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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CHELCO DONATES GRANT MONEY TO WALTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Many Walton County school teachers were recognized at the school board meeting Jan. 19 for receiving CHELCO mini grants administered by the Walton Education Foundation. CHELCO's recent \$6,000 donation to the foundation doubled when they received a match from the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations. CHELCO's donation totaled \$12,101, which was awarded to 11 teachers. The funds will help more than 10 schools and 800 students in Walton County.

"CHELCO believes that investing in our youth and supporting our schools helps our community succeed," said Steve Wolfrom, CHELCO's vice president of member services.

The mini grants cover a multitude of subjects and projects such as science, computers, and math. Several projects for students with special learning needs are designed to enhance their learning experience in the classroom, mostly in mathematics. A major portion of the mini grant funds went to STEM projects, which stands for science, technology, engineering and math education. It combines the four subjects for an integrated approach based on real-world models.

The schools benefiting from CHELCO's donation include West Defuniak Elementary, Van R. Butler Elementary, Maude Sanders Elementary, Bay Elementary, Emerald Coast Middle School, Freeport Middle School, Walton Middle School, South Walton High School and Seacoast Collegiate High School.

One of the recipients, Nancy Anderson at Emerald Coast Middle School, believes that her mini grant will supply enough materials for this school year and next. The grant supplied seventh graders science lab materials to extract their own DNA, and they will also be able to wear the DNA vial as a necklace. The project is an abstract concept that allows the students to understand genetics better.

“CHELCO cares about our students and teachers and companies like them are a vital for our community,” said M.H. Carr, Walton Education Foundation’s executive director. “Their donation means so much to us, the teachers and the students.” The foundation recognized CHELCO with a plaque to thank them for the generous contribution.

Another recipient, Rebecca Stewart at Van R. Butler Elementary, received a few mini iPads with audio splitters which will allow her second graders the chance to work as a team on many different math projects. The iPads and splitters will be used for years to come.

CHELCO also donated funds to the Okaloosa County Education Foundation. Those grants will be awarded soon.

CHELCO is a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving more than 47,000 members in Walton, Okaloosa, Holmes, and Santa Rosa counties. Please visit [www.chelco.com](http://www.chelco.com) for more information.

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