)*

**Applicant Name & Position:** Aaron Talley - FSHS Choir Director

**School/Organization Involved:** Franklin-Simpson High School

**Amount Requested:** 2500

**Purpose of Funding:** New Guitar Class/Modern Band Lab

**Targeted Grade Levels:** PreK-K    1-3    4-5    6-8    9-12    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Students/Persons Affected by Grant:** 60 per school year

**Academic Area:** Reading    Language Arts    Social Studies    Math  
Science    Fine arts    Community    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Summary of Project (2 - 3 Sentences):**

The proposed guitar class at Franklin-Simpson High School will serve as an introductory music course that develops student skills in guitar, piano, bass, drums, and basic music theory through differentiated instruction based on individual ability levels. The long-term vision is to expand the class into a modern band program, allowing students to perform collaboratively, compose original music, and gain introductory recording experience using contemporary instruments and technology. This program will broaden access to music education, strengthen recruitment for choir and musical theatre, and create new creative opportunities for students who may not traditionally participate in performing arts.

**Address of School/Organization:** 400 S College Street

**Contact Person:** Aaron Talley

**Phone: (Day & Evening)** 270-776-6245                      **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** aaron.talley@simpson.kyschools.us

**Grant Cycle Submitted:**    September                      November                      February                      April

**Required Signatures**

***Simpson County Schools:***

**Principal/Supervisor**                       **Date** 4/14/21  
**Superintendent** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

***Community Organizations:***

**Grant Preparer** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Title** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Board Representative** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Title** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CREATE YOUR GRANT APPLICATION.

### Writing Guidelines

- 1) Application is complete and follows format outlined below, two to four pages in length, postmarked by deadline, includes **12** copies (one for each director & staff) or digital media and one hard copy including signed cover sheet.
- 2) Demonstrates innovative and/or program/curriculum or identifiable need.
- 3) Clearly defines learning goals and offers a meaningful way to measure success.
- 4) Clearly defines an area of need for students, school, or community.
- 5) Simpson County Schools applicants **MUST** include signatures of principal & board approval **before submitting to FSEEF.** (See Important Considerations below.)

#### A. NARRATIVE: Choose Option I or II depending on organization's status:

##### I. SIMPSON COUNTY SCHOOLS AND PERSONNEL

###### *Describe Your Request*

- 1) Describe the problem(s) or need(s) addressed by this request. Be sure to:
  - a. State your school's mission.
  - b. Clearly describe how this program/project will help your school to carry out its mission
- 2) Describe in detail the specific activities and strategies of this project,
- 3) Incorporate a **timeline** for implementation.
- 4) Describe in detail the expected outcome/goals of your project and how these outcomes will be measured.

**OR**

##### II. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

###### *Organizational History and Structure*

- 1) Briefly describe your organization's purpose, mission, and goals.
- 2) Is your organization tax-exempt?
- 3) Detail your sources of total program funding/ financial support.
- 4) Provide a list of board members and staff as an attachment.

###### *Describe Your Request*

- 1) Describe the problem(s) or need(s) addressed by this request.
- 2) Describe the specific activities and strategies of this project.
- 3) Incorporate a **timeline** for implementation.
- 4) Describe the expected outcome/goals of your project. Explain how the outcomes will help meet your organization's mission.

#### B. EVALUATION

- 1) Please describe the evaluation method you will use to measure the success of your project. What questions will be answered?

#### C. BUDGET—Must be reasonable for scope of project and number of learners affected.

- 1) Provide a **detailed** budget of how you plan to use the requested funding to ensure the success of your proposed project. Applicants may attach estimates, quotes or data collected online to support budget projections. Attachments DO NOT replace a constructed project budget.
- 2) Please indicate any other sources of funding you are seeking for this project and the amounts anticipated from those sources.

**D. APPLICATION SUMMARY**—The mission of the Franklin Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation, Inc. is “to supplement existing educational opportunities through funding to educators and community organizations in order to facilitate effective learning.” Applicants should clearly discuss how the proposed project meets not only their school/organization’s mission statement, but also how it meets FSEEF’s mission.

**IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS** for completing your proposal:

- FSEEF funds learner-directed projects. Applicants should not submit for travel, training, “bricks and mortar,” or salaries UNLESS it can be justified clearly and completely as an integral part of the project.
- Applicants must follow the format outlined in this application packet. A completed cover sheet must be included in addition to the narrative portion which addresses A-D in outline above. Failure to submit a complete application will result in application being returned for revision to meet the established guidelines and will delay consideration until the next cycle.
- Out of fairness to all applicants, FSEEF board members should not be asked to review applications prior to submission.
- Applications will be reviewed in order received. Early submission is encouraged.

