

MEMORANDUM

To: All School-Level Administrators and Teachers
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, Director of Grants and Partnerships
Through: Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief of CEIP
Date: September 26, 2025
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday:* Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Instrument Grants

Looking to enhance student access to music and improve engagement? [Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation \(MHOF\) Grants](#) provide new, high-quality instruments and equipment to schools in low-income communities, helping to strengthen existing music programs. Grants are aimed at expanding current offerings- like adding beginning strings to a general music curriculum- rather than starting new programs. MHOF has donated more than 39,000 instruments to over 1,800 schools.

Project ideas that close gaps, spark engagement, and increase participation:

- **Beginner Strings Expansion (Grades 4-6):** Violins, violas, and cellos move from general music to daily ensemble, targeting reading and math fluency through structured practice.
- **Mariachi Ensemble Launch (Grades 6-12):** Trumpets, vihuelas, guitarróns, and violins will engage multilingual learners and families, and performance benchmarks will be tied to language development goals.
- **Modern Band/Guitar & Keyboard Lab:** Classroom sets with amps/keys to reach non-traditional ensemble students; songwriting projects aligned to literacy standards and SEL.
- **Low-Brass & Percussion Equity Build:** Tubas, euphoniums, trombones, and concert percussion to correct instrumentation imbalance, reduce sharing/waitlists, and raise ensemble quality.
- **Inclusive/Adaptive Access Kits:** Modified mouthpieces, shoulder rests, and percussion kits so students with disabilities can fully participate in ensemble coursework.

Who should apply? How?

Only music teachers can submit the form and applications, but principals and school teams are encouraged to help plan and align school goals. The process starts with a brief [Pre-Qualification Form](#). Strong candidates will collaborate with the MHOF to assess program needs and select instruments, which the MHOF will source, order, and deliver. For more about the grant, click [HERE](#). To apply, see [HERE](#). For grant questions, contact MHOF Program Associate Cecilia Garcia at applications@mhopus.org or (818) 762-4328.

Don't forget to review and follow the [DCSD Grant Guidelines](#) and work with [Grants & Partnerships](#) to coordinate the next steps. We are here to support you in shaping your ideas and strengthening your submissions. To begin your application, have questions answered, or get experienced advice, email us at grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org. Thank you from the DCSD Grants and Partnerships Team:

Dr. Marcia Oglesby, <i>Director</i>	Mrs. Libritta Anderson Griffin, <i>Coordinator II</i>
Dr. Donald Porter, <i>Lead Grant Strategist</i>	Ms. Demetric Crittle, <i>Coordinator</i>
Ms. Tanya Arrington, <i>Strategic Partners Manager</i>	Ms. Winona Maolud, <i>Administrative Assistant</i>

