

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About The Kemper Foundation

The Kemper Foundation is the philanthropic partner of Kemper Corporation. Through community outreach and financial support, we aim to strengthen our communities and make a meaningful difference in people's lives. We support causes and non-profit organizations advancing our three focus areas of education, health and community development.

Q: What is the Read Conmigo program?

A: Read Conmigo is The Kemper Foundation's bilingual educator grant program for elementary (K-5) teachers in Spanish-English bilingual classroom settings. Annually, up to 100 teachers will be awarded \$3,000 grants to be used for educational classroom resources and professional development opportunities.

Q: Why is The Kemper Foundation giving grants to benefit Spanish-English bilingual education teachers?

A: The Kemper Foundation endorses the distinct educational, social and financial benefits of bilingualism in Latino families. Read Conmigo grants are focused on advancing bilingual literacy by giving teachers the needed tools, resources and supplies for the classroom, and opportunities for professional development.

Q: Where are Read Conmigo grants available?

A: The initial launch—the fall 2022 grant cycle—for the grant program is in the Greater Los Angeles Area—the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura—to support bilingual literacy among the region's high concentration of Spanish-speaking families. The Foundation plans to expand this program to other metropolitan areas across the U.S. in the future.

Q: Does this Read Conmigo program allow me to get free books?

A: At this time, the focus of the Read Conmigo program is on bilingual educator grants. We'll have more information on the availability of digital books later this year, when we unveil our new Read Conmigo website. We encourage you to check back with us then.

Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to receive a Read Conmigo grant?



A: Eligibility requirements for a Read Conmigo grant:

- Must be employed by an accredited K-5 public or charter school as a licensed teacher in a Spanish-English bilingual class setting in the Greater Los Angeles Area—Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and Ventura County.
- A minimum of two years' prior teaching experience in a Spanish-English bilingual class setting at a public or charter school by the end of the school year during which a grant application is submitted.
- At least 50% of teaching time must be dedicated to providing group instruction to students (one-on-one instructional time does not count toward this time requirement).
- Teachers who are immediate family members of employees of the Kemper family of insurance companies are not eligible to receive the grant. This includes Kemper Corporation, Kemper Auto; Infinity, a Kemper Company (CA); Kemper Personal Insurance; Kemper Health; and Kemper Life.

Please review our [Eligibility Requirements](#) for more information.

Grant Usage

Q: What are the Read Conmigo grants intended to fund?

A: The intention of the Read Conmigo grant program is to provide funds for teachers of Spanish-English bilingual classes for tools, resources and supplies, as well as professional development opportunities. Items approved for funding include:

- Classroom resources and materials that support bilingual learning (e.g., supplies, books, lesson plans, technology, and field trips)
- Professional development instruction, training, conferences, seminars or materials, including books or curriculum-related references

Q: What is excluded from Read Conmigo grant funding?

A: This program does **not** provide funding for general operations, capital projects, endowments, fundraising events or similar activities, religious or political projects, teaching assistants, funding for personal use, summer projects, non-bilingual program club activities, salaries, facility maintenance or education research.

Q: In what period of time do the grants need to be used?

A: The funds must be used by the end of the academic year in which the grant is awarded.

Q: Can funds still be used if a teacher leaves their school or changes schools before the end of the academic year after being awarded a grant?

A: If a teacher leaves their school or moves to a different school before the end of the academic year, they must notify The Kemper Foundation as soon as possible or within 10 days of giving notice to their current school. Unused grant funding may need to be returned to The Kemper Foundation; this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Q: What happens if all the grant money is not spent by the teacher?

A: If a teacher is unable to utilize all the grant funds by the end of the academic year, any leftover funds may be reallocated to the school at the discretion of The Kemper Foundation.

Please review our [Grant Usage Guidelines](#) for more information.

Application-Related

Q: What is the deadline for the grant application process?

A: Application submission deadlines are listed on [The Kemper Foundation website](#) and in the Read Conmigo Grant Eligibility Requirements. **The current deadline for application submissions is July 7, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. PT.**

Q: Can I apply for a Read Conmigo grant in the fall and spring during the same academic year?

A: No, teachers can apply for only one grant per academic school year.

Q: How does a teacher begin the grant application process?

A: Click the “Apply Now” link found on [The Kemper Foundation website](#). This links to the application portal, where you will create a username and password to begin the process. Details and instructions will be provided on the platform.

Q: I have feedback or a suggestion about the Read Conmigo Program. Where can I send it?

A: Please e-mail readconmigo@thekemperfoundation.org to send feedback and suggestions.

Q: Who do I contact for technical issues on the application portal?

A: When you log into the application portal, there is a “Contact Support” button at the top of the page. Click on this button and submit a ticket for technical support. Also, while you are filling out the application, there is a “Need Assistance” option at the bottom of the page where you can email your issue or chat about it.

Q: Can an application be reviewed in its entirety before submission?

A: Yes, you can review the information in your application submission at any time during the process.

Q: Can I download a copy of my completed grant application?

A: Yes, there is an option to download the application.

Q: Can an incomplete grant application be saved and returned to at a later time?

A: Yes, you can return to your application by logging into the application portal with your username and password. Your application is automatically saved.

Q: How is grant status being communicated to applicants?

A: Applicants will receive communications at specific points in the grant selection process:

- Upon submitting a completed grant application, applicants will receive a confirmation email.
- After consideration by our grant selection committee, applicants will receive an emailed notification indicating the decision on their grant application. This decision will be communicated within 50 days of the grant application deadline (or by mid-August 2022, for the current application period).

Q: When should applicants contact The Kemper Foundation in the application process?

A: The Foundation should be contacted if applicants have technical difficulties or questions while submitting an application, or if a grant decision has not been provided within 50 days after the application deadline. The Kemper Foundation can be contacted at readconmigo@thekemperfoundation.org.

Grant Process

Q: What is the selection process for awarding a grant?

A: After the submission deadline, a selection committee comprised of officers from The Kemper Foundation and Read Conmigo program partners will review the submitted eligible applications and identify the grant recipients. Schools will be required to confirm a grant recipient's employment, provide a filed W9, and complete a grant distribution form before a teacher is awarded.

Q: How are the grants distributed?

A: When an awarded teacher's school has provided the necessary information, the school will be issued the grant funds and will distribute the award directly to the teacher.

Q: When will the grants be awarded?



A: Grant funds will be awarded in August of 2022 for the current grant cycle.

Q: Is feedback available to an applicant for a declined grant request?

A: The Kemper Foundation is unable to provide each applicant specific feedback beyond what is included in the decision communication.

Q: If awarded a grant, does my school need to provide documentation to accept grant funding from The Kemper Foundation?

A: Yes, in order to accept and disburse grant funds awarded to the teacher, the school will need to provide a copy of a filed W9, confirm a grant recipient's employment, and complete a grant distribution form and send to The Kemper Foundation.

Q: Does the Foundation accept Letters of Intent (LOI)?

A: No, Letters of Intent are not required for this process.

Reporting Requirements for Grant Recipients

Q: Are there reporting requirements for teachers that receive grants?

A: Yes, teachers receiving grants will be required to provide The Kemper Foundation with a grant outcome report including a summary of how the grant funds were utilized and receipts for items purchased. The recipient will receive the report request from The Kemper Foundation by email 30 days before the conclusion of the school year, and the report must be completed and submitted before the final day of the academic year.