SJ Learns Grant AY 2027-2028

San Jose Public Library Foundation

Grant Round Overview

Grant Purpose:

The SJ Learns program aims to bolster academic achievement by funding promising and innovative expanded learning programs that serve San José public school students in Kindergarten (K) through 3rd grade.

Please visit the SJ Learns Grant Opportunity webpage to review the grant's strategies, priorities, and frequently asked questions about the application process.

Applicant Eligibility:

Applicants must be Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Partner organizations may assist with this application, but LEAs will remain the applicant and, if awarded funding, the grantee.

To allow others at your agency or at a partner organization to view, edit, or submit this application in collaboration with you, please use the Collaborator feature on this form. Refer to the Applicant Tutorial Collaboration webpage for step-by-step instructions.

For any additional support, email us at grants@sjplf.org.

AY2027-28 Grant Round Timeline (high-level):

- Application Window: November 6–December 13, 2026
- Awards Announced: February-March 2027
- Grant Period: August 1, 2027-June 30, 2028
- Interim Report and Assessment and Program Data: Due January 31, 2028
- Checks-Ins, Site Visits: Mid-fall, Mid-spring
- Final Report and Assessment and Program Data: Due July 31, 2028

For a more detailed timeline, please visit the SJ Learns Grant Opportunity webpage.

Grant Eligibility Questions

To be considered for this grant, the following requirements must be met throughout the grant period.

Use of Funds*

Will awarded funds be used to serve students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade with at least 90% of these students residing in the city of San José?

Choices

Yes
No

Quality Standards Alignment*

Please see the Expanded Learning Quality Standards adopted and implemented by the City of San José. Will the program proposed in this application align with these standards?

Choices

Yes
No

Program Model*

Will the program provide free services to high-needs students as defined by the grant? For details, visit SJ Learns Grant Opportunity.

Choices

Yes
No

Matching Funds*

Will the LEA be able to demonstrate a 15% match from non-city sources, which may be the form of in-kind contributions? This match must be documented in the budget portion of this application and in all subsequent financial reports.

Choices

Yes
No

Reporting Requirement: LEA Acknowledgement*

Collecting student demographic, assessment, and program attendance data is essential to understanding student needs, measuring academic progress, and identifying disparities in educational outcomes. This information helps ensure City grant funds are used effectively, resources are directed to students who need them most, and program outcomes are documented to support future funding.

All SJ Learns grantees will be required to:

1. Collect the following data (de-identified) for each student participant.
2. Report this data to a designated third party twice annually, in January and July.
    - Grade Level
    - Race/Ethnicity
    - Gender

- English Learner
- Program Attendance
- School Attendance Information
- Assessment type and scores (at minimum: Baseline and Final)

If you have any questions or concerns about your organization's ability to meet this requirement, contact us at grants@sjplf.org to discuss further before submitting this application.

Choices

I am authorized to acknowledge these requirements on behalf of the applicant organization.
I have reviewed and understand the data collection requirements.

Local Education Agency (LEA) Information

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) include public school districts, charter schools, and charter networks/management organizations.

LEA Name*

Character Limit: 250

LEA Abbreviation*

Character Limit: 10

Project Name*

Character Limit: 100

LEA'S GRANT CONTACT

This is the main point of contact for all grant-related communication throughout the application process.

If this proposal is approved for funding, we may ask you to reconfirm the point of contact.

LEA Lead Contact First and Last Name*

Character Limit: 250

LEA Lead Contact Title*

Character Limit: 250

LEA Lead Contact Email Address*

Character Limit: 250

LEA Lead Contact Phone Number (###-###-#### x###)*
Character Limit: 250

LEA'S SIGNATORY

This is the person authorized to sign the grant agreement and any other necessary documents if this proposal is approved for funding.

LEA Signatory Contact*
Will the Signatory for this grant be the same person as the Lead Grant Contact listed above?

Choices
No
Yes

Follow-up Section: Signatory Contact

LEA Signatory First and Last Name*
Character Limit: 250

LEA Signatory Title*
Character Limit: 250

LEA Signatory Email Address*
Character Limit: 250

LEA Signatory Phone Number (###-###-#### x###)*
Character Limit: 250

Partner Organization Information

Partner Confirmation*
Will the LEA work with an external partner organization to carry out the program services proposed in this application?

Choices
No
Yes

Program Information & Measurable Outcomes

New or Established Program*

To help us better understand if AY2027-28 funds will support a new program or one that is already established, please select the option that best describes the program. If the LEA is partnering with more than one organization for this program, please select Other and then elaborate in the next prompt.

The program proposed in this application is:

Choices

A newly developed program that is not currently in place within the district.
An established program that is new to the district.
An existing program at the district's other school sites, but new to the proposed site(s).
An existing program at the proposed site(s); SJ Learns funds would sustain, expand, or enhance it.
Other

New or Established Program: Other

If you selected Other, please describe.

Character Limit: 500

Previously Funded by SJ Learns?*

Has this program been funded by the SJ Learns grant before?

