

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: August 29, 2025
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday:* Georgia Outdoor Learning Project Grant

The Georgia Department of Education, in partnership with the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, is offering an exciting opportunity through the Georgia Outdoor Learning Demonstration (*GOLD*) Projects Grant for 2025–26. This competitive grant funds innovative outdoor learning projects that can transform schoolyards and community spaces into engaging, hands-on classrooms.

Grant Highlights:

- Funding: \$500 – \$5,000
- Number of Awards: At least 18 statewide
- Eligible Uses: Professional learning, outdoor improvements/facilities, student supplies, and field trips
- Application Deadline: September 22, 2025
- Awards Announced: November 2025 (*pending state Board approval*)
- Project Completion Date: May 31, 2026

Examples of Possible Projects:

- Building an outdoor science lab with raised garden beds and observation stations.
- Creating an oversized picnic table classroom or shade-covered seating area for cross-curricular lessons.
- Establishing a pollinator habitat or nature trail to support STEM and environmental literacy.
- Developing student-led projects such as water-quality monitoring, weather stations, or sustainability clubs.
- Organizing field experiences that connect classroom instruction to the natural world.

These immersive learning environments spark curiosity and foster higher student engagement, critical thinking, and academic achievement. It presents an innovative opportunity for our students to learn, grow, and thrive beyond the traditional classroom setting.

For full details and to apply, please visit the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia's *GOLD* Grant page [HERE](#) or at: <https://www.eealliance.org/2025-26-gold-grants.html>.

The Department of Grants and Partnerships is here to support you in shaping your ideas and strengthening your applications. To begin your application or have your questions answered, email us at grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org.