

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kemper Foundation's Read Conmigo Program Awards Dallas-Area Fall 2024 Bilingual Educator Grants

CHICAGO, September 30, 2024—[The Kemper Foundation](http://TheKemperFoundation.org), the philanthropic partner of [Kemper Corporation](http://KemperCorporation.com), announced today it has awarded grants to advance bilingual literacy to schoolteachers in the greater Los Angeles, Dallas and Miami areas. This is the fifth round of grants awarded through the Foundation's [Read Conmigo program](http://ReadConmigoProgram.org) since the program launched in 2022, bringing the program's award total to nearly \$750,000.

Read Conmigo grants are focused on strengthening bilingual literacy skills and improving learning opportunities for elementary Latino and Hispanic students. The Kemper Foundation annually awards up to 100 grants of \$3,000 each to public and charter schoolteachers of Spanish-English bilingual classrooms. The grants can be used for classroom resources, tools and materials, and professional development.

Recipients were selected by a panel of Kemper Foundation principals and partners, including the Bilingual/ESL Education Association of the Metroplex (Dallas), the Florida Association for Bilingual Education, the California Association for Bilingual Education, and GPSN.

"We are incredibly proud to support this dedicated group of educators who are making a lasting impact on their bilingual students," said Barbara Ciesemier, President of The Kemper Foundation. "By equipping teachers with the resources and professional development they need, we're not only helping them create enriched learning environments but also contributing to meaningful academic growth. It's inspiring to see how the Read Conmigo grants are enhancing students' bilingual abilities and overall classroom engagement."

"I'm really grateful for such an amazing opportunity," said fifth grade teacher, Sandra Manchola, a Read Conmigo grant recipient from John W. Runyon Elementary School in Dallas, Texas. "In bilingual classrooms, the language requirements are doubled and dual cultural elements need to be integrated as well, which is a challenge. The flexibility of the Read Conmigo grant allows me to invest in the classroom, my students, and in myself. With the tools and resources from the grant, I can address my students' individual needs, better engage them in learning, and support them to succeed."

About The Kemper Foundation

[The Kemper Foundation](http://TheKemperFoundation.org) is the philanthropic partner of Kemper Corporation and focuses on support for charitable causes and organizations in education, health and community development. Through our owned-programs, key partnerships, financial donations, and Kemper employee volunteerism, we aim to make a meaningful difference in the communities where we live and work.

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