



Kansas-Missouri International Dyslexia Association (KS-MO IDA)

Teacher Scholarship Guidelines

(Revised September 2018)

Goals of the Scholarship Program: One of the main goals of the Kansas-Missouri International Dyslexia Association (KS-MO IDA) is to promote evidence-based literacy instruction for teachers. We believe that training teachers will have the greatest impact on students who struggle to learn how to read in the Kansas and Missouri bistate area. In order to facilitate this goal, a Teacher Scholarship program has been established to provide support to teachers to help offset the costs of such training. The KS-MO bistate branch of IDA takes its lead from the International Dyslexia Association, whose motto is “Until All Can Read.” The KS-MO IDA branch is promoting programs that instruct teachers in Orton-Gillingham approaches to reading, as students with dyslexia and other language-based learning disabilities need these approaches to succeed. These approaches constitute “structured literacy” and are systematic, explicit, multisensory, sequential, and taught to mastery. They are proven by research to be most effective in remediating students with dyslexia. For this reason, only programs whose content has been approved by the KS-MO IDA Scholarship Committee are eligible for reimbursement through the scholarship program. If an applicant knows of another training program other than those currently listed as approved, they are encouraged to contact the scholarship committee to have that program submit materials for review and potential inclusion for reimbursement in the future.

Orton Gillingham programs require extensive training for teachers and must be taught with fidelity to mastery. We want to stress that taking an introductory course prepares a teacher for further training, including practicum work, but it does not qualify one as a practitioner at the outset, and this practicum experience is vital. Please discuss with the training site what additional coursework/practica are required in order to be qualified as a practitioner. Due to limited funds, scholarships can only be applied to classroom training at this time.

Scholarship Committee: The Scholarship Committee consists of a diverse group of professionals, including KS-MO IDA Board Members, teachers and administrators from both Kansas and Missouri.

Eligible Applicants: All teachers (general education, special education, reading specialists) currently employed in a public or private school in Kansas or Missouri.

Instructions for Completing the Teacher Scholarship Application

1. **Please submit the online application.** The application can be found on the Kansas-Missouri IDA website, <http://ksmo.dyslexiaida.org/>
2. Scholarship applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed monthly by the Scholarship Committee. Interested applicants should submit all scholarship application materials to the committee prior to the start date of their class. **Scholarship decisions will be made on a monthly basis and applicants will be notified of the status of their application by email.**
3. All applicants must be currently employed as a teacher (general education, special education, reading specialist) in a public or private school in Kansas or Missouri.
4. **A letter of recommendation from the applicant's current supervisor (principal or administrator) is required and must be submitted electronically at the time of application submission. It is advised that the applicant obtain a copy of this letter from their supervisor so that it can be uploaded by the applicant.** The letter should address the applicant's motivation for and need to attend the teacher training in dyslexia. **The letter should be uploaded directly into the application where indicated.**
APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE WITHOUT THE SUPERVISOR'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.
5. **Scholarship awardees will be required to register for the training class and to pay for 100% of the tuition directly to the educational institution/training center in advance.**
6. **Scholarships will cover up to \$500, not to exceed the cost of the class.** Applicants are responsible for any book costs or additional fees. Scholarship awards can be applied only to classroom training, not practicum experiences. The reimbursement amount will be dependent on a number of factors, including the number of applications received and the scholarship budget. Each application will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Courses must meet IDA standards.
7. Please be prepared to answer the following essay questions on the application. **Please note that you cannot save your answers on the online form and return to it later, so it is advised that you formulate your answers to these questions prior to typing them**

into the application form. You will receive an email copy of your answers after you submit your application to the scholarship committee.

- What is your experience with dyslexia?
- What is your current approach to struggling readers in your classroom (i.e., materials, programs, resources, and strategies)?
- Why do you want to attend this training?
- Why do you feel you should be awarded a scholarship to attend the training?
- How do you plan to disseminate the dyslexia training information to your colleagues?
- How did you learn about this scholarship?
- Does your school district or school fund teacher training? If yes, how much does your district reimburse per course?
- Are you applying for any additional scholarship funds besides this one? If so, from where and for how much?
- Is there any additional information that you feel that the scholarship committee needs to know when considering your application?

8. Scholarships will be awarded to previously notified applicants following successful completion of the course and submission of required follow-up documentation. Please submit all of the following required documents online within 30 calendar days of taking the class.

- Completion of the online Teacher Training Follow-Up Form, found on the Kansas-Missouri IDA website, <http://ksmo.dyslexiaida.org/>. This will require uploading 2 documents:
 - Any certificates of attendance or completion that you received at the end of the class.
 - A 1-page typed reflection essay. Please include how this training has impacted you. Based on your new knowledge about dyslexia, how will you change your instruction and support you offer to struggling readers?
- Please be prepared to answer the following questions on the Teacher Training Follow-Up Form:
 - What did you learn in your dyslexia training course?
 - What information did you learn that you feel you can use right away in your classroom?
 - What pressing questions remain for you regarding dyslexia?

- What additional support do you feel you need to better meet the needs of students with dyslexia?
 - Would you be interested in attending another continuing education class, conference, or inservice on dyslexia? If yes, what topics would you like to learn more about?
9. Upon receipt of all follow-up documents listed in #7, a check will be mailed to the scholarship recipient at the home address listed on the Teacher Training Follow-up Form. Checks will be mailed to scholarship recipients within 30 days from the date of submission of all required follow-up materials.

Criteria for Selection of Teacher Scholarship Recipient

A number of criteria will be considered to select successful applicants. These include:

1. Teacher's responses to essay questions
2. The number of students who will be directly impacted from this teacher training
3. The teacher's plan to share information with their school colleagues
4. Amount of alternative funding available to the applicant (e.g., funding by their school, outside scholarship funds)
5. Current scholarship budget
6. IDA member status of the applicant

If you have any questions, please contact the Kansas-Missouri IDA Scholarship Committee by email at ksmoidascholarships@gmail.com

See "Approved Teacher Training Opportunities" under the Scholarship tab for a list of currently approved training courses.