2026–2027 IMPACT Grant 2 Partner Grants

Jefferson Middle School – Zabrina Comer & Dominique Cain, Robeson Elementary School

From Big Kids to Book Buddies: Writing Across the Grades

This project will pair eighth-grade writers with fourth-grade reading buddies to create and publish original books, strengthening literacy, mentorship, and connections between students and families.

Barkstall Elementary – Ashley Daly & Stacie Guido

Today a Reader Tomorrow a Leader – Decodable Books for Struggling Readers K–5

This project will provide engaging, age-appropriate decodable books that help K–5 students strengthen foundational reading skills, build confidence, and discover a love of reading.

Yankee Ridge Elementary – David Dunlap & Sara Mesonero

Adapted PE Equipment

This project will provide specialized physical education equipment to help students with disabilities develop balance, coordination, strength, and mobility while building confidence and encouraging inclusive physical activity.

Edison Middle School – Mia Escobar & Frances Swanberg

Hands On with Learning Fractions

This project will provide hands-on fraction models, tangrams, and organized learning materials to help students visualize math concepts, explore problem-solving strategies, and build confidence and independence.

Urbana Sixth Grade Center – Alyssa Ginzburg & Corrie Maulding

Books Without Borders: Building a Global Library

This project will expand the school's multilingual library collection with engaging, age-appropriate books that reflect students' languages and cultures while fostering inclusion and a love of reading.

Carrie Busey Elementary – Robin Hamilton & McKinley Lener

Classroom Novel Study

This project will provide shared classroom novel sets and flexible seating to help fourth-grade students build reading comprehension, vocabulary, empathy, and a lifelong love of reading through collaborative book studies.

Central High School – Niki Huckstadt & Kristy Wilson

CCHS Respite Space Refresh

This project will refresh Central High School's crisis-respite space with durable, supportive materials that help students manage emotions, navigate difficult moments, and return to learning.

Leal Elementary – Carli Klein & Julie Blixen

Connecting CKLA to Real-Life Experiences

This project will connect third-grade animal-classification studies to a field trip to Aikman Wildlife Adventure, where students will observe animals firsthand, document their learning, and collaborate on a published class book.

Dr. Preston Williams Jr. Elementary – Les Kutz & Shannon McGrann

Buttons for All!

This project will provide a shared button maker and supplies for students and families to create personalized keepsakes, encouraging artistic expression, hands-on learning, and family engagement at school events.

Booker T. Washington STEM Academy – Joseph Lamendola & Brian Anderson

3D Printing Training

This project will introduce students, teachers, and families to 3D design and

printing, building digital skills, creativity, and problem-solving while exploring STEM applications and potential career pathways.

Yankee Ridge Elementary – Patricia Leon Quecan & Lorena Cuenca
Many Prints, One Community: We Are Yankee Ridge
This project will engage all Yankee Ridge students in creating individual printmaking artworks that will come together in a permanent collaborative mural celebrating the school's diverse cultures, identities, and shared community.

Bottenfield Elementary – Magaly Loy & Jill Cheatham
ULFI Decodable Library
This project will create a shared library of decodable books for multilingual learners and students receiving reading interventions, helping K–5 students strengthen literacy skills, build confidence, and become independent readers.

Franklin STEAM Academy – Jennifer Meline & Toniya Robinson-Kelly
Convection Oven for Life Skills Space
This project will provide a convection oven for special education life-skills classes and the Baking Club, giving students hands-on opportunities to develop cooking, kitchen safety, budgeting, collaboration, and independent-living skills.

Urbana Early Childhood School – Heather Nolen & Londa Neely
Little Tigers, Big Sounds: Playful Pathways to Phonological Awareness
This project will provide hands-on literacy materials that help preschool students develop phonological awareness, language, and early reading skills through inclusive, play-based activities that incorporate students' home languages and cultures.

Centennial High School – William Sewell & Jill McClean
Physics Trip to the Museum of Science and Industry
This project will take physics students to Chicago's Griffin Museum of Science and Industry to explore hands-on exhibits that connect classroom

concepts such as energy, motion, and momentum to real-world scientific applications.

Barkstall Elementary – Jami Tanner & Teri Ellis

Wondrous Together: Collaborative Literacy for 1st Grade Multilingual Learners

This project will provide screen-free Wonderbooks with built-in audio to support first-grade students of all reading abilities, strengthening comprehension, vocabulary, and reading independence for multilingual learners and their classmates.

Kenwood Elementary School – Adrienne Yasunaga & Jessica Leverenz

Fifth Grade Enrichment Trip

This project will take fifth-grade students to Chicago's Griffin Museum of Science and Industry for hands-on exploration of science and STEAM concepts while building curiosity, cooperation, responsibility, and independence.