



A TO Z FUND 2025-2026 GRANT GUIDELINES

Purpose:

Reduce the **inequity** in resources among DPS students so they have equal opportunity to achieve academic and personal excellence.

Eligible Applicants:

Any DPS school professional who works directly with students (teacher, principal, counselor, coach, librarian, etc.) is eligible to submit an application to support a DPS school. The grant application must be **reviewed and approved by the school principal**. It cannot be submitted by a parent group or outside provider.

Eligible Proposals:

Each school may submit **one request per grant cycle** through the **online application**. Each school is eligible to receive a maximum of **two grants per school year**, however an applicant may only apply one time per year, so someone else from the school would be eligible to apply for the next cycle of awards. Grants must support *innovative programs or projects that further enrich the learning experiences of DPS students and promote the whole child*. Programs or projects should:

- Show a positive impact on the students served
- Be well conceived and clearly written
- Take place during the current school year
- Represent a good fiscal investment for DPS Foundation and its donor community
- Align with DPS Foundation's mission to support students, educators, and families

A to Z Award Levels:

A to Z Fund Essentials: up to \$1500

If you are applying for books or school supplies of any kind, A to Z Fund Essentials will be your level of support.

A to Z Fund Engage: up to \$3000

This level is for field trips, projects, or program implementation. We are looking for innovative and fun programming with lasting impact on students!

A to Z Fund Elevate: up to \$10,000

A few applications could be eligible for our highest tier of funding. If you are looking to pilot a program, embark on a large project at your site, or get year-over-year funding for a project that has proven results, but no other funding options, we are looking for up to three larger-scale investments at the school level. This is an in-person "application" process with a requirement of on-site visits and data-based program evaluation. This will be an invite-only application and schools will only be eligible once.



Population Served:

Grants must serve **DPS students**. It may not include expenses for parents, volunteers, school or department staff or non-DPS students, unless the expense is essential to the program and does not exceed 10% of the overall request.

Application Deadline:

DPS Foundation will conduct **two grant cycles** with the following application deadlines:

1 st Semester Cycle	Monday, September 15, 2025
2 nd Semester Cycle	Monday, January 12, 2026

All completed grant applications must be submitted online **by 11:59 p.m. mountain time** on the specified deadline date above. Grant awards will be announced and communicated to the school principal or department head, along with the requestor, within one month following the due date.

Submit your 2025-26 application [here](#) through our online system

Grant Term:

Grant funds must be fully expended exclusively for the approved grant request by **May 29, 2026**. Funds cannot be carried over to the summer or next school year. Unused funds of more than \$1000 will be returned to DPS Foundation to be re-granted.

Non-fundable Items:

- Programs/projects taking place outside of the current school year, including, but not limited to all summer programs.
- Reimbursement for a project that has been completed or is currently covered under the school or department budget. If you are unsure if the request is covered through your school or department budget, please contact your school's financial partner.
- Payments to any DPS staff (this includes part-time, full-time, substitute), parents or students in the form of salary, stipends, gift cards, etc. Note: this does not include payments to cover admissions or program/project costs for adults participating in activities as chaperones, though chaperone costs should not be the majority of a request.
- Teacher or leader professional development (unless specific training is necessary to implement the grant program or project).
- Snacks and meals (unless a critical component of requested program/project) – e.g. if a program or project will occur off campus and will last for 5 hours or longer, snacks or meals may be permitted if there is no reasonable alternative to transport and safely store snacks or meals.
- Sponsorship of school fundraising events (table purchases, centerpieces, etc.)
- School and/or after-prom parties (not inclusive of pep rallies or other similar school spirit type activities).
- Re-granting to another program in your school.
- Anything pertaining to guns or any shooting sports; alcohol and drugs of any kind
- Any curriculum that is not approved and supported by DPS Office of Academics nor any educational apps that are not supported by DoTS. You can find a comprehensive list of approved [academic technology](#), and [EdTech](#) attached. Curriculum requests will be vetted through the Office of Academics prior to funding approval.

If these non-fundable items are included in the application, they will be excluded when considering the amount to award.



Report Requirements:

After the project is completed, we require grant recipients to submit a final report online summarizing the accomplishments, challenges, unexpected outcomes and success stories of the funded program.

Submission of a final report is required. If the final report is not turned in and no communication to the Foundation is made, the applicant and school will not be able to apply for the next cycle of A to Z Fund.

The final report is due by Friday, May 29, 2026 and must be signed off by the site principal.

Site Visit:

All awardees will be visited at your site by DPS Foundation staff. You will be able to sign-up for preferred time during the award acceptance process. We may select your program/project/activity for a site visit later in the year in which DPS Foundation staff and others may visit your school to see the program in operation and ask questions. We ask for your cooperation with scheduling this visit.

Grant Publicity:

DPS Foundation appreciates any recognition you provide in print or electronic materials related to your funded project. We strongly encourage you to recognize Denver Public Schools Foundation as a funder in newsletter articles or other materials sent to your parents or community. We ask you to consider including a link to our website, www.dpsfoundation.org, in any publicity materials. *You can find language to use in your newsletter or social media post here.*

By sharing the impact this award has, you help raise awareness and empower us to raise even more funding to continue to support this work. Many people feel deeply connected to their school, and aren't aware of the breadth of support we provide.

We kindly request you submit thank you letters, photos of the program in operation or quotes which we may publish on the DPS Foundation website or in DPS Foundation marketing materials on the Final Report.

Please ensure students in the photos have signed photo releases.

Additional Information:

- Grant applications will be **read by non-educators** so **avoid educational jargon and acronyms**. It is beneficial to provide background information on programs, curriculum being used and general information that may not be known by non-educators. Excessive educational jargon and acronyms or lack of background may influence funding as your application is read by non-educators.
- Applicants are encouraged to provide all funding information on the application including scholarships being offered, partnerships formed with nearby organizations and funding from other sources such as the school, fees from students, other grants and/or the PTA.
- All consultants or outside providers must be registered as an [Independent Contractor through DPS](#). This process can take several months. Please get this done prior to applying!
- Applicants may be contacted for additional information or clarification.
- DPS Foundation reserves the right to discontinue funding of any programs not meeting standards.
- By submitting an application, you are acknowledging that your email and mailing address are subject to be used for DPS Foundation mailings.

Contact Us:

Email: grantmaking@dpsfoundation.org | Phone: (720) 423-3672