



Frequently Asked Questions

What does my school get as a Smartschool?

Every school gets signage and PBS resources such as app cards, collateral, and access to PBSKIDS materials and screeners before they get released to the public. Professional development and Act 48 is provided to educators in the Smartschool network when requested.

Other programming and materials are dependent on the school's interest and focus such as family engagement, STEM, afterschool programming and if they want more media creation, school garden, story writing, camps, etc. The program is customized and collaborative, and much of the initiative relies on the superstar educators of your school to reach out and communicate with the program manager.

What are the limitations of the program grant?

We cannot pay for staff time, construction of buildings or structures, or things that do not relate to PBS/WQED educational materials i.e. unrelated field trips.

How can my school become a Smartschool?

Any school can become a Smartschool, the grant is 10K. WQED approaches companies and applies for grants to select interested schools, but if you have a community business or organization who can fund the program on your behalf then that is also a way to do it. You can contact education@wqed.org if you are interested and would like to be put on our list of interested schools.

What is the level of commitment?

Commitment is renewed on a yearly basis. Each school year, we ask that schools sign an MOU to agree to do 4 Smartschools programming and to provide feedback and photos. As schools progress in the program, we encourage schools to work with their local library, participate in other WQED programs, and use more of the content in a purposeful way to increase family engagement and build a Learning Neighborhood with community partners in the area.

What happens when funding runs out?

As long as the school is still interested in staying a Smartschool, WQED still supports the program at the school. Some of the requests may be more limited since there is no funding i.e. purchasing books, field trips, etc. However, there are many ways for unfunded schools to still utilize the program effectively and in an impactful manner. There are also other opportunities at WQED such as small grants that can be used or requested.



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