

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: February 6, 2026
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday: Tickets for Kids Turn Empty Seats into Endless Possibilities*

Imagine a lesson that continues beyond the bell. Picture students entering a museum, a science center, a concert hall, or a ball game, and suddenly viewing the world and their potential in a new light. That is the promise of [Tickets for Kids](#), a national nonprofit partner now available to support DCSD schools serving primarily low-income and at-risk students. Through this no-cost ticket distribution program, students gain access to arts, cultural, educational, and athletic experiences that inspire hope, spark curiosity, and strengthen engagement.

Founded in 1994 and now operating in 27 states, [Tickets for Kids](#) has distributed more than 3.7 million tickets valued at over \$90 million. In 2024 alone, more than 183,000 tickets were provided to youth nationwide. These experiences are not extras. They are powerful extensions of teaching and learning.

Through [Tickets for Kids](#), approved schools and programs may request tickets to a wide range of enriching experiences across the Atlanta region, allowing educators to connect classroom learning to real-world exploration, cultural awareness, and student inspiration. Ideas include:

- 1. Atlanta Black History & Civil Rights City Bus Tour:** Brings history out of textbooks and into the community, strengthening place-based learning & civic literacy. Primary standards alignment:
 - Social Studies: Georgia Studies, U.S. History, geography, and local civic history
 - ELA: Listening comprehension, note-taking, and narrative writing
 - CTAE: Public history, tourism, and communications
- 2. World of Coca-Cola:** Connects Atlanta's business legacy to real-world economics, branding, and global markets. Primary standards alignment:
 - Social Studies: Entrepreneurship, global trade, branding, and consumer behavior
 - CTAE: Marketing, business management, and innovation
 - ELA: Informational text analysis and media literacy
- 3. Atlanta Braves:** Supports applied math skills, career exploration, and social-emotional learning through real-world athletics. Primary standards alignment:
 - Mathematics: Data analysis, ratios, percentages, statistics, and probability through game stats and performance metrics
 - Health & Physical Education: Teamwork, sportsmanship, goal setting, and wellness
 - CTAE: Sports management, marketing, media, and event operations careers

- 4. Zoo Atlanta:** Reinforces inquiry-based science learning and environmental stewardship across elementary and middle grades. Primary standards alignment:
 - Science: Life Science, ecosystems, biodiversity, adaptation, and conservation
 - Environmental Science: Human impact on wildlife and sustainability
 - Social Studies: Global connections and geographic habitats
- 5. The Atlanta Opera:** Enhances literacy, creativity, and cultural awareness through live performing arts experiences. Primary standards alignment:
 - Fine Arts: Performance, artistic expression, critique, and cultural context
 - ELA: Story structure, character development, and interpretation of narrative
 - Social Studies: Historical and cultural perspectives reflected through the arts

Eligible applicants include public schools with a primarily low-income student population. The [application process](#) is straightforward and typically takes two to four weeks from start to finish. Apply [HERE](#). Once approved, a designated school contact will gain access to the [Tickets for Kids Agency Portal](#) to request tickets, manage events, and submit brief post-event reports.

School leaders and teachers are encouraged to consider this opportunity as a meaningful way to enrich instruction, reward positive outcomes, and open doors for students. Sometimes a single experience can ignite a passion or shape a future!

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
[Ms. Tanya Arrington](#), Strategic Partners Manager

[Dr. Donald Porter](#), Lead Grant Strategist
[Ms. Demetric Crittle](#), Coordinator

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

Good luck!