



2018 Individual Schools Grant Program

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's Individual Schools Grant Program supports improvement and enhancement efforts in Kansas City-area district, charter, and private schools that demonstrate proven or promising academic and life outcomes while serving a significant percentage of lower-income students. School leaders are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$225,000 per year, which will support initiatives that take place within an individual school or set of schools.

Eligibility

- School must be a 501(c)(3) organization or public school/district
- The Kauffman Foundation does not fund facilities or capital expenses, and schools should not apply exclusively for "replacement" funding (requesting funding to replace lost district/state/federal funding)
- Student Population: At least 40% of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch
- Geography: School is located within Cass, Clay, Platte, or Jackson counties in Missouri, or Johnson or Wyandotte counties in Kansas
- Timeline: Project timeline is 6-24 months
- Grade level(s): Targets students in kindergarten through 12th grade
- Academic Performance: Schools must meet either elementary/middle school benchmarks or high school benchmarks, depending on school's student body (regardless of grades targeted by grant)

Elementary/Middle School (Grades K-8)

- Aggregate percentage of students performing at or above proficiency on the state assessment is within 10% of the state average in English Language Arts and/or Math. In Missouri, this is the percentage of students achieving proficient/advanced status; in Kansas, it is the percentage of students achieving level 3 or 4.

2017 state averages:

- Missouri: English Language Arts=61.3%, Math=47.1%
 - Kansas: English Language Arts=38.2%, Math=34.2%
- If school does not have state test results (e.g. school does not have students in grades 3-8, private schools, etc.):
- Demonstrated school-wide student growth in reading and/or math as reported via a nationally-normed test (e.g. STAR, NWEA, ITBS, etc.)

High School (Grades 9-12)

- School's four-year graduation rate is within 10% of the state average (2017 state average: Missouri=88.3%, Kansas=86.1%)

- AND -

- Average ACT score is within 10% of the state average (2017 state average: Missouri=20.4 Kansas=21.7)

Funding Tiers

There are two tiers of grants available:

- **Tier 1:** Grants of up to \$225,000 per year (up to two years) for schools meeting the academic performance benchmarks described in the eligibility section above.

- **Tier 2:** Grants of up to \$100,000 per year (up to two years) for schools that do not meet the academic performance benchmarks described above, but fit one of the following criteria:
 - **(2a)** School has a new instructional leader (first three years at school) with proven results as a leader of another school with similar student demographics
- OR -
 - **(2b)** School is a high school that meets one but not both of the performance metrics described above, and is submitting an application that directly and specifically addresses improving graduation rates and/or student achievement on the ACT

Initial Application Details

In addition to demonstrating eligibility, the initial application will ask for the following information:

1. **Basic Information:** School name, school district (if applicable), school type, primary contact information
2. **Challenge or Opportunity** (250 words or less): Describe the challenge or opportunity being addressed, including any relevant demographic information that may impact the project.
3. **Proposed Approach** (250 words or less): Describe the proposed approach and why this is believed to be an effective approach.
4. **Proposal Type**
 - **Enhance:** Projects that support improvement in existing school programs and/or staff development
 - **Innovate:** Projects that support the development of new programs that have been identified to enhance the school's ability to serve its students and improve academic and life outcomes
 - **Explore:** Proposals that support initiatives to help inform the school's strategic direction and capacity to improve student academic and life outcomes
5. **Plan for Implementation** (250 words or less): Describe the timeline for implementing this project. When will the work begin/end, what are the major milestones and deliverables, and who will be responsible for doing the work. You may use a bulleted format, if useful.
6. **School Capacity** (250 words or less): Describe the school leadership team's prior experience, accomplishments, and its capacity to successfully implement this proposal.
7. **Partnerships and Collaborations** (150 words or less): Describe how this project connects with other initiatives within the school and/or district and any partners with whom you anticipate working with on this project.
8. **Expected Outcomes:** List the key expected outcomes of the grant, with a focus on academic outcomes.
9. **Budget:** Funding amount requested, total project budget, other funding sources, proposed project budget, and approximate number of students impacted.

Application Process

Applications for 2018 Individual Schools Grants will open on January 2, and the deadline to apply is February 1 at 11:59 p.m. The online application can be found at: rfp.kauffman.org. The school building leader (i.e. principal or assistant principal) should be the lead for the grant application.

Initial applications will be reviewed by Kauffman Foundation staff within 3 weeks after the application deadline. If the initial application is selected to move forward in the process, you will be invited to submit a full grant proposal at that time. If the initial application is not selected, you will receive feedback regarding the reason(s) why the application did not move forward. All applicants will be notified of their application status by the end of February.

Questions? Please contact ISGinfo@kauffman.org.