



CITY OF
VALPARAISO

East Porter Grant Application

This 2025 Grant Application was formed in compliance with the policy statement passed by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission on August 11, 2016 and per Indiana Code 36-7-25-7. Eligible entities must provide educational programs, work training programs, worker retraining programs, or any other programs that prepare individuals to participate in the competitive and global economy. School challenge grants are subject to available funding in the Commission's annual budget and are provided at the sole and absolute discretion of the Commission. Grant funds cannot be used to subsidize ongoing operating expenses, staff salaries, personal expenses, or travel expenses. In granting school challenge grant funds, the Commission must find that the programs will promote the redevelopment and economic development of the City, is of utility and benefit, and is in the best interests of the City's residents.

Please note this application is to be submitted to the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission, c/o Debbie Melcic, 166 Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383 by April 30, 2025. Failure to file with the Commission in a timely fashion may render the project ineligible for funding. The Commission reserves the right to seek additional information relating to the project prior to reimbursement.

If you have any questions regarding this application or policies affecting this grant, please contact George Douglas, Director of Development at (219) 462-1161 or at gdouglas@valpo.us.

Total 2025 Funds Available to EPCS: \$158,721.82

1.) Briefly outline the projects EPCS intends to initiate or continue in 2025 with Redevelopment Grant Funds by listing the project, intended expenditures, and an estimated cost. Please remember that all expenditures must be capital-based and have a lifespan of no less than three years.

Title of Project	Intended Expenditures	Estimated Cost
Enhancing Workforce Readiness Through Advanced Manufacturing Education	Portable AC/DC Learning System, Portable Electric Relay Control Troubleshooting Learning System, Mobile Technology Workstation, Skill Boss Smart Factory, Mobile Technology Workstations, Portable Pneumatic Learning System, and Mechanical Systems I Learning System	\$ 70,000.00
Student Access to Technology Through Chromebook Utilization	Chromebooks for the incoming 5th (Grad Year 2033) and 9th-grade (Grad Year 2029) students	\$ 88,721.28

2.) Up to \$3,000 of total grant funds may be applied to the Arts as a match to State or private grants. If a state grant is not awarded, the funds may be used on arts-related capital expenses with a lifespan of no less than three years. If you intend to use grant funds on the arts, please list the project, intended expenditures, and the estimated cost below.

Title of Project	Intended Expenditures	Estimated Cost
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3.) Briefly explain how each project will use advanced methods or technologies that offer students an education that is competitive in the global economy.

Project 1: Enhancing Workforce Readiness Through Advanced Manufacturing Education

Establishing Advanced Manufacturing 101 and 102 courses at East Porter will provide students with hands-on experience using advanced learning systems that meet the demands of the global economy. The Portable AC/DC Learning System, Portable Electric Relay Control Troubleshooting Learning System, Mobile Technology Workstation, Skill Boss Smart Factory, Mobile Technology Workstations, Portable Pneumatic Learning System, and Mechanical Systems 1 Learning System will offer interactive, hands-on training in electrical circuits, automation, and industrial systems, all critical components of modern manufacturing. These tools will expose students to real-world applications of robotics, smart manufacturing, and industrial automation, equipping them with practical, industry-relevant skills for high-demand careers. This grant investment will provide students with access to cutting-edge equipment, ensuring they develop the technical expertise and problem-solving abilities required to compete in a rapidly evolving global workforce.

Project 2: Student Access to Technology Through Chromebook Utilization

The acquisition of new student Acer Chromebooks for the incoming 5th (Grad Year 2033) and 9th-grade (Grad Year 2029) students will continue to foster an environment where students are primed to excel in the dynamic landscape of the global economy. Leveraging cloud-based collaboration tools, students will engage in real-time teamwork, honing critical thinking and communication skills vital for success in international markets. Access to a diverse array of educational apps and digital resources will ensure students remain at the forefront of innovation, equipped with the latest knowledge and tools essential for competing on a global scale. With the flexibility to facilitate remote/virtual learning, these Chromebooks empower students to thrive in a world where digital literacy and technical proficiency are indispensable assets. Through the strategic deployment of these advanced technologies, our students will emerge as formidable contenders in the global economy, poised to lead and innovate in diverse industries and sectors.

4.) Briefly explain how the project enhances problem solving, collaboration, and analytical skills of students.

Project 1: Enhancing Workforce Readiness Through Advanced Manufacturing Education

The Advanced Manufacturing 101 and 102 courses will enhance students' problem-solving, collaboration, and analytical skills through hands-on, technology-driven learning experiences. By working with advanced training systems, such as the Portable AC/DC Learning System, Portable Electric Relay Control Troubleshooting Learning System, Skill Boss Smart Factory, and Mechanical Systems 1 Learning System, students will engage in real-world troubleshooting and diagnostics, strengthening their ability to analyze complex systems and develop solutions.

Collaboration will be a key component, as students work together on team-based projects, applying critical thinking and communication skills to solve challenges commonly found in industrial automation and smart manufacturing. Additionally, exposure to interactive simulations and data analysis tools will help students refine their analytical skills, preparing them to adapt to the ever-evolving demands of advanced manufacturing careers.

Project 2: Student Access to Technology Through Chromebook Utilization

Utilizing 1:1 Chromebooks into the educational environment offers students a multifaceted approach to enhancing problem-solving, collaboration, and analytical skills. With individual access to digital resources, students can engage in interactive learning experiences tailored to their unique needs and pace. Through collaborative platforms and tools, such as Google Workspace for Education, students can work together on projects, fostering teamwork, communication, and shared problem-solving strategies. Additionally, the availability of educational apps and software on Chromebooks enables students to explore complex concepts through interactive simulations and analytical exercises, encouraging critical thinking and data analysis skills. By immersing students in a technology-rich learning environment, 1:1 Chromebooks empower them to develop the essential competencies required for success in today's interconnected world.

5.) Provide evidence of the Board of Directors approval of the grant application. Minutes from a board meeting approving grant submission to the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission will suffice.

This application was filed by East Porter Community Schools as its formal application to the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission, stating its intended uses for 2025 grant funds. I understand the Commission's right to seek additional information relating to the project prior to reimbursement.



Dr. Aaron Case

Superintendent East Porter County Schools