



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

Teacher Scholarship Guidelines

(Revised February, 2019)

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.

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.dyslexiada.org/>
2. Scholarship applications are accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed monthly by the Scholarship Committee as funds are available. Interested applicants should submit their application 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. **In order for teachers to be successful in using the skills provided by approved trainings in their schools, institutional support for structured literacy is critical.** Therefore, 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 reimburse the applicant up to \$1500, not to exceed the cost of the class and required materials.** Scholarship awards can be applied only to classroom training, not practicum experiences. The actual reimbursement amount will be dependent on a number of factors, including the number of applications received, outside funding available for the applicant's course, and the scholarship budget. Each application will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Courses must meet IDA standards.
7. **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?
- 8. 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. Quality of teacher's responses to application 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
7. Geographical diversity of applicants across Kansas and Missouri, including underserved rural and inner-city areas of both states

See "Approved Teacher Training Opportunities" under the Scholarship tab for a list of currently approved training courses. Additional courses may become available following the publication of this document. The application does allow a spot for write-in courses, subject to approval by the scholarship committee.

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