

# Southborough Education Foundation awards \$44K in grants for new school programs

The [Southborough Education Foundation](#) (SEF) seeks to foster academic excellence in our public schools by awarding grants for innovative and creative programs. Over the past 14 years, SEF has distributed over \$350,000 in grants, funded entirely by our parents and businesses through fundraisers like the Red Apple and the Annual Spelling Bee.

From spelling to math, science, nature, social/emotional learning and helping children develop critical group & teamwork skills, SEF has awarded \$44K in grants to fund various initiatives for the upcoming school year. The highlight of this year's grant submissions is the construction of an outdoor classroom at Woodward for conducting nature and science classes. Here's more from SEF on how the grants will be used to enhance education in the Southborough schools:

Students at Finn will benefit from the funding of various items that students could use to get into a ready-to-learn "green" zone. Color-coded zones (blue, yellow, green, red, etc.) correspond to different emotional states and research has shown that children in the green zone are more ready to learn. In addition, SEF is funding books to teach younger students how to empathize with the book characters and to help students develop an emotional vocabulary.

Students at Woodward will have an added opportunity to practice math skills at home via new math "back packs" that can be used outside the classroom. Woodward students will also benefit from the construction of a new specially-designed outdoor classroom at Woodward, built into the hill in a removed area of the school grounds. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade curriculum touches on the water cycle, astronomy, weather, etc., so this space will be used frequently for science instruction, but can also be available for cross-curricular instruction.

Neary students will soon have new spelling aids as well as an updated dedicated space and A/V equipment to continue their tradition of the morning meeting in honor of retiring Principal Dr. Linda Murdock. Trottier grants are focused on building business and team skills through typing proficiency and interactive group technology for classroom participation.

Algonquin will enhance its science curriculum with the addition of a gas chromatograph for use in several classrooms. These devices, while common in science-based careers, are not common in schools and would set Algonquin apart in its science curriculum and allow students to apply advanced concepts to their studies. Finally, Algonquin will also benefit from some additional funding for emotional / social learning.

For more information regarding SEF, please go to [www.southboroughed.org](http://www.southboroughed.org) or contact SEF at [info@southboroughed.org](mailto:info@southboroughed.org).