



2019 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 students from lower-income households. 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.

Eligibility

- ✓ School must be a 501(c)(3) organization or be part of a 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.

State averages:

- ✓ 2017 Missouri: English Language Arts=61.3%, Math=47.1%
- ✓ 2018 Kansas: English Language Arts=36.9%, Math=32.9%

→ 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=88.9%, Kansas=86.9%)

- AND -

- Average ACT score is within 10% of the state average (2018 state average: Missouri=20, Kansas=21.6)

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;
 - **(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; - **OR** -
 - **(2c)** School does not meet the performance metrics described above; however, the school leader has successfully participated in either School Retool or Kansas City Leadership Cohort.

Application Details

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

1. **Basic Information:** School name, school district (if applicable), school type, primary contact information
2. **Demonstrated Need:** Describe the challenge or opportunity being addressed and why proposed solution is most effective. Include any relevant research or evidence to support this assertion.
3. **Target Beneficiaries:** Describe the target population and how they were involved in the planning of the project.
4. **Project Description:** Identify the overall goals of the project and explain what the Foundation's funding would be used to support. How does this connect with other existing initiatives?
5. **Implementation Plan:** Describe the timeline for implementing this project. When will the work begin/end and what are the major milestones and deliverables? You may use a bulleted format, if useful.
6. **School Capacity:** Describe the school leadership team's prior experience, accomplishments, and its capacity to implement this proposal successfully.
7. **Challenges:** Identify primary internal and external challenges you may have with achieving project goals and the strategies you will implement to mitigate the risks.
8. **Sustainability:** Describe how you will sustain the project after the grant period.
9. **Expected Outputs and Outcomes:** List the key expected outputs (activities/ deliverables) and outcomes (results/impacts) of the grant.
10. **Budget:** Funding amount requested and proposed project budget.

Application Process

Applications for 2019 Individual Schools Grants will open on January 15, and the deadline to apply is February 12 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.

Applications will be reviewed by Kauffman Foundation staff, and all applicants will be notified of their application status by March 15.

Questions? Please contact Amy Gale: agale@kauffman.org.