

# Genius & Joy Grants

Additional Information - Apply by noon on Friday, June 4.

Genius & Joy Grants are an opportunity for North Minneapolis MPS educators to create summer learning experiences for students that embrace co-creation with students, build on community assets, and spark joy. This is also a chance to educators to try out their creative new ideas in a setting with lots of support.

The Phillips Foundation has worked over the past two months to create an opportunity that will work for educators, families, students, AchieveMpls, and Minneapolis Public Schools. We are committed to providing the funding, coaching, and logistical support to enable Northside educators to build their professional skills while they create joyful learning opportunities.

Thank you for your interest in applying. Please understand that this is a work in progress, and we may not have anticipated every question or possibility that you may be thinking about. Hopefully, this document provides some additional clarity to interested educators.

If you still have questions, please reach out to us directly! We are happy to help you develop a strong application.

## **Joel Luedtke, Program Director**

The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation

612-518-8053

[jluedtke@phillipsfamilymn.org](mailto:jluedtke@phillipsfamilymn.org)

## **Nafeesah Muhammad**

Genius & Joy Grant Coach

612-562-1363

[nafeesah.muhammad@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:nafeesah.muhammad@mpls.k12.mn.us)

## Questions and Answers

### **Why do educators have to apply as cohorts of four or more?**

We believe that a full day of programming, delivered by a team of educators, provides both a convenient option for families and a better professional development experience for staff. Given that we hope to reach 40 or more students at each site, four educators seems like a minimum number of staff to manage this experience.

*That said, please contact us if you are thinking about half-day programming and/or working with a smaller team of educators. We are happy to discuss these options on a case-by-case basis.*

### **How will the stipends work?**

Each \$2,000 stipend is intended to support the development and delivery of a half-day (2-3 hour), weeklong learning experience for students. If multiple educators work together on this, the stipend can be split. If the learning experience is offered again during a second week, the educator(s) will receive an additional \$1,000 stipend.

Additionally, one person in each cohort must serve as Site Coordinator. This person will assist with managing supply budgets and handling other operational details. The Site Coordinator will receive a \$1,000 stipend for each week that they serve in this capacity.

Here's an example of how this might work:

- Five educators from Hmong International Academy receive funding to provide two weeks of Genius & Joy summer learning. Here's what each will do and the stipends they will receive:
  - o Educator A creates a weeklong neighborhood biking and mapping option and leads it both weeks. The course lasts 3 hours per day. He will receive a stipend of \$3,000.
  - o Educators B & C work together to develop a project where students create a musical and perform it for families. It's a two-week experience, lasting 2 hours per day. Each educator will receive a \$1,500 stipend.
  - o Educator D creates a 1-week family genealogy project and serves as the Site Coordinator for both weeks. She will receive a \$4,000 stipend.
  - o Educator E provides a 1-week gardening and cooking class lasting 2.5 hours per day. She receives a \$2,000 stipend.

We expect that educators will think of more creative ways to organize and deliver their Genius & Joy Grant programming, and therefore we anticipate we will need to determine stipend amounts and distribution on a case-by-case basis with some applicants. Please reach out if you have questions.

### **How will the supply budgets work?**

Each Genius & Joy Grant comes with a \$500 supply budget. So, if your educator team proposes four learning experiences, that means you have \$2,000 for supplies.

In general, we hope the Site Coordinator will help educators manage their supply budgets. This involves submitting reimbursement requests and vendor invoices to AchieveMpls on an as-needed basis.

Note that some purchases will require prior approval from MPS staff and/or the school's Principal. These include items that will be left on the school's site (for example, gardening beds, playground equipment, or installed art) or which may create safety concerns (temporary outdoor structures, bicycles, etc.). Phillips and MPS staff will be in touch with grantees to discuss any concerns regarding proposed use of supply budgets.

### **Do educators need to be on-site for the full day?**

No. Each educator team is responsible for determining a schedule that provides adequate staffing and programming for 6 or more hours per day for a full week. This staffing schedule will need to account for drop-off, pick-up, and lunch. Given these expectations, we think that most educators will be able to lead summer learning and provide general student support in four or fewer hours per day.

### **How will the coaching work?**

Nafeesah will serve as a thought partner and professional encourager. She will ensure each educator's vision for summer programming comes to fruition. She will also encourage you to be creative and take risks along the way. She will...

- Help you center and elevate the Historically Responsive Literacy framework within your individual classes and throughout your summer program.
- Help set and maintain a clear timeline to ensure the summer programming stays on track.
- Facilitate weekly check-ins throughout the summer.
- Make connections between different sites.
- Support you in finding resources needed to successfully complete your summer programming.

### **What about busing?**

The Phillips Foundation is currently in discussion with MPS staff about securing busing for Genius & Joy Grant participants. We want to make sure transportation isn't a barrier to participation. We hope to reach a final agreement in the next few weeks and will let all participating educators know about transportation options as they emerge.

### **Do all the educators on a team have to work at the same school?**

Not necessarily. We do hope that staff from the same school will use this grant opportunity to work together and connect with their students over the summer. That said, if staff from different Northside schools want to team up and deliver Genius & Joy programming at a Northside school, that's fine, too. However, each cohort will need to get permission from the principal of the school where their programming will happen.

### **What should I list as my "Organization" when I apply?**

Educator cohorts need to apply for Genius & Joy grants through the Minneapolis Foundation's online application system. When you register on this system, you will be asked what organization you are affiliated with. Enter "Minneapolis Public Schools". You can then select

“Minneapolis Public Schools” from the table on the subsequent webpage. Here’s a picture of what you should see:

### Organization Search Results

ORGANIZATION NAME	ADDRESS	TAX ID	ADD MYSELF AS GRANT ADMIN
Special School District No. 1	1250 West Broadway Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55411	41-0851980	<a href="#">Add Myself as Grant Admin</a>
Minneapolis Public Schools	Kerry York-Myles 1250 West Broadway, N2-029 Minneapolis, MN 55411	41-0851980	Your request has been submitted. While you wait for approval, you may <a href="#">explore the Grantee Dashboard</a>
AchieveMpls	2829 University Ave SE, Suite 850 Minneapolis, MN 55414	41-1425264	<a href="#">Add Myself as Grant Admin</a>

**After I list my organization as Minneapolis Public Schools, how do I get to the Genius & Joy application?**

We apologize for this quirk in the online application process. Even though it seems like you should wait to receive an additional approval to access the Genius & Joy application, **once you register as a grant admin and indicate Minneapolis Public Schools is your organization, you can go ahead and begin your application.**

To do this, either go back to the [Genius & Joy page](#) of the Phillips Family Foundation’s website and click the “Apply” button again.

OR

Use this link:

<https://tmf.iphiview.com/tmf/ApplicationPortal/GeniusandJoyGrant/tabid/762/Default.aspx>

Now you should be able to begin filling out the application.

---

*If you have any problems, do not hesitate to call the Grants Administration staff at the Minneapolis Foundation at 612-672-8665.*