

SchoolSmartKC – COVID-19 Funding Program

Supporting High School Students and “Student Find”

Background

SchoolSmartKC (SSKC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit that supports students, families, educators, and school and district/charter leaders in Kansas City, Missouri towards educational excellence. Specifically, SSKC’s mission is to support students and schools towards closing the achievement gaps between Kansas City and the state of Missouri and nationally. Our specific target area is comprised of nearly 30,000 students across 70 school buildings, of which 85%+ are free/reduced lunch (low-income), 50% are Black, 25% are Latino/Hispanic, 20% are English Language Learner), and 12% are students with disabilities.

Supporting Schools and Students During and After COVID-19

SSKC has been committed to supporting local students and schools through and after the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically focusing on funding that addresses student learning and student needs. In the Spring of 2019, SSKC funded substantial grants to schools and nonprofits towards a variety of “COVID relief” needs, including but not limited to technology (e.g., Wifi and devices), social-emotional and behavior support, community support, and the like. Additionally, in the Fall of 2019, SSKC coordinated additional funding through a consortium of funders for technology needs, with a consortium of funders who support Kansas City.

Supporting High School Students

As we look forward to a hopeful return to in-person learning, SSKC has spent the past six months engaging with school leaders, community stakeholders, administrators, and school staff to understand their current needs that may require funding. A critical area that arose during these discussions was our need to focus-in on and support our high school students – in particular those children who have:

- (a) Not attended school since last March (2020) or
- (b) Have had sparse attendance and/or credits earned.

SSKC thus seeks responses from qualified consultants, nonprofits, and other agencies that can support high schools in KCPSS towards a “student find” effort, reaching out to local youth to return to school or, if they have been in school, supporting them towards credit recovery so that they can graduate on time.

Scope of Work

SSKC seeks responses to support “student find” efforts in KCPSS addressing (but not limited to) three phases of work. Specifically, SSKC believes qualified consultants will need to (a) start

with and analyze data towards students who have been out of school or are behind academically due to the pandemic; (b) based on that data, find or engage with those students, in a deep citywide effort, coordinated with schools, to understand what has happened and what they need to get back in school and/or back on track to support their success; and (c) develop student-based learning plans towards achievable goals like graduation and/or career-based efforts.

To complete this work, qualified consultants should submit a scope of work that, at a minimum, addresses how they will:

1. **Data Analysis:** Support coordinated data analysis to determine the scope of students who have either not attended or had very sparse attendance/low credits earned, such that the data can be used to:
 - a. Target specific interventions for students (and families) and
 - b. Develop student specific plans towards graduation and beyond.
2. **Student Find:** Provide staff (e.g., social workers, outreach coordinators, etc.) towards grassroots “student find” including coordination with schools (and LEAs), neighborhood community associations, churches, and other organizations towards re-enrolling and/or engaging high school students.
3. **Student-Based Support:** Provide staff and support towards developing student-specific plans for success towards graduation, high school plans, credit recovery, or career-related goals.

Deliverable

The deliverable for this work should include, at a minimum:

- a. A targeted strategy and plan (slide deck, PPT, or word document) to support student find, based on data analysis and coordination with schools;
- b. A documented plan and outline for support of at least 20 hours per week in staff time towards “student find” grassroots outreach, that would occur, at a minimum, over Summer 2021.
- c. A target, agreed upon with funders and schools, towards the following metrics: (a) percent of students re-enrolled/engaged, (b) percent of students returning to “on track” towards graduation; (c) percent of students with plans for graduation.

Timeline

SSKC anticipates that this work with schools will begin prior to Summer 2021 and will continue over the summer and potentially into the Fall of 2021, pending progress and ability to drive in-

person work in a COVID environment. To this end, flexibility of staff and teams will be critical, as we are still in the COVID world and ability to be virtual or in-person (or hybrid) could always change.

Responses

Qualified consultants, nonprofits, and other agencies should submit responses to Noah Devine, Director of Educational Investments at SSKC (ndevine@schoolsmartkc.org) no later than April 23, 2021. Additionally, questions regarding this RFP should be submitted the week prior, no later than April 16, 2021. References should be provided in the response that specifically show previous work in and expertise with reading programs and partnerships with schools. The total response should include a cost estimate and not exceed 5 pages.