

\$1,644,519 *awarded to date*

2018 awarded:
\$1,088,524

2018 pending:
\$573,223

2019 in the works:
\$94,000

It's been a good year for grants, which is great! Our schools need the extra support now more than ever.

McCracken is officially the most income-unequal county in Kentucky. Did you know that? The top 1% in our county makes 36.4 x what the bottom 99% makes. After seeing this in an Economic Policy Institute report this summer, I found myself telling anyone who might listen, and mentioning it in every grant application I could. It illustrates so plainly what we see in our schools every day: All kids need a great education, but so many of them need so much more.

With the support of the School Board and help of the leadership team, schools and teachers, we brought in over \$1 million this year to support projects big and



small, from a six-week summer Read & Feed program, to a new 21st Century Community Learning Center at Reidland Elementary. Some grant projects really broke the mold, like the Preschool Partnership grant, which is working to improve the quality of early childhood education in our preschools and the private daycares that feed into them, or a creative mural project at Reidland Intermediate that blends literature, art and student exploration of vices and virtues. One thing they all have in common: they're inspired by the needs and aspirations of our kids.

What follows is a summary of this year's grants in review, as well as a preview of things to come. You can find an up-to-date listing of grant info and opportunities and sign up for my monthly newsletter at www.mcpsgrants.com. Thank you so much for your support. Here's to an even better 2019!

Genevieve Postlethwait



awarded

21st Century Grant • \$625,000 for RES

Funds before- and after-school tutoring and enrichment activities for kids (covers staff, training, materials, transportation) for up to five years, when RES can reapply for funding.

Equipment Assistance Grant for Food Service • \$56,000 for RES, RIS/RMS & HES

Funded the purchase and installation of top-of-the-line combination ovens for RES & RIS/RMS cafeterias, and reimbursed MCPS for HES' oven purchased in 2018.

Project Lead the Way Partner Grants • \$9,500 for RES & HES

Covered costs associated with starting PLTW Launch at RES and HES, including the annual PLTW participation fee, teacher training costs and PLTW Launch classroom kits and curriculum materials.

Carson Myre Foundation Grant • \$30,000 for orchestra programs district-wide

Supports orchestra programs district-wide (MCHS, RMS, HMS, LOMS, LOIS, RIS, HES & CES) including “scholarship” instruments for students who can't afford their own, instrument repairs and music.

Prime Time Family Reading Grant • \$5,100 value for RES/RIS joint program

Funded a six-week reading, discussion and storytelling program for families, bringing parents and children together around the act of reading, teaching them to use stories to connect with one another and discuss difficult topics.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education • \$13,500 for LOES, LOMS & RIS

Funded performing arts upgrades at LOES, greenhouse upgrades at LOMS, and alternative seating and a reading nook for the special education classroom at RIS.

KidsFit Game Changer Grant • \$5,000 for CES

Funded a classroom-full of alternative seating, as well as select alternative seating to be shared among teachers at the principal's discretion.

Combating Summer Slide Grant • \$1,000 for HES

Funded a six-week summer reading program open to all families with young readers, featuring a different author or theme each week, including a snack or meal at each session. Grant funds purchased books, & HES Librarian Theresa Wilkins leveraged community partnerships for everything else.

Hands on the Land Mini-Grant • \$2,200 for HES 4th grade trip to Mammoth Cave

Covered travel costs and fees associated with taking the entire 4th grade class to Mammoth Cave. Partnership also resulted in Mammoth Cave rangers securing their own grant to visit every 4th grade class in McCracken.

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Mini-Grant • \$500 for RIS

Funded materials to create a mural on the RIS Library's ceiling depicting virtues like courage and honor, and vices like fear or apathy, incorporating student work throughout the process.

State Farm Neighborhood Assist Grant • \$25,000 for HLOE

Funded security upgrades at HLOE. HLOE was one of only 40 nonprofits nationwide to receive the grant.

Preschool Partnership Grant • \$300,000 for McCracken Pre-K & Partners

Funded two more years of McCracken Preschool's partnership with Easter Seals and area daycares to offer quality PD opportunities to all partners in an effort to improve the overall quality of early childhood education in the area, and increase vertical alignment across providers.

TeleTech Community Foundation Grant • \$5,000 for RMS Library

Funded a class set of Chromebooks for the RMS Library as part of the school's library revitalization project.

pending

Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants • \$25,000 for LOI, HES, RES, RMS & HMS

Provides up to \$5,000 per school for school construction and facilities projects..

Annie's Grants for Gardens • \$3,000 for RES

Supports *edible* gardens for K-12 schools, and can be used for any garden-related expenses (plants, seeds, raised beds, fencing, tools, etc.).

KDLA Local Records Program Grant • \$41,811 for MCPS Records Department

Would fund the digitization and security microfilming of thousands of MCPS records to streamline district records and make them more accessible.

Project Lead the Way Partner Grants • \$4,750 for RIS

Would cover costs associated with starting PLTW Launch at RIS, including the annual PLTW participation fee, teacher training costs and PLTW Launch classroom kits and curriculum materials.

21st Century Continuation Grant • \$490,000 for HES

Funds before- and after-school tutoring and enrichment activities for kids (covers staff, training, materials, transportation) for up to five years, when HES can reapply for funding.

on the horizon

WHAS Crusade for Children Grant • Supports special education programs

WHAS Crusade for Children grants are made to nonprofit agencies, schools and hospitals that help children with special needs up to age 18. Graves County Schools were awarded \$21,000 last year; we'll apply for a similar amount.

Equipment Grant for Food Service • \$15,000 for equipment at LOE, HMS & HLOE

Requesting funds for a hot water dispenser at LOE, a dishwasher booster heater at HMS, and a warmer at HLOE.

Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant • Supports middle, high school athletic programs

Offered by California Casualty, a KEA insurance provider, this grant offers up to \$3,000 for public middle and high school athletic programs for things like equipment, uniforms or travel costs.

American Honda Education Grant • Supports environmental/STEM programs

Applying for at least \$20,000 to support a real-world environmental education collaboration between the high school and the Four Rivers Nuclear Partnership in which students would learn about various career paths, as well as work on projects to address Paducah/McCracken County's stormwater drainage/flooding issues.

Best Buy Community Grant • Supports STEM education & 21st century skill-building

HES applying to jump-start a Student Technology Leadership Program and programming/robotics club.

U.S. DOJ Comprehensive School Safety Initiative

Federal funds should be available this spring to support school safety improvements and programs, including things like radios, security equipment upgrades, and other SRO needs.