

## 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 20, 2026  
**Subject:** *Funding Focus Friday: Kids Need to Read - Providing Books; Building Brighter Futures*

A stronger school library, a richer classroom library, and more student access to quality books can make a meaningful difference in reading growth and classroom engagement. With that goal in mind, here's an opportunity that may help schools expand literacy resources for students while strengthening their reading initiatives.

[Kids Need to Read](#) is a national nonprofit that provides books and literacy resources to underfunded schools, libraries, and agencies serving disadvantaged children. The organization has distributed more than 770,000 books to 750 schools and programs across the United States, helping young people build stronger reading habits and literacy skills.

For DCSD, this opportunity supports our ongoing commitment to student achievement, stronger literacy outcomes, access to engaging instructional resources, and meaningful school-family-community partnerships. Schools may be able to use this opportunity to support:

- **Classroom and media center collections** with new, high-interest titles that encourage independent reading, student choice, and regular exposure to print.
- **Reading intervention and small-group instruction** by adding engaging texts for striving readers, reluctant readers, and students who need additional practice.
- **Family literacy and community engagement efforts**, including reading nights, take-home book packs, and school-based literacy events that promote reading beyond the school day.
- **Student motivation and belonging** through books that reflect a range of interests, experiences, and future pathways, helping students see themselves as readers and learners.
- **Summer reading and extended learning** by giving schools more tools to help students maintain literacy growth throughout the year.

Opportunities like this can put more books into students' hands, strengthen engagement with reading, and reinforce the importance of literacy to long-term academic success. Principals, instructional leaders, teachers, media specialists, and literacy-focused school teams are encouraged to review this opportunity and determine whether it is a good match for their school's needs.

[Kids Need to Read](#) accepts requests from U.S. schools through an online application. Applicants should serve at least 50% of children living at or below the national poverty rate, and schools may use free and reduced lunch data to document need.

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).

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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!