

Decorah Community School District Foundation

ExCel Endowment - Grant Criteria

Who is eligible?

Students in grades 6 through 11 and enrolled in Decorah Community School District (DCS) will be eligible. This includes students who are home-schooled but supervised by the DCS, and students enrolled in St. Benedict School.

The student must be in this grade range at the time of the application.

What programs will be eligible for funding?

Depending on funding availability, the programs will be prioritized as follows:

1. Academic/Technical
 2. Fine Arts
- ❖ Eligible programs shall not be part of the normal Decorah Community School District curriculum and must take place outside of Winneshiek County.
 - ❖ As ExCel grants are meant to encourage students' individual interests and afford unique academic/technical experiences for Decorah 6th-11th graders, summer class trips or group tours are **not** eligible for ExCel funding (for example: 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C., 10th grade trip to New York).

How much will be awarded?

- ❖ The finance committee of the DCS Foundation shall determine the amount of funds available each year. The total amount awarded shall never exceed 5% of the principal amount of the ExCel Endowment Fund as of Dec. 31.
- ❖ The level and number of awards will be based on the availability of funds.
- ❖ If the student is unable or chooses not to attend the program after the Foundation has advanced the funds, the student shall reimburse the Foundation for all funds advanced.
- ❖ Awarded funds will be paid directly to the program upon notification to the DCSD board treasurer.

What shall be the selection criteria?

- ❖ Students shall complete an application for ExCel funding located on the DCS website.
- ❖ The application shall be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and by a faculty member from the school attended.
- ❖ The application shall identify the program for which funding is requested, the institution sponsoring the program, and the dates the program is offered. The application shall include any printed material about the program that is available.
- ❖ The application shall include an estimate of all expenses associated with attending the program, and an estimate of the sources of funding.
- ❖ Applications should be submitted even if the student has not formally been accepted into the program. If a student is approved for funding, but does not get accepted into the program, the Foundation has the right to award the funds to alternate applicants.
- ❖ A student may apply for more than one program, but must prioritize applications. The Foundation will award only one grant per student (per scholarship cycle).

Who shall serve on the selection committee?

The committee shall consist of three or five members of the Decorah Community School District Foundation. One member shall be designated as chairperson of the committee.

When are applications due?

Applications shall be due by 4:00 p.m. on the **last school day of April of each year**. Completed applications shall be submitted to the DCSD Central Administration building and forwarded to the chair of the selection committee. Selection shall be made by the end of the first full week of May. Students will be notified if they are selected to receive an award and the amount awarded. They will also be notified if their request is not funded.

What are the post-program requirements?

The student must be willing to submit a report on the program attended. The report may be a written or verbal presentation to the Foundation or an opportunity for the Foundation to witness a presentation made by the student to others.

DECORAH COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION
EXCEL ENDOWMENT

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

Please complete in ink, type, or word process

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian
Name: _____

Home address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

School: _____

Current grade: _____

Name of Enrichment
Program: _____

Location: _____

Dates: _____

Name of Sponsoring
Institution: _____

Purpose of the program (*please attach any relevant printed materials also*)

Why do you want to attend this program, and what do you hope to gain from attending?

How will you share your experience with other students and teachers?

What are the costs of attending the program?

- Tuition _____
- Room & Board _____
- Materials _____
- Transportation _____
- **Total** _____

These expenses will be paid from the following sources (please list the amount):

- Parent/Guardian _____
- Fund-raising _____
- Scholarships _____
- ExCel Award request _____
- Other _____

Are there any special circumstances the selection committee should consider?

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

I, the undersigned, do authorize the Decorah Community School District Foundation to release information which is contained in my ExCel Endowment application form to any person or entity for any purpose which is related to the goals and objectives of the DCSD Foundation.

A photocopy or exact reproduction of this authorization for release of information shall have the same effect as the original.

Printed Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian
Signature _____

Signature of faculty member recommending student _____

*Please return this form to Central Administration Office, 510 Winnebago St., Decorah, IA 52101
no later than 4:00 p.m. on the last school day in the month of April.*