

# DeSoto ISD & Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Grant: School Board Overview (2025-2027)

## Background & Purpose of PLTW in DeSoto ISD

The Project Lead The Way (PLTW) grant was secured to help expand STEM opportunities for DeSoto ISD students across elementary, middle, and high school levels. The program is designed to provide hands-on, project-based STEM learning experiences that align with college and career pathways.

### Why This Grant Matters

- **Expand access to high-quality STEM education.**
- **Strengthens workforce readiness** by aligning education with industry demands.
- **Trains teachers in specialized STEM curriculum** to enhance instruction.
- **Provides students with career and technical training** in engineering and computer science.

### Strategic Grant Distribution

Funding was allocated to schools based on their readiness to implement or expand PLTW programs. The selection process prioritized:

- ✓ **Schools with existing STEM initiatives that could be expanded.**
- ✓ **High-need campuses that lacked sufficient STEM exposure.**
- ✓ **Equitable access across elementary, middle, and high school levels.**

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## Funding Breakdown & Use

Each school received allocated funding based on program type and implementation capacity:

School	Program	Total Grant	Year 1 (2025-26)	Year 2 (2026-27)
DeSoto HS	Engineering	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
DeSoto HS	Computer Science	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
DeSoto West MS	Gateway	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
McCowan MS	Gateway	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Katherine Johnson Academy	Gateway	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Katherine Johnson Academy	Launch	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Woodridge Elementary	Launch	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Cockrell Hill Elementary	Launch	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Amber Terrace Elementary	Launch	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

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## Allowable Grant Expenditures

Grant funds can be used for:

- ✓ **PLTW Participation Fees** (required for school involvement)
  - ✓ **Technology** (computers, tablets, and other required equipment)
  - ✓ **Program-Specific Supplies & Materials**
  - ✓ **PLTW Core Teacher Training** (including travel, room, and board)
  - ⊘ **Unallowable Expenses:** Salaries, stipends, meals, infrastructure, renovations, or optional equipment.
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## Implementation & Sustainability Plan





PLTW is designed to become a permanent part of DeSoto ISD's academic offerings.

### How We Will Sustain PLTW Beyond the Grant

- 1 PLTW will be integrated into the STEM curriculum, not just as an elective.
  - 2 Additional funding sources, including corporate sponsors, external grants, and state funding, will be pursued.
  - 3 District commitment to long-term financial support ensures the program's longevity.
  - 4 Partnerships with businesses and colleges will provide mentorship, internships, and hands-on experiences.
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## Expected Impact & Success Measures

PLTW will drive **measurable improvements** in STEM learning and workforce readiness:

-  **Increased STEM engagement:** More students participating in hands-on STEM activities.
  -  **Higher college & career readiness:** More students pursuing STEM-related degrees and careers.
  -  **More STEM-trained teachers:** Expanding teacher expertise in engineering and computer science.
  -  **Industry connections:** Partnering with local businesses for real-world learning opportunities.
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## Compliance & Reporting

To ensure grant compliance, schools must:

- ✓ Maintain active PLTW participation and implement the approved curriculum.
  - ✓ Submit annual reports via the PLTW My Grants platform.
  - ✓ Collect student & teacher surveys for program improvement.
  - ✓ Meet financial oversight requirements managed by DeSoto ISD's Grant Compliance Team.
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## Key Takeaways:

- The grant selection process was intentional and strategic, focusing on equity, sustainability, and long-term impact.
  - Funding is strictly allocated for PLTW implementation and does not cover salaries or non-PLTW expenses.
  - The district has a clear plan for sustaining PLTW after the grant period.
  - Schools must meet strict compliance requirements, including annual reports and teacher training.
  - The program aligns with DeSoto ISD's workforce readiness goals, ensuring students are equipped with real-world STEM skills.
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