

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Graham Early Education Center Site Improvements in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Los Angeles Unified School District, located at 333 South Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

This request is to create an outdoor learning environment for preschoolers at Graham Early Education Center by transforming the existing playground into distinct activity zones, including natural play areas, planting sections, shaded spots, and seating. This outdoor classroom would be composed of an approximately 7,500 square foot site that includes 2,280 square feet of planting area and 1,115 square feet of natural turf with new irrigation. Work may include replacing playground matting; adding trees, native plants, and shrubs; installing new paving and color coating; and adding raised planters, a toddler climbing set, an outdoor dining area, a tricycle path, and new site furnishings.

This project gives preschool children daily access to nature-based learning and a nearby space to explore plants, insects, and the natural world. By improving accessibility and adding green space, it supports healthier child development, strengthens outdoor education, and promotes community wellbeing in an underserved area. The project will serve approximately 75 students and their households annually, as well as the surrounding community.

This project is needed because the upgraded space increases green infrastructure in an underserved neighborhood, supporting healthier child development and improving access to safe outdoor environments. No enhancements have been made to the Early Education Center's outdoor area in the last 20 years, aside from standard maintenance.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress