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July 27, 2026

Commissioner Michelle Long Spears
District 2 – DeKalb County Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County Government ||
Manuel J. Maloof Center
1300 Commerce Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30030

Dear Commissioner Spears:

On behalf of the Foundation, thank you for considering our request for \$25,000 through the County Commission District 2 Grant Program for the 2026-27 school year. Last year, the Foundation used the \$50,000 grant through this program to provide field trips for over 900 students in grades K-8, directly and indirectly, reaching approximately 20 classrooms throughout 12 schools. The Foundation used this grant to support science-focused educational field trips that might otherwise be out of reach for many students due to cost barriers. Additional funding for the coming year will underscore the value of environmental education through additional STEAM learning opportunities for elementary and middle school students in DeKalb County Commission District 2.

Once awarded, the Foundation will announce the opportunity and invite eligible District 2 schools to submit field trip proposals. Grant funds will support science education field trips costing \$50 or more through a distribution directly to participating school administrations to cover approved field trip expenses. By removing a financial barrier to experiential learning, this program will enable more students to engage with science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics through meaningful, real-world experiences that complement classroom instruction and inspire future academic and career interests.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and the Commission's commitment to enriching educational opportunities for students throughout District 2. Your partnership makes our work possible, and we are deeply grateful to have your support in our goal to provide students with this experiences. Our proposal and outline is attached. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kymberlee F. Estis", written over a horizontal line.

Kymberlee F. Estis
Foundation Executive
(470) 693-3453

Copy: Ms. Beth Ganga, Policy and Planning Director – Commissioner Spears

The DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. Our IRS Your donation may be tax-deductible according to IRS regulations. Our tax ID number is: 99-3393869



PROPOSAL for Environmental Science Field Trip Grant for the 2026-27 School Year

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) is Georgia's third-largest school system, covering 257 square miles within DeKalb County (excluding areas served by Atlanta Public Schools and City Schools of Decatur). Under the leadership of the Superintendent and the Board of Education, DCSD prepares students for college and careers through rigorous, relevant classroom instruction tailored to each child's needs.

DCSD is a leader in STE(A)M education, boasting 32 certified STE(A)M schools and programs. Many elementary and middle schools take advantage of DeKalb's proximity to science-related attractions and facilities, organizing annual educational field trips for students. These trips often include overnight visits to the Georgia Coast, where students study marine science and coastal ecology. Locations such as Skidaway Island, Wassaw Island, Tybee Island, St. Simon's Island, and Jekyll Island provide invaluable, hands-on learning experiences that reinforce the science curricula taught in the classroom. For many students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, these trips offer their first opportunity to visit the ocean. Other out-of-town locations for science-related field trips have included the Wahsega 4-H facility in Dahlonga as well as the NASA Facility in Huntsville, AL. Because the average cost for overnight trips to the Georgia coast is \$500 per child, including transportation, lodging, and food. This cost may pose a significant burden for students in lower-income households disproportionately affected by increased cost of living. This grant aims to provide hands-on learning experiences without additional cost for students in households that may be unable to afford field trip fees.

The **DeKalb Schools Educational Foundation, Inc.** supports DCSD schools by designing and implementing grant programs that fund innovative, mission-aligned projects proposed by educators. Its grantmaking focuses on District priorities, including strengthening physical and mental well-being, improving student literacy, and enhancing teacher preparedness. To advance these goals, the Foundation awards microgrants that provide seed funding for school leaders and educators to pilot new approaches that meet the needs of their school communities. The Foundation managed the environmental science field-trip grant program in the 2025–26 school year, which provided approximately 1,000 students in DeKalb County Commission District 2 to participate in hands-on environmental learning experiences at sites around the Southeast, as well as opportunities for unique, guided experiences exploring environmental features and ecosystems in metro Atlanta.

In the coming year, the Foundation requests \$25,000 in funding to continue the grantmaking program for students attending schools in District 2 during the 2026-27 school year. Under this program, the Foundation will be able to provide opportunities for more students to receive hands-on STEAM learning by participating in school field trips where the cost might otherwise be unaffordable. The Foundation will announce the opportunity and request field trip proposals from the schools at the beginning of the school year. Per the grant, Elementary and middle schools within DeKalb County Commission District 2 (see attached list) will directly request funding from the Foundation. The funds will cover expenses for science education field trips costing \$50 or more for students enrolled in the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast (SBP) programs. The funds will be distributed directly to the school, and dispersed through the school bookkeeper, according to District guidelines.



Environmental Field Trip Grant- Eligible Schools in DeKalb County Commissioner District 2

Ashford Park Elementary School 2966 Cravinridge Dr. Atlanta, GA 30319

Briar Vista Elementary School 1131 Briar Vista Terrace NE, Atlanta, GA 30324

Coralwood School 2477 Coralwood Dr, Decatur, GA 30033

Dunwoody Elementary School Upper Campus/Cary Reynolds Elementary School 1663 E Nancy Creek Dr, Atlanta, GA 30319

Fernbank Elementary School 157 Heaton Park Dr, Atlanta, GA 30307

Globe Academy Lower Campus 2225 Heritage Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

International Community School 2418 Wood Trail Ln, Decatur, GA 30033

Laurel Ridge Elementary School 1215 Balsam Dr, Decatur, GA 30033

John Robert Lewis Elementary School 2630 Skyland Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30319

Montclair Elementary School 1680 Clairmont Pl NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

Montgomery Elementary School 3995 Ashford Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, GA 30319

Oak Grove Elementary School 1857 Oak Grove Rd, Atlanta, GA 30345

Sagamore Hills Elementary School 1865 Alderbrook Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

Woodward Elementary School 3034 Curtis Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30319

Druid Hills Middle School 3100 Mount Olive Dr, Decatur, GA 30033

Globe Academy Upper Campus 4105 Briarcliff Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

Kittredge Magnet School 2383 N Druid Hills Rd, Atlanta, GA 30329

Path Academy 3007 Hermance Dr NE, Atlanta, GA 30319