

**\$2,016,554** *awarded to date*

2019 awarded:  
\$377,035

2019 pending:  
\$2,001,000

2020 in the works:  
\$68,130

## It's incredible what our teachers and students can do with grants, big and small.

A great example is the Reidland Elementary 21st Century summer reading program. In May they received a modest grant of \$1,500, and with it they hoped to lessen the “summer slide” for their summer program kiddos (the average summer slide is about 30%). The program recruited a small group of rising 3rd-graders, all struggling readers. The program met every weekday in June, and started with 2 hours & 45 minutes of free-choice reading every morning. The kids had the opposite of a summer slide, *improving*



From The Paducah Sun May 11, 2019: Lisa Clark (center), founder of LaLa Wellness out of Ontario, Canada, teaches yoga to preschool teachers from MCPS, Easter Seals, and other local child care centers at the MCPS Board of Education office in Reidland. The training was part of a \$300,000 Preschool Partnership Tier 2 grant from KDE.

their reading skills by an average of 12% by the start of the new school year. Every grant dollar went to books for kids, and every kid went home with a stack of books they'd read and loved.

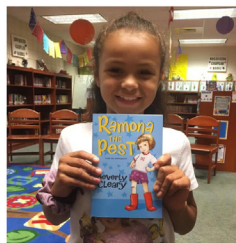
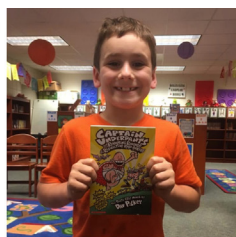
We brought in close to \$400,000 this year to support projects big and small. From Reidland Elementary's summer reading grant from Dollar General, to \$124,646 in district-wide security upgrades from the U.S. Department of Justice, every grant project this year had our kids' needs and aspirations at heart.

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](http://www.mcpsgrants.com). Thank you so much for your support. Here's to 2020, and an even better decade for McCracken County schools!

*Genevieve Postlethwait*



Daily, free-choice reading at the RES 21st Century Summer Program



## awarded

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

Funded performing arts upgrades at HES, greenhouse improvements at HMS, performing arts upgrades at LOIS, landscaping and a student garden at RES, and library renovations at RMS.

### **VSA Arts Inclusion Grant • \$1,300 for RIS**

Funded an inclusive fiber arts/weaving project in collaboration with the Yeiser Art Center director.

### **KDLA Local Records Program Grant • \$36,080 for MCPS Records Department**

Funded the digitization and secure microfilming of thousands of MCPS records to streamline district records and make them more accessible.

### **KDE Equipment Assistance Grant • \$3,134 for HMS**

Funded a booster heater for the HMS cafeteria.

### **Lew's High School Fishing Program Grant • \$5,000 value for MCHS Fishing Team**

Funded 12 Lew's Mach fishing rods to lend to team members who can't afford quality equipment on their own.

### **WHAS Crusade for Children Grant • \$13,000 for HES and LOIS**

Funded the replication at HES and LOIS of the successful sensory program at HLOES to better meet the needs of the district's growing population of high-need students. Funds also supported the start of an Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) Library to help test which AAC tech best supports each student's needs.

### **Read to Achieve Grants • \$141,600 in continuation funding for HLOES, LOES & RES**

Funds two years of literacy supports and interventions using Read to Achieve-approved programs.

### **Dollar General Summer Reading Grants • \$2,500 for HES & RES**

Funded a month-long free-choice summer reading program at RES in conjunction with its grant-funded 21st Century program, and the continuation of HES' month-long Summer Read & Feed program.

### **The Lion King Experience Mini-Grant • \$1,145 value for HES**

Funded production materials and curriculum for putting on a student production of *The Lion King KIDS*.

### **America's Farmers Grow Rural Grant • \$10,000 for HMS**

Funded a raised-bed, high-tunnel greenhouse for vegetables and herbs, as well as an outdoor classroom space.

### **Dollar General Literacy Grants • \$8,000 for HES, LOIS, RIS & RMS**

Funded leveled readers at HES library; culturally diverse, high-interest texts at RIS; and high-interest, low-level books at RMS and LOIS.

### **COPS Office School Violence Prevention Grant • \$124,646 district-wide**

Funding for district-wide safety improvements, including updated radios for the district's SRO's and security system upgrades in all school buildings.

### **H.B. Fuller Grant • \$5,000 for CES, HES & RIS**

Funded technology for STLP students to use for project-based learning activities.

### **Classics for Kids Matching Grant • \$630 for LOES**

Funded a class set of ukuleles for the 2nd grade at LOES, a 50/50 funding split with LOES PTO

## pending

### **American Honda Foundation Grant • \$10,000 for 21st Century Program STEM clubs**

Would support STEM club activities in 21st Century before/after school programs at RES, RIS, HLOES & RMS.

### **Classics for Kids Matching Grant • \$3,000 for RMS**

Would fund a small collection of stringed instruments to lend to orchestra students who can't afford their own; a 50/50 funding split with RMS.

### **21st Century Grants • \$1,960,000 for HES, HLOES, MCHS & RIS**

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

### **Saucony Run for Good Grant • \$8,000 for LOIS**

Would cover race fees, team jerseys and water bottles for all 70 kids in the LOIS Running Club, plus good running shoes for kids whose families can't afford them.

## on the horizon

### **Carson-Myre Foundation Grant • \$50,000 for orchestra programs at LOMS & RMS**

Would support the orchestra programs at LOMS and RMS, primarily by providing quality "scholarship" instruments for students who can't afford their own.

### **Home Depot Community Impact Grant • \$5,000 for RES**

The Home Depot Foundation offers grants to nonprofits and public agencies that use the power of volunteers to improve the community. Grants are given in the form of Home Depot gift cards. RES would use the grant to purchase supplies and materials for ongoing upgrades to its stage.

### **Baptist Health Foundation • Support for playground upgrades at HES, HLOES & RIS**

HES, HLOES and RIS have all expressed a need for upgrades to their playgrounds to make them more accessible for their differently-abled students. Baptist has supported playground projects for our schools in the past (Project Fit), and we haven't approached them for funding since receiving \$10,000 in AED's for our schools in 2017.

### **Preschool Partnership Grant • Continued funding for Pre-k PD**

Because it's uncertain if KDE will offer another round of funding for the Preschool Partnership program (MCPS was awarded \$150,000 in 2017, and \$300,000 for 2018/19), we are searching for alternative grants that would help the district continue its successful Preschool Partnership/professional development program.

### **Grants for free-choice reading initiative at RES**

Following the success of their 21st Century summer reading program, RES is looking to send every child at RES home with 10 books of their choice for the summer — one for every week they'll be out of school. The project will cost an estimated \$25,000, so we're searching for several grants, or one BIG grant to help meet that goal.