Choices

Yes
No

Program Overview and Statement of Need*

Please provide a concise overview of the following:

- How long the proposed program has been in place as an organization and at district (if applicable).
- The proposed program's primary purpose.
- The need the program will address.
- The target population the program will serve.

Additional program and school site information will be collected in the next prompt.

Character Limit: 2500

Program and School Site Table*

1. Download the Program and School Site Table.
2. Complete the Program Info and School Site Info tabs. Use Column A as a guide for the information requested, entering responses vertically down each column. Start a new column for each additional partner or school.

3. Upload the completed file below.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Mission and Values Alignment*

SJ Learns champions promising and innovative expanded learning programs that serve San José public school students, valuing and prioritizing whole-child learning, collaboration, family engagement, and continuous quality improvement.

How will this program uphold the grant's mission and values?

Character Limit: 3000

Participant Identification and Recruitment*

How will students be identified as at risk of performing below grade-level standards? How they will be recruited or referred to the program proposed in this application?

Character Limit: 3000

Staff Composition*

How will organizational staff, including leadership, reflect the ethnic and racial backgrounds of the students being served with these funds? Briefly describe this for direct programmatic staff and non-programmatic staff separately.

"Reflect" includes staff's own ethnic and racial backgrounds as well as how their work for the program values the culture and histories of program participants to foster learning, nurture identity formation, build relationships, and infuse culturally-relevant activities to enhance participants' experience.

Character Limit: 3000

Program Quality Outcomes*

SJ Learns will use a modified version of the Weikart Center's School-Age Program Quality Assessment (SAPQA) to evaluate the effectiveness of the Expanded Learning Quality Standards adopted by the City of San José.

1. Review the Four Quality Standards: Engaging Environment, Interactive Environment, Supportive Environment, and Safe Environment.
2. Specify Target Outcomes: Briefly describe the specific program quality outcomes the program aims to achieve under each standard.

Character Limit: 5000

Other Programmatic Outcomes

1. Identify Outcomes: Concisely describe any additional student or attendance outcomes your organization will track to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed program.

- Student Outcomes: Academic skills, social-emotional development gains, engagement, participation, or other results the program is designed to achieve.
- Attendance Outcomes: Chronic absenteeism and school attendance.

2. Specify Targets and Explain Measurement: For each outcome listed, indicate the numerical target and how the program will measure progress.

We also welcome reporting on parent and family outcomes such as engagement, family-school relationship, and access to resources, as well as any partnership outcomes, such as increased partner engagement, expanded access to resources or opportunities for students, improved coordination, or sustained partnerships.

Character Limit: 5000

Follow-up Section: Partner Organization Information

Program Partner Table

For each external partner, enter the following information here or using the spreadsheet template in the next prompt.

Partner Organization Name	Partner Contact First and Last Name	Partner Contact Title	Partner Contact Email Address	Partner Contact Phone Number (###-###-#### x###)

Program Partner Table Upload (if needed)

If preferred or if more rows are needed, skip the above table and upload your own with the requested information.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Follow-up Section: Partner Letter of Agreement

Partner Letter of Agreement (LOA)*

Please upload a current LOA that clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of both the LEA and program partner. If there is more than one partner organization, please combine all LOAs

into a single document before uploading.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Funding Request and Budget Proposal

Requested Funding Amount*

How much are you requesting?

Character Limit: 20

Proposed Program Budget*

Please upload a proposed program budget that includes the following information:

- Organization name
- Grant period
- Total funding amount requested
- Budget category/line item (see definitions below)
- Cost associated with each line item
- Brief description of each line item and how the cost was calculated

View the SJ Learns budget template for an example. You may that template or submit your own budget format, provided that all required information is included and clearly identified.

Budget Categories and Definitions
Please organize proposed expenses using the following budget categories:

1. Personnel: Salaries, wages, taxes, and benefits for staff directly working on the proposed program.
2. Contracted Services: Payments to external experts or organizations for services not provided in-house.
3. Program Costs/Materials: Supplies, travel, software, equipment, and other direct program delivery costs.
4. Administrative/Overhead: Rent, office operations, technology, and other shared or indirect organizational costs. Limited to 15% of the total funding request.
5. Other: Any other eligible costs these funds will cover in support of the proposed program.
6. Required Organizational Match: Applicants must provide a minimum 15% match from non-City sources. Please identify the proposed match and indicated whether each contribution is cash or in-kind:

- In-kind and non-cash contributions: Contributions from the grantee or other non-funder sources that are distinguishable from a monetary grant.
- Cash contributions: Monetary contributions, including grants from third-party funders.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

Note: Fiscal contact and payment information will not be collected at this stage. Awarded applicants will be asked to provide these details later in the grant process.

Self-reported Attribution (SRA)

Self-reported Attribution (SRA)*

How did you hear about this year's grant opportunity?

Choices

Email from San José Public Library/Foundation
Referral
San José Public Library/Foundation website
Search engine
Social media
Other

Follow-up Question: Self-reported Attribution (SRA)

Expand on SRA*

If you selected Referral, Social media, or Other, please elaborate.

Character Limit: 250