



# FY 2027 School & Central Office Grants

We believe educators, support staff, & administrators are key partners in advancing our shared mission: to ensure all students succeed in school. We provide grants to strengthen collaborations, close opportunity gaps, accelerate success for students & staff, & tap talent & diversity in MCPS.

## **Apply Today!**

[mcpsef.org/what-we-do/grants](https://mcpsef.org/what-we-do/grants)

## **Timeline**

If a date falls on a weekend or MCPS office closure, the date moves to the next business day.

### **Round 1**

- Through September 30: Applications
- October 20: Notification
- October 25: Acceptance deadline
- November 10: Payment distribution

### **Round 2**

- October 1 – November 30: Applications
- January 10: Notification
- January 15: Acceptance deadline
- January 30: Payment distribution

## **Opportunities**

### **Individual Grant**

To create a positive impact in a single school/office's community.  
1 school/office: up to \$2,000

### **Collaborative Grant**

To scale impact by facilitating projects implemented across multiple schools/offices.  
2 – 5: up to \$5,000 | 6 – 10: up to \$7,500 | 10+: up to \$10,000

### **Scaling Success Incentive Funds**

To facilitate replication of successful projects by leveraging expertise & work of project directors.

\$500 bonus grant funds | \$500 Scaling Success Coach stipend

**[Scaling Success Coach Interest Form](#)**

## **Questions?**

[info@mcpsef.org](mailto:info@mcpsef.org) | [mcpsef.org/what-we-do/grants](https://mcpsef.org/what-we-do/grants)

[Book time to meet.](#)

# Pillars

The MCPSEF will prioritize projects within a pillar but consider any project that meets a critical need.

## **Increasing access to new & existing wraparound supports & resources**

MCPS strategic plan alignment

- Goal 3: Ensure a safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning and work environments through positive climate and effective operations.

## **Accelerating student proficiency & achievement in core curriculum, with a priority on reading proficiency & mathematics**

MCPS Strategic Plan alignment

- Goal 1: All students will demonstrate high levels of academic achievement & growth

## **Strengthening capacity of educators, support staff, administrators, & caregivers to advance student success**

MCPS Strategic Plan alignment

- Goal 3: Ensure a safe, welcoming, and inclusive learning and work environments through positive climate and effective operations.
- Goal 4: Support & invest in all staff

# Eligibility

## **Project Lead**

- The applicant must be the project lead, including being responsible for the overall success and logistics of the project, being the primary point of contact, and submitting the report.
- The project lead must be an MCPS employee.

## **Strategic Alignment**

- The MCPS school community must be the primary beneficiary of the project.
- The project must align with the MCPSEF's
  - Mission: To support student success in MCPS.
  - Vision: A student's circumstances should not predict their ability to achieve.
- Projects that include professional development must have professional development as a component of a broader project that will have a demonstrated impact in the MCPS community during the current academic year that extends beyond individual professional growth.

## **Application Coordination**

- Schools/offices may have multiple applications.
- Principals/supervisors must approve projects prior to application submission.

## **Good Standing**

- The applicant must be in good standing with the MCPSEF, including completing all required components of previous MCPSEF projects.

## Expenses

The budget **cannot** include expenses that are:

- Already in the school/office budget.
- Likely to extend past the current fiscal year.
- Indirect costs, overhead, grant administration, or similar items.
- Lobbying & other political activity, as defined by IRS restrictions on 501(c)(3) organizations.
- For religious purposes.
- For technology that is:
  - Not in line with the Educational Technology's priorities and policies.
  - Not approved by the department and, if needed, the General Counsel & Procurement.
- For field trips that do not:
  - Follow MCPS regulations, including already having MCPS approval and signed required forms.
  - Meet a clear need to close opportunity gaps and advance equity in educational opportunities.
- For non-MCPS entities.
- For professional development travel expenses or MCPS central office opportunities.
- For staff time that is:
  - For substitute teachers.
  - Not approved by principal/department head.
  - For regular hours/duties or compensated at rates different than union/MCPS guidelines.
  - For individual tutoring programs.
  - Noncompliant with policies, including Conflict of Interest & Community Use of Schools.

## Scaling Success Incentive Funds

Scaling Success Coaches provide resources to help project leads strengthen impact rather than replicates work. In turn, the funds scale successful projects and leverage the talents of MCPS staff.

If a project is eligible for Scaling Success Incentive Funds, Project Leads may request the funds in their application. The MCPSEF adds the funds to the amount awarded in a grant.

### Project Lead Guidance

Project leads include the funds as a part of their application process. To do this, they:

- Engage a Scaling Success Coach by following one of paths below.
  - Identify a prospective coach through their own network.
  - Contact the MCPSEF with their goals, so the MCPSEF can identify a coach and project.
- Coordinate a meeting with the coach, the MCPSEF, and themselves prior to applying.

### Scaling Success Coach Guidance

Prospective coaches

- If you have implemented a successful project you would like to help replicate, submit your interest through the Scaling Success Coach Form as soon as possible to facilitate matches.
- The stipend is a payment made to your personal bank accounts.
- The original project does not have to be a previous MCPSEF grant.
- You Coaches must provide support and share resources throughout the grant process, including the resources below.

## Resources Shared by Scaling Success Coaches

Scaling Success Coaches share their expertise and resources to scale the positive impacts from their original project and minimize time Project Leads spend on “reinventing the wheel.” These include:

- Application drafting support, including sharing original application
- Help submitting the final report (a brief online form or oral report)
- Holding a planning meeting, two check-ins, and a closeout meeting with the Project Lead
- Project material samples, including:
  - Project plans and other planning materials
  - Proposals to/communications with supervisors/principals
  - Project-specific items (ex., outreach materials and strategies, curriculum purchase guidance)
  - Budgets
- Professional development takeaways
- Responses to other requests for support

## Selection Criteria

Reviewers will make funding decisions based on strength of each consideration below.

- Alignment with the MCPSEF:
  - Mission: To support student success in MCPS.
  - Vision: A student’s circumstances should not predict their ability to achieve.
- Improvement of student learning outcomes.
- Clear and achievable goals and activities.
- Likelihood of having a positive impact on equity in the MCPS community and reaching marginalized communities directly.
- Potential for impact beyond the grant year.
- Potential for scaling impact.

## Application Components

MCPSEF seeks to ensure its applications are easy and quick to complete. Applications include:

- Brief narratives, including project goals, activities, alignment with MCPSEF priorities.
- If relevant, Scaling Success Incentive Fund information including Scaling Success Coach name and a description of how the Project Lead and Coach will collaborate to replicate the project.
- Team, including identification of primary project lead.
- Impact measurements, including demographics of primary project participants.
- Budget.
- Uploads, including:
  - Approval from principal/supervisor for project.
  - For applications with paid staff time for MCPS staff, a signed form indicating principal/supervisor approval.
  - For field trips, a signed approval form from principal/central office, per MCPS regulations.

The MCPS Form 280-60 is not required for MCPSEF Grants.