



2026 Missouri Academic Enrichment Package Grants

Purpose of Grants

To increase access to academic enrichment programming in the areas of math, science, and English language arts (ELA) in afterschool programs. This opportunity will allow afterschool programs to select books, STEM equipment, and/or math resources that match the academic needs of the youth served by their programs.

Eligibility

Afterschool programs may be operated by a variety of types of organizations, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Community-based organizations (CBOs) such as YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, other 501c3 organizations, etc.
- ✓ Faith-based organizations offering a non-religious enrichment program
- ✓ School districts and institutions of higher education
- ✓ Local government entities such as parks and recreation, housing authorities, etc.

To be eligible, afterschool programs must

- ✓ operate at least 4 days per week
- ✓ operate at least 12 hours per week
- ✓ provide programming that includes a broad array of academic and other enriching activities
- ✓ must document that they are legally operating

Afterschool programs serving school age children ages 5 and above are subject to licensure by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Childhood. Some afterschool programs may be exempt from licensure due to the grades served (sites serving only 6th grade and above) or operating entity (school district or Boys & Girls Club). When an afterschool program becomes licensed or documents their exempt from licensure status, the specific site is assigned a Department Vendor Number (DVN). Afterschool programs should document that they are legally operating by submitting the DVNs for each site. If an applicant does not yet have a DVN for a site, the application form will request additional information.

Competitive Priorities

Priority will be given to programs that submit DVNs for all sites included in the application. Priority will also be given to programs that serve only school age children ages 5 and above.

Timeline

The application window will open on Monday, April 27, 2026 and close on Friday, May 8, 2026 at 1:00 pm. Vendors will be notified during the week of May 11, 2026 and programs will be contacted by vendors the week of May 18, 2026. Packages must be arranged with the vendors by June 12, 2026 or the award will be forfeited. Please be sure to check email regularly during the 4 weeks that vendors will be contacting the afterschool programs.

Assurances and Agreement

By applying for this funding, you agree that:

- The program will take place in a safe and easily accessible facility.
- Students will be offered a broad array of services, programs, and activities.
- The program will use the academic enrichment packages to enhance the academic programming provided to youth in the afterschool program.
- If the program contact named in the application does not complete the selection process with the vendor of the selected academic enhancement package(s) by Friday, June 12, 2026, the program will forfeit the award.

Application Process

Using the Foundant Grant Management System, applicants will select then priority rank up to their choices of academic enrichment packages (descriptions below). At first, only the top choice for each applicant will be considered for funding. If funding remains after awarding all high scoring/eligible first choice items, the second choice items will be considered until funding is fully allocated.

Although there will be only one application with all package options, each academic enrichment package will be scored separately. It will be possible to earn a high score on one package and a lower score on a different package based on the narrative submitted for each requested package.

Academic Enrichment Package Options

ELA – Booksource, a world-wide leader in educational/classroom libraries, based in Hazelwood, MO, will consult with the afterschool program to learn the needs and interests of the youth at the site, co-design a site library, and ship the books to the program. (K-12)

Math – Math and Movement products harness students' natural energy to stimulate brain engagement and accelerate learning, creating a more dynamic and effective learning environment. Kinesthetic educational materials are aligned with state standards for simpler curriculum integration and effective instruction. (K-5 only)

Science – STEMfinity proudly offers expert guidance to help programs identify and select STEM products that align with their specific goals and needs, along with a curated collection of STEM products tailored to engage students in hands-on, inquiry-based learning. (K-12)

Science – STEM PD from the STEM Mobile Lab – This package combines onsite professional development with key equipment for one of the STEM Mobile Lab playlists. Programs may select either Rigamajig (K-5), Cubelets (K-8), 3D STEM (K-12), or Forensics (K-12).