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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lawrence Township Education Foundation Awards \$85,598 to Public Schools

LAWRENCE, N.J. - The Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF) is pleased to announce it has awarded \$85,598 in support of 38 innovative programs throughout the Lawrence Township Public Schools. The grants, awarded to district teachers and administrators, will provide funding for projects and programs that are outside of the regular budget, covering a broad range of disciplines including literacy, science, math, character and physical education, music and the arts.

Grants from Church & Dwight (\$10,000) and RBC Management (\$3,000) funded one district-wide initiative to expand the Second Step Curriculum into all K-5 classrooms. The Second Step SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) program is designed to teach children how to understand and manage their emotions, control their reactions, be aware of others' feelings, problem-solve, and make responsible decisions.

On the elementary school level, several additional grants were awarded. Lawrenceville Elementary School staff received four grants. One will provide sets of novels that feature more diversity and modern topics and another will provide iPads for third grade classrooms. Eldridge Park Elementary School received three grants that include more culturally diverse literature and equipment to improve the outdoor learning space. Slackwood Elementary School received three grant awards as well. One will fund poet-in-residence visits and another will bring Grammy nominated Singer-Songwriter Jonathan Sprout to perform his American Heroes Four concert. Ben Franklin received two grants that include a field trip for Pre-K students and materials to engage students in phonemic activities. In addition, 30 elementary teachers across the district will receive training in service learning.

At Lawrence Intermediate School students will benefit from seven grant projects. These projects include the Six Flags Wild Encounters assembly for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, materials for the Outdoor Learning Trail, flexible seating options, SEL (social and emotional learning) literature, and materials for the character education program and more.

Lawrence Middle School students will benefit from nine new projects and programs. One grant will provide funding for students to design a plastic bot to clean up plastic debris, similar to the debris that plagues our oceans. Another grant will allow the Art Club to embark on a school beautification journey that includes painting inspirational quotes and murals on staircases at LMS. In addition, other grants include a field trip to the X-Stem Conference in Washington, D.C., a Chemistry assembly presented by the Franklin Institute and the addition of collaborative learning tables for some classrooms. LIS, LMS and LHS students will also

take part in a series of masterclasses with a guest clinician that will culminate in a district wide jazz concert.

Lawrence High School teachers received four grants. Students will see the addition of newer model, cordless LED rechargeable microscopes with a charging cart to science classes. In addition, LHS students in English IV will embark on a Children's Book Publishing project.

Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF) raises funds from individuals, local businesses, corporations, and foundations for programs that foster excellence, creativity, and achievement in education for all students in Lawrence Township Public Schools. Through grant requests from teachers and school administrators, LTEF funds programs that will have a substantial and lasting impact on Lawrence Township public school students. As a result of these grants, our Lawrence Township public school students have had the opportunity to take part in innovative classroom projects, use new technology, and have access to state-of-the-art equipment. Since 1992, it has funded over 890 programs in the Lawrence schools with grants in excess of \$3.8 million. For more information on LTEF and ways to support the Foundation, visit www.ltefnj.org or email info@ltefnj.org.

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