



Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) School-Related Funding Summary

There are more than 18,000 Mat-Su students attending public schools at 48 sites, and more than 2,000 teachers and staff. The types of activities and interests among all could generate an infinite number of unique ideas benefiting from financial support. However, the MSHF responsive grants budget is finite, and requests must be considered alongside other community priorities. MSHF strives to promote healthy, enriching activities related to the school environment that are universally accessible to all students in the local school community. This document applies to public, charter, private, and home school programs.

What MSHF funds:

1. Before-and after-school activities

Healthy before-and-after school activities for students are a priority of the MSHF. These activities build community and enhance school community connectedness and academic success in children and youth.

Examples:

- Health-related, non-sanctioned activities, programs and clubs that support healthy habits of students (e.g., afterschool cross-country ski programs).
- Programs that provide healthy and supported emotional outlets focusing on wellness.
- Activities that promote social connectedness and are universally available at the school.

2. School personnel

Healthy activities are an added cost to schools that are attempting to enrich the school experience for students by offering non-sanctioned activities outside of regular school hours. As with any activity, there are costs. In this case, personnel costs may need to be funded to offer this enrichment not covered by school-day or allocated activity funding.

Example: Personnel costs are not normally sanctioned by a school for the activity (e.g., for advisors).

3. Equipment

Healthy activities are an added cost to schools trying to enrich the school experience for students by offering non-sanctioned activities to students outside of regular school hours. As with any activity, there are costs. Equipment may need to be funded to offer this enrichment not covered by school-day or allocated activity funding.

Example: Non-capital items universally used by groups of students to promote health and social connectedness (e.g., snowshoes, cross-country skis).

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What MSHF does not fund:

1. Capital projects

The building of school infrastructure is considered the responsibility of the Mat-Su Borough. Deferred maintenance of these infrastructures is also considered to the Borough's responsibility.

Example: Buildings, playground equipment, projects that require a foundation (stationary fixtures) and deferred maintenance.

2. Programs held during school hours as part of an existing curriculum

The school district is funded annually by the state budgeting process (base student allocation), the federal government by annual appropriation, and by grants to provide a free public education to all school-age children in Mat-Su. Educational programming delivered during the state-required school day is considered the school district's responsibility through existing means. However, if it is a health-related initiative, the project may be funded.

Examples include:

- Data that supports the need for the project.
- An identified public health issue being addressed (e.g., life-saving swimming skills).

3. School-sanctioned sports

MSHF grant guidelines do not allow for the funding of competitive sports and activities. However, some consideration should be given to assisting students who cannot afford to participate in school sports and activities. It is reasonable for MSHF to provide funds to support participation by students who might not otherwise be able to, especially in low-income areas of Mat-Su.

Examples include:

- Some school-sanctioned sports are open to all (no tryouts, no cuts) and do not provide student athletes with the equipment necessary to compete.
- There is a nonprofit entity apart from the school that supports student participation in sports and activities.