MEMORANDUM

To: All District and School-Level Administrators and Teachers
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, Director, Grants & Partnerships
Through: Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief DCEIP
Date: October 31, 2025
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday*: JJ Watt Foundation After-School Program Funds

The Justin J. Watt Foundation (*JJWF*) invites after-school athletics programs to apply for equipment and uniform funding that directly expands access, builds character, and boosts student engagement. If your middle-grades (6–8) program meets between 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. and your school serves a community with ≥60% Free/Reduced Lunch, you qualify to apply.

Why This Matters for DCSD:

After-school athletics are a powerful lever for belonging, attendance, academic persistence, and SEL skills (teamwork, leadership, accountability, perseverance). JJWF funding helps remove cost barriers so more students can participate safely.

JJWF funds uniforms, safety gear (helmets, pads, wrestling/cheer mats), and sport-critical equipment (balls, bats, nets, goals, flag belts, storage racks/bins).

Previously Funded JJWF Programs Include:

- *Girls' Flag Football Launch*: Uniforms, flag belts, cones, and storage to create equitable access; attendance incentives tied to practice participation and grade checks.
- *Co-Ed Wrestling Safety Upgrades*: New mats, headgear, and singlets to replace worn gear; confidence-building routines that support focus and discipline.
- *Newcomer/Multilingual Soccer Club*: Balls, portable goals, pinnies, and secure storage; language-rich team structures that accelerate integration.
- *Unified/Adapted Basketball*: Lightweight balls, adjustable hoops, and inclusive uniforms; peer-buddy models that promote empathy and strengthen campus culture.
- *Cheer & Sideline Spirit Program*: Mats, practice uniforms, and storage to boost school connectedness and reduce after-school idle time.

Key JJWF Details:

- **Application Deadline: January 15, 2026** (apply early- quotes and approvals take time)
- More information about the JJ Watt Foundation: https://jjwfoundation.org/request-funds/
- JJWF Application: https://jjwfoundation.org/request-funds/funding-app/

Remember to 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.

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

Need more grant inspiration and options? The searchable Monthly Education Grants Alert (*MEGA*) for October 2025 is **HERE.**

Good luck!