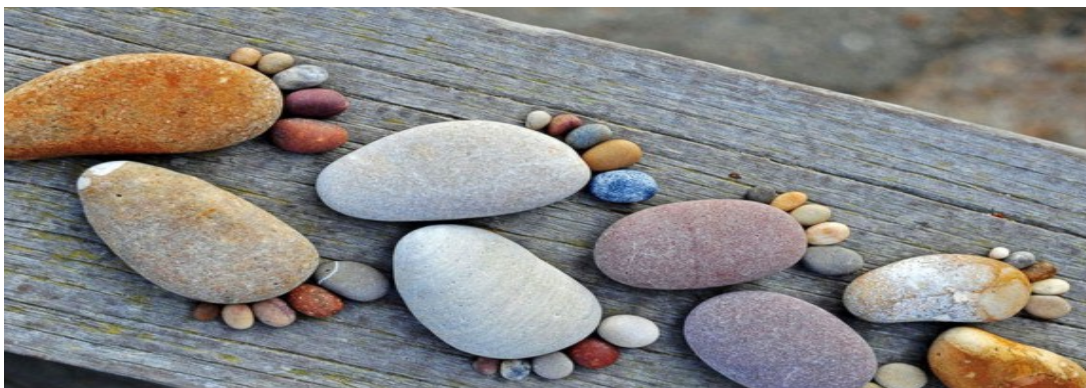




NATIONAL INDIAN IMPACTED SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A

“2026 Stepping Stones Grant”

- PURPOSE:** To support implementation of research based and culturally relevant practices that meet the needs of students attending NIISA member school districts.
- DESCRIPTION:** The NIISA Stepping Stones Grant will be awarded to successful applicants who develop innovative and measurable strategies to improve achievement, reduce behavior referrals and increase graduation rates.
- AMOUNT:** A Stepping Stones Grant not to exceed \$5,000 will be awarded to a maximum of two (2) successful member districts.
- ELIGIBILITY:** Limited to NIISA members in good standing
- DEADLINE:** Applications must be emailed or postmarked **NLT December 1, 2026. GRANT PERIOD: JANUARY 1--DECEMBER 31, 2027**
- NOTIFICATION:** Successful applicants will be announced at the NIISA Annual Conference, December 6th and 8th, 2026

District Data

School District: _____

Superintendent: _____

District contact: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____

Phone # _____ **Email:** _____

Total enrollment: _____ **Impact Aid LOT %:** _____

Age of district PreK-12 facilities: _____

NIISA Stepping Stones Grant—Application Guidelines

1. Complete district data information
2. Proposed initiative must address the following: 1) A brief description of the need or problem to be addressed; 2) A brief description of HOW the identified need will be addressed; 3) Goals of the project—How will success be measured?; 4) *Budget- Provide a proposed budget breakdown. *** NIISA funds may not supplant nor be used to purchase equipment. A detailed financial report will be required to receive funding;** 5) Provide a brief timeline for the project; 6) Application should not exceed two (2) pages.
3. Submit two (2) copies signed and dated by district representative:
**Stepping Stones Grant, Attn: Brent Gish, P.O. Box 30,
Naytahwaush, MN 56566 or scan/email to: gishbd@arvig.net**
Questions: Contact Brent Gish at gishbd@arvig.net or (218) 935 5848