

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: January 9, 2026
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday: School Crashers® Makeover Program! Deadline: 1/31*

We know our schools are places of learning, care, and connection. For many students and families across DeKalb County, they also serve as reliable sources of nourishment, stability, and support. I am pleased to share that [School Crashers® Makeover Program](#) nominations are open for 2026 through January 31st. I strongly encourage you to consider nominating a school whose facilities could use a transformation to better serve students and families.

The *School Crashers Makeover Program*, sponsored by the [Georgia United Foundation](#), provides grant funding, project management expertise, and volunteer assistance to help schools refresh and reimagine key spaces. While the work focuses on physical improvements, the impact is deeply human because better environments help schools deliver essential services with dignity, consistency, and care.

School Crashers projects can support students and families by:

- Creating more inviting cafeterias and multipurpose spaces that encourage participation in breakfast, lunch, and food distribution programs.
- Enhancing family resource rooms that support school pantries, backpack food programs, and access to essential supplies.
- Improving common areas that host nutrition education, family workshops, and community partner food initiatives.
- Refreshing shared indoor or outdoor spaces that promote wellness, belonging, and healthy routines connected to nutrition.
- Strengthening environments that reduce stigma and help students feel supported when accessing food and basic needs services.

How to nominate a school:

1. Complete the [online nomination form](#) and share a compelling story of 250 words or fewer describing the space and its potential impact.
2. Email one photo of the area needing improvement to foundation@gucu.org and include the school's name in the subject line.
3. Confirm eligibility: Projects cannot include plumbing, structural work, HVAC systems, or sports complexes.

Nominations are open until January 31, 2026. Selected schools will be announced by March 31, 2026, with projects expected to be completed in summer or fall 2026. Official Rules are [HERE](#).

BONUS: To see the powerful impact of this program in action, I encourage you to watch the *School Crashers* makeover of Clarkston High's media center, one of last year's recipients. See [HERE](#).

Remember to follow the [DCSD Grant Guidelines](#) and coordinate with [Grants & Partnerships](#) on 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*

Looking for more grant inspiration and options? The full, searchable January 2026 issue of the Monthly Education Grants Alert (MEGA) is available [HERE](#).

Good luck!