



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDUCATION FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM FMH FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT FINE ARTS IN ECTOR COUNTY ISD

(Odessa, TX.) The Education Foundation of Odessa is excited to announce that they are the recipients of a grant from the **FMH Foundation** in the amount of **\$200,000** that will provide 21 new pianos to Ector County ISD.

The ECISD Fine Arts Department continually seeks to invest in projects that enrich the lives of our students and foster creativity and self-expression through the Arts. Starting in 2019, the department embarked on a quest to provide all campuses in ECISD with good quality pianos. Due to the long lifespan of a piano, the project will have a positive impact on our students' lives for decades to come. Over the past four years, the district has been able to replace twenty pianos – four of which were funded by a previous grant from the FMH Foundation. The funds received from FMH Foundation now will help the district finalize their piano overhaul project by purchasing a combination of traditional acoustic pianos and digital pianos.

This project will provide students in Ector County ISD, as well as the region (including Andrews, Big Spring, Midland, etc.) with quality pianos to use in rehearsals and performances. These new pianos will also equip our campuses with the ability for distance education with several colleges and universities. The technology can provide opportunities for master classes, piano instruction, voice lessons, and guest performances.

“We are incredibly grateful to the FMH Foundation for once again helping us provide support to the Arts in ECISD,” says Education Foundation Executive Director, Celeste Potter. “Through this grant, the Education Foundation is able to extend its’ reach and ensures that not only our students today have the equipment they need to be successful in the Arts, but that the students of tomorrow will benefit from this partnership as well.”

About Education Foundation of Odessa

The Education Foundation of Odessa is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt, philanthropic organization of citizens who share a vision of enhancing education in ECISD. The Education Foundation of Odessa provides a new and innovative source of funding to support the

school district's educational plan. The Foundation does not attempt to replace lost state funding, nor does it attempt to take the place of the district's operating budget. When considering the level of funding required to educate students, the Foundation can expect only to provide funds for those projects and activities that go beyond the normal classroom experience. Such initiatives provide enrichment, research opportunities, teacher training, intervention and prevention strategies and extend the educational effort.

The mission of the Education Foundation is to create opportunities for education in Ector County ISD. Our vision is that every student in ECISD will be school-ready, college-ready, work-ready... WORLD-READY!

Website: www.educationfoundationodessa.org

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