

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Kemper Foundation Awards \$220,000 to 22 Title I Elementary Schools
The Foundation's Second Year of Read Conmigo School Impact Grants Expands Support Across Five States

CHICAGO, July 13, 2026 — The Kemper Foundation awarded \$220,000 in Read Conmigo School Impact Grants to 22 Title I elementary schools across Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, and Texas, to strengthen dual-language education and expand opportunities for bilingual students in under-resourced communities.

The Read Conmigo School Impact Grants, launched in 2025, support school-designed initiatives including bilingual library collections, instructional technology, educator professional development, and family engagement programs, allowing each school to address its unique needs and priorities. In 2026, the program expanded to include schools in Chicago, Houston, and Phoenix, in addition to Dallas, Greater Los Angeles, McAllen, and Miami. Unlike traditional classroom grants, School Impact Grants support schoolwide initiatives that can benefit hundreds of students while strengthening bilingual education programs for years to come.

Early results from the inaugural 2025 School Impact Grants demonstrate meaningful, measurable outcomes for students, educators, and school communities. Nearly all reporting schools indicated improvements in students' biliteracy development, and more than 80 percent reported gains in Spanish language skills, confidence using a second language, and educator capacity and instructional practice. Schools also reported positive changes in family engagement, school climate, and cultural awareness, reflecting the grants' broader impact on school communities.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed," said Foundation President Barbara Ciesemier. "These grants help schools create stronger learning environments for bilingual students while giving educators the tools and resources they need to make an even greater impact. We're proud to support schools that are helping students reach their full potential."

Since launching the Read Conmigo Grant Program in 2022, The Kemper Foundation has invested approximately \$1.6 million to advance dual-language education, including nearly \$1.2 million in educator grants and \$440,000 in school impact grants.

2026 Read Conmigo School Impact Grant Recipients:

Arizona (1):

- Biltmore Preparatory Academy (Phoenix, AZ)

California (8):

- Adelaide Price Elementary School (Anaheim, CA)

- Beardslee Dual Language Immersion Academy (Duarte, CA)
- Billy Mitchell Elementary School (Lawndale, CA)
- Camino Nuevo Jose Castellanos Campus (Los Angeles, CA)
- Jefferson Elementary School (Santa Ana, CA)
- Jordan Elementary School (Whittier, CA)
- Manzanita Elementary School (Covina, CA)
- Valleydale Elementary School (Azusa, CA)

Florida (1):

- Cypress Elementary School (Pompano Beach, FL)

Illinois (4):

- Academy for Global Citizenship (Chicago, IL)
- Dr. Jorge Prieto Math and Science Academy (Chicago, IL)
- Horizon Science Academy Belmont (Chicago, IL)
- Washington Dual Language Academy (Melrose Park, IL)

Texas (8):

- Allen and William Arnold Elementary School (Pharr, TX)
- Ben Milam Elementary School (McAllen, TX)
- Escamilla Elementary School (Houston, TX)
- Houston Elementary School (Lancaster, TX)
- L.F. Smith Elementary School (Pasadena, TX)
- L.L. Hotchkiss Elementary School (Dallas, TX)
- Marcella Elementary School (Houston, TX)
- Mount Auburn STEAM Academy (Dallas, TX)

Learn more about each funded project 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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