



## 2026 TIME Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the TIME Fellowship?

The **TIME (Time to Inspire Margie's Educators) Fellowship** is an initiative of Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation to support Sarasota County Schools educators through professional renewal and personal refreshment. Barancik Foundation annually awards 25 fellowships up to \$12,000 each for educators to complete self-designed projects that will reinvigorate their passion for the art of teaching and inspire new approaches to teaching and leadership. The initiative was created in 2022 to honor the legacy of Margie Barancik, who was a teacher herself.

### Who is eligible to apply?

The 2026 TIME Fellowship program is open to currently employed, full-time instructional staff, assistant principals, and principals within Sarasota County Schools (SCS) pre-K to 12 traditional public schools who meet the following criteria:

- are assigned to a single school;
- maintain a current professional certificate with the State of Florida;
- have been employed in an instructional/administrative capacity within SCS traditional public schools for three or more academic years; and
- confirm their intention to continue teaching or working in SCS traditional public schools for at least three academic years after completing the fellowship.

Currently, charter, private, and virtual schools and classified staff are not eligible to apply.

### Has anything changed from last year's TIME Fellowship program?

Based on helpful feedback, a modification has been made to the required endorsement of proposals by principals/supervisors. Rather than submit a signed letter of recommendation, the applicant's principal or district supervisor (if applicant is a principal) will be asked to complete a simple certification of the applicant's employment standing and capacity to complete the fellowship. This change is intended to simplify the application process and reduce the burden on applicants and their supervisors. Signed letters of recommendation from school-district colleagues remain optional.

More details on requirements and eligibility can be found on the [TIME Fellowship web page](#).

### How does the principal/district supervisor certification process work?

Within the application, applicants will be asked to enter the email address of their respective principal or district-level supervisor. Before the application is completed or submitted, the principal/supervisor will receive a link to an online dashboard, where they will be asked to certify that the applicant: 1.) is in good standing with the Sarasota County School District; and 2.) has the ability to complete the fellowship. Both the principal/supervisor and the applicant will be notified



via email that the certification has been requested, and both parties will be notified once the certification is complete. Please allow sufficient time for your principal/supervisor to review and complete this certification, as applications that have not been certified by the application deadline will be deemed incomplete. Certification emails will come from “Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation” via the email address [administrator@grantinterface.com](mailto:administrator@grantinterface.com).

#### Can two or more educators submit a collaborative project proposal?

Yes, group projects may be submitted. Each applicant should submit an individual application, but be sure to use the same proposal title.

#### May couples in which both parties are Sarasota County Schools educators apply?

Yes, couples in which both parties are qualified educators are eligible to apply for the TIME Fellowship. However, each individual must submit a separate application, even if they plan to collaborate on a joint project. If both individuals are selected as fellows, each will receive their own fellowship award up to \$12,000.

#### How do I apply?

Prospective applicants are invited to register and then apply via the [TIME Fellowship online portal](#). Upon registering, users will provide contact information and complete an “eligibility quiz.” If all qualifications are met, the applicant can proceed.

#### I incorrectly answered a question on the eligibility quiz. How should I proceed?

Email [TIME@barancikfoundation.org](mailto:TIME@barancikfoundation.org) and we will reset your eligibility quiz so you may retake it.

#### What should I do before applying?

- Attend one of our virtual information sessions on Tuesday, June 3, or Thursday, July 31, 2025. (Participation is not required but is strongly encouraged.)
- Consider your personal and professional commitments to ensure you can effectively complete your proposed project.
- Aim to submit your application early.
- Ensure that your principal or your district supervisor (if you are a principal) is willing to confirm that you are in good standing with the Sarasota County School District and that you have the ability to complete the fellowship.

#### What are key dates to keep in mind?

- April 28, 2025: Invitation to Apply
- September 29, 2025: Application Submission Deadline
- November 2025: Notification and Payment
- December 31, 2026: Fellowship Completion Deadline
- January 29, 2027: Final Report Deadline



[Can someone who is not employed by Sarasota County Schools join me on my fellowship?](#)

Yes, as long as the fellowship does not exceed the budget.

[If I applied in the past but my fellowship proposal was not chosen, can I reapply?](#)

Yes, there is no limit to how frequently you may apply if you did not previously receive a fellowship. We welcome and encourage return applicants.

[If I was previously awarded a fellowship, can I apply again in the future?](#)

If you received a fellowship in the past, you must wait five years to reapply.

[If I am reapplying for a fellowship, should I create a new user ID?](#)

No, simply log into the application portal using your previous user ID, which should be your email. If you forgot your password, click “Forgot your Password?” This will prevent the creation of a duplicate profile.

[Can my optional letter\(s\) of recommendation be from someone outside of work?](#)

No. Your recommendation(s) must be from a colleague who works within Sarasota County Schools.

[Are the fellowship funds taxable?](#)

Yes, selected participants will be issued a 1099 tax form for all funds they receive.

[When are 1099s typically mailed out?](#)

Typically, 1099s are mailed in January, in the calendar year following the year you received your payment. For example, if your fellowship payment is made in 2025, you will receive a 1099 in January 2026.

[If prices change or my project goes over-budget, can I get reimbursed more money than I applied for?](#)

No. Once award decisions are made, all payments are final based on your requested budget.

[Do I need approval to change my fellowship timeline or budget?](#)

If you are making inconsequential or immaterial changes, you do not need approval. If changes will significantly alter your proposed project or its timeline for completion, let us know by emailing [TIME@barancikfoundation.org](mailto:TIME@barancikfoundation.org).

[What document format do you require when I upload my timeline, budget, and letter\(s\) of recommendation?](#)

PDF is the preferred format.

