

2022 Genius & Joy Grants

Additional Information - Apply by 5 p.m. on May 5

Genius & Joy is back for 2022!

Last summer, the Phillips Family Foundation partnered with MPS and Achieve MPLS to support Genius & Joy summer learning opportunities. In all, 49 educators (teachers, ESPs, support staff, and admins) organized programs at five North Minneapolis MPS schools and reached nearly 250 students. Afterward, educators told us what they appreciated about their experience and how we could improve. We've taken that feedback to heart and are pleased to provide North Minneapolis MPS educators the opportunity to apply for funding for Genius & Joy programs again this summer.

We created this document to provide interested educators with additional information about the program and how to apply. In addition to this information, please review the background document and sample application on our website: <https://phillipsfamilymn.org/genius/>

Thank you for your interest in applying. 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

Nafeesah Muhammad

Genius & Joy Grant Coach

612-562-1363

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 seem like a minimum number of staff to manage this experience.

While this is our general rule, we are open to discussing Genius & Joy projects with other staffing and scheduling options. Please reach out to Joel or Nafeesah.

What does the Site Coordinator do, and why is that position paid more?

Last year we learned that Site Coordinators are often the first staff on-site in the morning and the last to leave. They manage pick-ups and drop-offs, communicate with the bus company, manage food service, assist classroom educators, and so much more. Additionally, Site Coordinators are the key point of contact for ensuring educators have their classroom supplies. It's a big job, and we felt it deserved a higher stipend.

This year we're also establishing a rule that Site Coordinators cannot also be classroom educators.

How will the stipends work?

One piece of feedback we received about last year's program was that the stipends were confusing. Hopefully, these guidelines are simpler.

Educators will be paid a \$1,500 stipend for each week they provide Genius & Joy programming. A week of programming means Monday through Thursday. Educators can commit to developing and delivering one, two, or three weeks of programming and will receive the full stipend for each week. This stipend is compensation for educators' planning and instruction time.

Stipends will be paid in two installments. Half will be paid out in June, and the remaining half will be paid out after the Genius & Joy programs conclude in August.

We saw last year that Site Coordinators worked long hours preparing for and managing these programs. Therefore, Site Coordinators will receive a stipend of \$2,000 for each week of Genius & Joy programming offered at their school.

Please note that stipend recipients are responsible for paying all applicable taxes on this income.

How will the supply budgets work?

Supply budgets will be handled a little differently than last year.

You can budget for up to \$500 in supplies per week for every 20 students you plan to enroll. This means that if you plan to enroll 40 students for two weeks, you can budget up to \$2,000 for supplies.

Please note this is not a guaranteed amount. The Foundation will negotiate a final supply budget with each participating school based on enrollment projections and specific supply needs.

Supplies can be ordered in three different ways:

- Educators can create "wish lists" or "shopping carts" on online retail sites like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Target. These lists can be shared with your Site Coordinator. Site Coordinators will forward these shopping lists to a contact at the Minneapolis Foundation, who will order the requested items and have them shipped to the educator's preferred address (home, school, etc.).

- Educators are also welcome to purchase their supplies on their own. However, before buying anything, they must get approval from their Site Coordinator to ensure that purchases remain within the approved budget. The Minneapolis Foundation will reimburse educators after submitting their receipts.
- Educators can request an invoice or purchase order from a vendor, which the Minneapolis Foundation will pay directly. Once again, the Site Coordinator must approve these transactions.

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

That's up to you. We expect each educator team to work together to plan out a full day (6-7 hours) of learning and fun. You can divide responsibilities as you like. In 2021, some schools offered AM and PM sessions with different teachers responsible for different parts of the day. Others offered four or more short sessions that students cycled through during the day.

What are the “Learning and Rejuvenation Days”?

This year we are adding five 4–6-hour development days during the summer. We expect two to be scheduled on Fridays in July and three on the first three Fridays in August.

Here are the tentative dates:

- July 15
- July 22
- August 5
- August 12
- August 19

Attendance is optional. In addition to a wonderful experience, attendees will also receive a \$100 stipend. These days will be a mix of good food, peer learning, content from experts, and self-care. Peer Learning will involve sharing program plans and resources.

Expert content will be delivered by:

- Nafeesah Muhammad, who will focus on applying Gholdy Muhammad's Culturally Responsive Literacy framework in your school.
- Groves Academy, a current partner of MPS, will provide practical tools for K-3 educators to develop students' literacy skills.

Self-Care will involve activities like professional massages, guided meditation, and pedicures.

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 encourage each educator to be creative and to take risks along the way. This will look like the following:

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

What about busing?

Bussing will be available. The Phillips Family Foundation will work with Site Coordinators to collect rosters of students who need bussing. The Foundation will work with MPS to determine who will provide this transportation, but it will be available.

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

Not necessarily. We hope that staff from the same school will use this grant opportunity to work together and connect with their students over the summer. But, 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 school principal where their programming will happen.

Can educators from outside of MPS participate?

Yes, if they are part of a team led by MPS educators based in North Minneapolis. You can involve MPS educators from other parts of the district, community organizations, content experts, elders, or other personnel. But, each Genius & Joy project must be led by an MPS educator based at a North Minneapolis MPS school and chiefly serve MPS students.

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 the 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	Add Myself as Grant Admin
Minneapolis Public Schools	Kerry York-Myles 1250 West Broadway, N2-029 Minneapolis, MN 55411	41-0851980	Add Myself as Grant Admin
AchieveMpls	2829 University Ave SE Ste 850 Minneapolis, MN 55414	41-1425264	Add Myself as Grant Admin

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/2022GeniusandJoyGrantCohortApplication/tabid/786/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.