

\$1 Million Fund Guidelines and Eligibility

The DPS Foundation \$1 Million Fund is an incredible grant opportunity that comes from the accumulation of unrestricted donations from donors who trust us to determine its best use. We are excited at the enormous impact this fund can have, supporting educators with the space and financial support to foster creative, collaborative solutions for our students.

Grants made from this fund will support the design and launch of solutions focused on *breaking historical patterns of inequity so that every single DPS student thrives - not by accident, but by design.*

The foundation is partnering with Denver Public Schools to combine these financial resources with the expertise and support of the district. Together, we will empower students, teachers, leaders, families, community stakeholders and staff who deeply understand the needs of our students.

To make the most impact, it will take the creativity and hard work of all of us. The DPS Foundation's role is to help DPS communities pool their expertise and resources to break patterns of inequity. To that end, our goal is to fund ideas and efforts that will provide all students access to pursue opportunities, thrive, and find success and happiness in school, career, and life.

We are seeking ideas from our community that address the following areas of focus:

- **Advance educator mindsets** to increase high expectations and student agency, particularly in the areas of mathematics and early literacy. This may include, but is not limited to, a focus on culturally responsive education, quality instruction, and/or efforts to ensure equitable practices.
- **Grow student mindsets** to allow them to envision a successful future and recognize their potential impact on the world. This may include ideas that increase student readiness for graduation requirements and/or exposure to post-secondary experiences.
- **Strengthen family and community mindsets** regarding the role they can play in their students' educational experiences. This may include family and community engagement efforts aligned with the [Aspen Ascend Framework](#), addressing the needs of both children and the adults in their lives.



- **Build the capacity of educators** to support the emotional and physical development of students by providing training and resources in areas such as social emotional learning, mental health, inclusive practices, restorative justice, specially designed instruction, and trauma-informed practices.
- **Other:** Have an idea that does not seem to fit into one of the above categories? We want to hear your innovative, inspiring thoughts. Please apply.

Think big. Think outside the box. Think collaboratively. Strong preference will be given to applications that show collaboration between families, schools, and community partners, supporting each student's journey. Joint school applications or those including partner organizations and DPS departmental support are encouraged.

Application Process

Applicants will complete a short [intent to apply](#) providing basic details regarding the scope of their idea. Applicants will receive feedback on their ideas' alignment with grant priorities and, if eligible, an invitation to participate in a 2-day design intensive.

The design intensive will walk participants through how to refine their idea and strengthen their application. At the intensive, participants will create an initial draft of their final grant application and gain advice on additional areas of investigation. Participation in the design intensive is optional but strongly encouraged.

- Jan 24: Intent to apply opens.
- Feb 21: Intent to apply due.
- Mar 13: Invitations to complete a full application and to attend the design intensive (a workshop to help develop ideas and begin building the application) distributed.
- TBD: Design intensive dates.
- Apr 24: Full grant applications due.
- May 15: Grantees announced. Calendar of grantee support activities distributed.
- Jul 1: Grant period begins.

Intent to Apply

The deadline for the Intent to Apply is **5 p.m. MT on Friday, February 21, 2020**. To assist in drafting your Intent to Apply, you can download an outline in a Word Document [here](#). If possible, *please submit your application via the [Google Form](#)*. If you are unable to submit your application using the Google Form, email your completed application as a Word Document to: grants@dpsfoundation.org. You may request a paper application form via email if needed.

Timeline and Funding

A total of up to \$1 million will be pledged towards this work over the course of three years, contingent on successful performance against targets and milestones. Grant amounts will range from \$35,000 to \$150,000 total, and can be utilized for up to three years between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2023. Applications that range from early ideas to full-fledged implementation plans will be considered.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

We aim to fund projects that:

- Creative or innovative solutions to real problems for school communities.
- Positive impact on the students who need it the most with a clear vision for how to break historical patterns of inequity in our school communities.
- Co-creation and development of the idea and approach with the students, community, and stakeholders of the school and a mechanism for ensuring ongoing co-creation efforts for the duration of the grant.
- Collaboration across schools, with community partners, and with DPS departments.
- Preparedness and capacity to bring the idea to fruition.
- Articulation of impact potential.
- Leverage of knowledge of innovative strategies implemented in DPS or other large urban school districts.
- Preference will be given to schools that have been in operation for 3 years or more.

We will not fund the following:

- Applicants who are applying independently and who are NOT directly affiliated with a DPS school as students, teachers, families, community leaders, or school leadership. Applications that include partner organizations and DPS departmental support, however, are encouraged. All DPS schools, including district-run, charter, and innovation schools are eligible.
- Programs/projects that have been completed or are currently covered under your school budget, such as basic costs for instruction.
- Snacks and meals (unless a critical component of the creative solution or innovation).
- Sponsorship of school fundraising events (table purchases, centerpieces, etc.).
- School parties, one-time events (unless included as a strategic component of the creative solution or innovation).
- Re-granting to another program in a school.
- Advocacy and lobbying activities.



If you have a great idea for how to improve learning in your community, we encourage you to apply. In addition to awarding grant funding, the selection team will also look for opportunities to connect applicants with relevant DPS and community resources that might support their efforts. Consider this the start of a conversation that can benefit every student in Denver Public Schools.