

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: May 8, 2026
Subject: *Funding Focus Friday: Small Grants, Big Breakthroughs: Teacher Innovation Grants*

A strong classroom idea should not stay on paper, and the [Teacher Grants for Innovation Award](#) can help DCSD educators turn creative instruction into measurable student impact. The Georgia Teachers Initiative, through the Georgia Foundation for Public Education (GFPE), is accepting applications for this round of the [Teacher Grants for Innovation Awards](#). This easy-to-apply-for grant provides \$500 to \$2,500 to Georgia public school teachers with innovative projects designed to improve learning outcomes and make a meaningful difference in students' lives.

This opportunity strongly aligns with [DCSD's Strategic Plan](#) by supporting student achievement, deeper engagement, innovative classroom practices, and meaningful connections among schools, families, and communities. Teachers are encouraged to consider projects that go beyond routine instruction and provide students with hands-on, relevant, and memorable academic experiences.

[Past funded ideas](#) offer strong illustrations of what is possible. Recent examples include:

- **Electric Vehicle Design:** Students design and build electric cars while applying engineering, electronics, manufacturing, and renewable-energy concepts. The project builds career-ready STEM skills and connects classroom learning to real workforce pathways.
- **Medical Skills Lab:** The Da Vinci Project uses models, medical training tools, VR, and AR to strengthen hands-to-mind fine motor skills. Students build creativity, precision, career awareness, and transferable skills tied to medical and technical fields.
- **Esports for Engagement:** Esports supports structured competition, teamwork, digital literacy, and academic accountability. Students strengthen collaboration, strategic thinking, school engagement, and conduct expectations while participating in a high-interest activity.
- **Hands-On Science Discovery:** Rock tumblers, mineral samples, and owl pellet dissections make science lessons interactive. Students enhance their understanding through tactile discovery, observation, classification, and inquiry-based learning.
- **Student-Published Books:** Students write, illustrate, print, and share picture books with younger elementary students. The project strengthens literacy, creativity, cultural expression, public speaking, and community connection through authentic publishing.

Teachers with promising ideas are encouraged to apply and share this opportunity with colleagues. To [submit an application](#), complete the brief form on the Georgia Teachers Initiative website before the application window closes on July 15, 2026. Winners will be announced before August 15, 2026.

Keep in mind that educators who have previously received a [Teacher Grant for Innovation Award](#) are not eligible to apply again. For questions or assistance, please contact Jaclyn Colona at the GFPE at jaclyn.colona@doe.k12.ga.us.

The Department of Grants and Partnerships encourages DCSD educators to pursue this opportunity and bring bold, student-centered ideas to life. Remember to follow the [DCSD Grant Guidelines](#) and coordinate with the [Department of Grants and Partnerships](#) on next steps. 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 latest, fully searchable issue of the Monthly Education Grants Alert (*MEGA*) is available [HERE](#).

Good luck!