

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kemper Foundation Awards \$220,000 in Read Conmigo Grants to 22 Elementary Schools

CHICAGO, August 1, 2025 — The Kemper Foundation awarded \$220,000 in Read Conmigo School Impact Grants to 22 Title I elementary schools across California, Texas and Florida, helping strengthen dual-language education and expand opportunities for bilingual students in under-resourced communities.

The Read Conmigo School Impact Grants, introduced late last year, fund projects such as bilingual library collections, instructional technology, educator development, and family engagement programs, each tailored to meet the unique needs and aspirations of each school community.

“These grants are an investment in both academic success and student confidence,” said Joseph P. Lacher, Jr., Chair of The Kemper Foundation’s Board of Trustees and President and CEO of Kemper Corporation. “When students feel supported and understood—especially those from dual-language homes—they’re more engaged, they learn more effectively, and ultimately, we all benefit. It’s inspiring to see how schools use these resources to unlock opportunities for their students, and we’re proud to stand alongside them.”

Denise Knutsen, Assistant Superintendent of West Covina Unified School District in Los Angeles County, California, where Orangewood Elementary School received a grant, highlighted the importance of the program. “Dual-language programs are vital to developing these young people,” she said. “This grant will help deepen our school’s impact on students and staff while expanding opportunities for meaningful family engagement.”

[Since launching the Read Conmigo Grant Program in 2022](#) with Educator Grants, The Foundation has awarded over \$1 million, including \$885,000 to educators and now \$220,000 to Title I schools, to support bilingual learning. Educator grants have reached teachers in more than 60 cities across five counties in Southern California, as well as Dallas County, Texas, and Miami-Dade and Broward counties in South Florida. The new School Impact Grants also extend to Hidalgo County, Texas.

In the most recent academic year, 89% of Educator Grant recipients reported measurable improvement in students’ reading comprehension, and 84% observed increased student confidence in biliteracy skills, underscoring the program’s positive impact on both academic abilities and self-esteem. Research also shows biliteracy benefits brain development and helps English learners succeed academically while preserving their native language, according to a 2022 U.S. News & World Report article.

2025 Read Conmigo School Impact Grant Recipients: California (12):

- Baldy View Elementary School (Upland)
- Clara Barton Elementary School (Anaheim)

- Durfee School (El Monte)
- El Sol Science and Arts Academy (Santa Ana)
- Euclid Avenue School (Los Angeles)
- Fremont Elementary School (Alhambra)
- Mar Vista School (Oxnard)
- McKinley Elementary School (San Gabriel)
- Mountain View Elementary School (Claremont)
- Orangewood Elementary School (West Covina)
- Sycamore Magnet Academy (Tustin)
- West Riverside Elementary School (Jurupa Valley)

Florida (5):

- Coral Way K-8 Center (Miami)
- Meadowbrook Elementary School (Fort Lauderdale)
- Palm Lakes Elementary School (Hialeah)
- Ramblewood Elementary School (Coral Springs)
- Sea Castle Elementary School (Miramar)

Texas (5):

- Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School (Dallas)
- Alex Sanger Preparatory School (Dallas)
- Maria Alicia P. Muñoz Elementary School (Donna)
- Dr. Pablo Perez Elementary School (McAllen)
- Stephen C. Foster Elementary School (Dallas)

Brief descriptions of each school's funded initiatives are available at thekemperfoundation.org/read-conmigo/school-grants/.

About The Kemper Foundation

The Kemper Foundation 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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