*Grant applications will be compiled and reviewed on a quarterly basis as indicated below.*

<b>2025-2026 FSEEF Meeting Dates for Grant Review</b>	<b>Grant Must Be Submitted by 2:00 p.m on this date</b>
8/25/2025	8/15/2025
9/22/2025	9/12/2025
10/27/2025	10/17/2025
11/24/2025	11/14/2025
12/22/2025	12/12/2025
1/26/2026	1/16/2026
2/23/2026	2/13/2026
3/23/2026	3/13/2026
4/27/2026	4/17/2026

*\*\*Applications submitted by Simpson County Schools personnel MUST have board of education approval PRIOR to submission to FSEEF. Contact the Central Office to have approval of your application included on the board agenda. Central Office will need a copy of your proposal to be signed by the superintendent after board approval. Board of Education meeting dates are subject to change. Applicant is then responsible for submitting the SIGNED proposal to FSEEF.*

*Allow a 1-2 week review period. All applicants will be contacted within one week of grant review meeting.*

*Send completed applications to:*  
**FSEEF Grant Applications, P.O. Box 94, Franklin, KY 42135-0094**  
*or e-mail to [fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com](mailto:fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com)*



# SIMPSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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## **Franklin-Simpson High School Music Department**

### **FSEEF Grant Application**

#### **Guitar and Modern Band Lab**

##### **Introduction**

Franklin-Simpson High School is excited to launch a new guitar class next school year that has the potential to grow into something much bigger: a modern band lab where students can learn, create, and perform using instruments and styles that connect directly to the music they know and enjoy. Interest in the class has already been strong, and we believe this program can become an important entry point for students who may not initially see themselves in traditional music classes like choir or band, but who still have a strong desire to make music.

Our goal is to build a classroom environment where students can begin by learning the fundamentals of guitar and then expand into bass, keyboards, drums, and basic music production. With the right equipment, this class can become a creative space where students not only learn instruments, but also collaborate, write original music, and develop skills that can stay with them long after high school. We respectfully request \$2,500 from the Franklin-Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation to help make this dream a reality.

##### **Purpose and Goals**

1. The purpose of this project is to create a hands-on music lab that introduces students to practical music-making in a way that is accessible to a wide range of ability levels. Students will begin with guitar basics such as tuning, chord playing, restringing, and simple technique, while also learning foundational music concepts that can transfer to other instruments.
2. As the year progresses, students will have opportunities to rotate through bass guitar, keyboards, drums, and small ensemble playing. For students who remain in the course for a full year, the long-term goal is for them to develop enough confidence and independence to perform together as a modern band. This gives students the chance to experience music in a collaborative setting while also learning responsibility, listening skills, and teamwork.



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3. Another important goal is to introduce students to the creative side of music through simple recording equipment and beginner-level music production. This would allow students to record original songs, explore songwriting, and learn how music is shared in today's world.

## **Impact on Students and Community**

This project has the potential to reach students who may not typically participate in school music programs. A guitar and modern band lab creates another pathway into the arts and helps make music education more inclusive by offering students multiple ways to engage.

Students involved in the class will build confidence through practical skill development and performance opportunities. They will also strengthen collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving skills as they work together in small groups and ensembles.

Over time, this program could also strengthen other areas of the music department by encouraging students to participate in choir, musical theatre, and school performances. It has the potential to become a visible part of the school's arts culture and a creative outlet for students across many backgrounds and interests.

## **Budget Overview**

The total cost of this guitar lab is roughly \$7,000. Our funding plan includes:

- **Grant Request:** \$2,500 (36%)
- **Community Donations and Sponsorships:** \$4500 (64%)

Funding from this grant would help us purchase the essential equipment needed to establish the lab, including acoustic guitars, electric guitars, bass guitars, small amplifiers, amp modelers with headphone capability, beginner keyboards, and an electronic drum set.



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These resources would allow multiple students to work at the same time while keeping instruction flexible and practical for a classroom setting. Durable, entry-level equipment is important so that the lab can serve students for many years and continue growing as interest increases.

## **Conclusion**

We believe a guitar and modern band lab can become a meaningful addition to music education at Franklin-Simpson High School. It gives students a chance to learn music in a format that feels relevant, creative, and immediately engaging while still building important lifelong skills.

Support from the Franklin-Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation would help us create a space where students can explore music in new ways, develop confidence, and discover talents they may not have realized they had. We are grateful for your consideration and for your continued investment in opportunities that help our students grow.

## **Contact Information**

Aaron Talley

Franklin-Simpson High School

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270-776-6245