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

Teacher Scholarship Guidelines

(Revised August, 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 personal costs of such training. We fund individual teachers and not schools or school districts with our program. Our scholarship is designed for teachers in public or private schools to provide structured literacy instruction to students at no cost in their own school setting. The scholarship program at this time is not intended to train tutors.

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, and reading specialists) currently employed in a public or private school in Kansas or Missouri are eligible to apply. **Applicants must be current IDA members. If you are not currently an IDA member, click on** https://ksmo.dyslexiaida.org/ **for a membership application and benefits of membership.** The reason for this requirement is that IDA membership provides access to current resources (e.g., journals, newsletters, IDA-Members only Facebook groups, conference discounts) to support the teacher's knowledge of structured literacy, which will further reinforce the information learned in the training courses we support.

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

2. Past recipients of a KSMO IDA teacher training scholarship are ineligible to receive another scholarship for a 12-month period. Repeat applicants after that time period are welcome to apply for additional training but will be required to show evidence that they are applying what they have learned in the initial training in the classroom.

3. We have established quarterly deadlines, after which the application will not be available on the website until the next quarterly application opening date. Please refer to the chart below.

Application Form Open Online	Teacher Training Scholarship Application Deadline	Month in which Training Course is Offered	Award Notifications Sent
August 15	October 15	October, November, December	October 30
November 1	December 1	January, February, March	January 20
February 1	March 1	April, May, June	April 1
April 15	June 1	July, August, September	July 1

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by email.

4. 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 principal 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 principal so that it can be uploaded by the applicant.

The principal letter must address three points: the applicant's motivation for and need to attend the teacher training in dyslexia, the institution's support for said training, and any institutional funding available to you as an applicant.

5. **Scholarship awardees will be required to register for the training class and to personally pay for 100% of the tuition directly to the educational institution/training center in advance.** A paid receipt from the training institution will be required for reimbursement.

6. **Applicants are eligible for an award 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. Please refer to the Criteria for Selection. Each application will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Courses must meet IDA standards.

7. Scholarship Awardees are responsible for updating the Scholarship Committee in writing at ksmoidascholarships@gmail.com about any funding changes, no matter the dollar amount. **Failure to notify the committee about funding changes will result in the scholarship being cancelled in entirety**. It is important to note that funding from other sources may not prevent an applicant from receiving a scholarship.

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

   Awardees must complete the online Teacher Training Follow-Up Form, found on the Kansas-Missouri IDA website, http://ksmo.dyslexiaida.org/.

   The Follow-Up form will require uploading 3 documents:

   - A certificate of attendance/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?
   - A paid receipt from the training institution

9. Upon receipt of all follow-up documents listed in #8, 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.

10. If the approved course is cancelled, the original scholarship offer becomes null and void. Therefore, applicants will need to reapply for a future scholarship consideration.

Criteria for Selection of Teacher Scholarship Recipient

Scholarship applicants must be current IDA members.

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 and community.
4. Amount of alternative funding available to the applicant (e.g., funding by their school, outside scholarship funds).
5. Current scholarship budget
6. Geographical diversity of applicants across Kansas and Missouri, including underserved rural and inner-city areas of both states

See "Approved Teacher Training Opportunities" document on the Teacher Scholarship page 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. A minimum of one month, prior to the start of the course, must be given for the Scholarship Committee to determine the approval of the write-in course.