

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All District and School-Level Administrators and Teachers  
**From:** Dr. Marcia Oglesby, Director, DCSD Grants & Partnerships  
**Through:** Mrs. Jennifer Caracciolo, Interim Chief DCEIP  
**Date:** January 30, 2026  
**Subject:** *Funding Focus Friday: The Walking Classroom Program: Walk, Listen, Learn*

Here's a no-cost, evidence-based instructional opportunity that supports student engagement, academic growth, and physical wellness across a variety of learning settings, including the regular school day, after-school and summer programs, Special Education classrooms, and multi-age learning environments.

[The Walking Classroom](#) is a national, award-winning, nonprofit program designed to increase movement while continuing to deliver high-quality, standards-aligned instruction. Using a simple “Walk, Listen, and Learn” approach, students participate in brisk 20-minute walks while listening to engaging, kid-friendly educational podcasts on screen-free audio devices known as [WalkKits](#).

Each podcast lesson blends academic content with a brief health literacy message and a character-based theme. Teachers are supported with a comprehensive [Digital Program Guide](#) that includes vocabulary activities, structured discussion questions, and comprehension quizzes aligned to Bloom’s Taxonomy. A growing body of research demonstrates the strong connection between physical activity and improved focus, behavior, memory, and academic performance.

Why schools are choosing [The Walking Classroom](#):

- **Improved focus and retention:** Students consistently return from walks calmer, more attentive, and better prepared to discuss and apply what they have learned
- **Increased engagement for diverse learners:** The program is particularly effective for auditory and kinesthetic learners, including students with ADHD, dyslexia, autism, English learners, and students who may struggle with traditional text-based instruction
- **Embedded literacy support:** Listening comprehension, vocabulary development, and background knowledge are strengthened in ways that directly support reading comprehension
- **Minimal planning required:** Ready-to-use podcasts, lesson guides, and assessments allow teachers to cover the required curriculum with little to no additional preparation
- **Positive classroom climate:** Educators frequently report improved student behavior, increased participation, and stronger peer discussions following consistent implementation

Pre- and post-assessments are often used to monitor student comprehension and growth.

Sample lesson topics include:

- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* - Examines Dr. King’s leadership during the civil rights movement, highlighting nonviolent protest, civic responsibility, and his lasting impact on American society
- *The Star Spangled Banner* - Explores the historical origins of the national anthem, the War of 1812, and how key events help shape national identity

- *The Heart and Circulatory System* - Introduces how the heart, blood vessels, and blood function together to support the body, reinforcing science standards and health literacy
- *The Negro Baseball League* - Discusses the history and significance of the Negro Leagues, focusing on segregation, tenacity, and cultural contributions to American sports history
- *The Human Body's Slimy Shields* - Engages students in learning about the body's defense systems, such as mucus and sweat, while building curiosity about health and science

Schools selected to receive a donated [Walking Classroom](#) set will receive:

1. A classroom set of [WalkKits](#) preloaded with up to [200 standards-aligned podcast episodes](#)
2. Free online training and supplemental instructional resources
3. Optional professional development upon request

Schools seeking a research-backed, student-centered approach to increasing engagement, movement, and achievement are strongly encouraged to apply [HERE](#). Priority consideration for [The Walking Classroom](#) is given to schools serving upper elementary and middle grades with the greatest socioeconomic and academic need, and schools that have not previously received a donated set.

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](mailto:grantsandpartnerships@dekalbschoolsga.org).

[Dr. Marcia Oglesby](#), Director

[Dr. Donald Porter](#), Lead Grant Strategist

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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!