

MEMORANDUM

To: All District and School-Level Administrators and Teachers
From: Dr. Marcia Oglesby, *Director, DCSD Grants & Partnerships*
Through: Dr. Cherisse M. Campbell, *Chief, Community Engagement & Innovative Partnerships*
Date: March 6, 2026
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday: Lowe's 2026 Community Impact Grant Program*

What project could transform your school's learning environment or community space if the resources, materials, and volunteer support suddenly became available to bring it to life?

Here's a way to get it done: Lowe's is accepting submissions for its [2026 Community Impact Grant Program](#) as part of a five-year, \$100 million commitment to revitalizing community spaces. The initiative will fund up to 100 large-scale renovation projects and over 2,000 additional community improvements in partnership with local organizations. **The deadline for submissions is March 20th.**

This opportunity aligns closely with [DCSD's Strategic Plan priorities](#) related to student success, safe and engaging learning environments, and strong school-family-community partnerships. By enhancing spaces where students learn, collaborate, and connect with their communities, these projects can directly support improved engagement, school climate, and student achievement.

DCSD schools are encouraged to consider project ideas that involve physical improvements to learning or community spaces that benefit students and families. Successful proposals often demonstrate strong collaboration among schools, community partners, and volunteers.

Potential School-Based Project Ideas Include:

- **Outdoor Learning Environments and School Gardens:** Transform underutilized outdoor areas into hands-on learning spaces that support science, environmental education, and experiential learning opportunities for students.
- **Enhanced Family Resource Centers or School-Based Food Pantries:** Improve or expand spaces that provide essential resources for families, including school-based food pantries or SAFE Center support areas, helping strengthen family stability and student readiness to learn.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE) or Skilled Trades Learning Spaces:** Upgrade facilities that support hands-on learning and workforce development, introducing students to high-demand skilled trades and career pathways.
- **Playgrounds, Wellness Areas, or Student Gathering Spaces:** Create or enhance safe and welcoming outdoor spaces that promote physical activity, student connection, and a positive school climate.
- **Community Learning and Engagement Spaces:** Renovate libraries, multipurpose rooms, or outdoor courtyards that support tutoring programs, family engagement events, and community partnerships.

To learn more about [Lowe's 2026 Community Impact Grant Program](#), see [HERE](#). Application submissions are [HERE](#). Please note that responses must be entered directly into the online nomination form to ensure successful submission. **The submission deadline is Friday, March 20th.**

If your school has an innovative idea to strengthen student learning, enhance community engagement, or improve shared spaces for students and families, we encourage you to explore this opportunity.

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 March 2026 issue of the Monthly Education Grants Alert (MEGA) is available [HERE](#).

Good luck!