

2026-27
Strong Start Professional Enhancement Grant
Information and Application

The Strong Start PEG is available to all NKEA members with five (5) or less years teaching experience. Due to the limited availability of funding, applicants will not be approved after reaching five (5) years experience. There is no guarantee that you will be awarded the full amount requested.

Interests

Teachers with less than five (5) years of teaching experience will have the opportunity to apply for a “Strong Start” Professional Enhancement Grant yearly through their fifth (5th) year of teaching to offset costs of enhancing their teaching skills and professional standing. The self-directed “Strong Start” stipend can be used to cover costs associated with (but not limited to): professional learning tuition, unreimbursed costs for conferences, book studies (time and materials), specialized curriculum training, educational technology subscriptions, costs of professional organizations, software training, educator wellness programs, curriculum design workshops, non-district sponsored clock hours, retreats for educational planning, or public speaking and leadership workshops. Teachers who receive a “Strong Start” grant may also apply for another Professional Enhancement Grant.

You must submit a completed Strong Start Enhancement Grant Application via email, district mail or drop off to Human Resources no later than **4:20 pm on November 2, 2026.**

When will I be notified if my grant has been awarded and when/how will the funds be available?

You will be notified via email no later than **December 1, 2026.** Instructions for accessing your funds will be included. Funds will be available immediately and **a retroactive reimbursement of approved Strong Start PEG expenditures incurred on or after September 1, 2026 may be issued.**

NOTE: Expenditures incurred 9/1/26 – 8/31/27 must be submitted with documentation, receipts and voucher form no later than 9/4/27.

Who approves grant applications?

The Professional Enhancement Grants team will review the applications and make the final decisions. This team will be comprised of Association members and District administrators as follows, when available:

NKEA President or designee
Elementary Teacher
Secondary Teacher
Certificated Specialist Staff
Special Education Teacher

Director of Human Resources
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning
Executive Director of Schools

Examples of non-qualifying requests: classroom materials and/or technology items

NOTE: If you are requesting PEG funds to cover a substitute, please allow \$300.00 cost per day for that project component. ** Applications which show substitute coverage as a component and do not include the cost will be returned to the applicant ******

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Please complete the following information, including the building administrator signature, and **submit it to Human Resources no later than 4:20 pm on November 2, 2026.**

Supervisor Signature: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Current Position: _____ Location: _____

Are you a previous Strong Start recipient? _____ Year(s) grant was received: _____

1. Please check the following out of pocket expense for which you seek reimbursement. Save receipts demonstrating costs incurred:

☐ Professional learning tuition: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Unreimbursed costs for conferences: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Book and materials: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Specialized curriculum training: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Educational technology subscriptions: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Costs of professional organizations: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Software training: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Educator wellness program: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Curriculum design workshop: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Non-district sponsored clock hours: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Retreats for educational planning: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Public speaking and leadership workshop: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Other: Please describe: _____ Amount: _____

☐ Travel (form(s) attached): _____ Amount: _____

☐ Substitute Coverage: _____ Amount: _____

TOTAL: _____