



Promise Neighborhoods FY 2026

Project Overview

The Wilderness Education Project (WEP), in partnership with **Johnson, Lawrence, Menifee, and Pikeville Independent Schools**, along with numerous community partners, is applying for the U.S. Department of Education's FY 2026 Promise Neighborhoods Grant. This competitive five-year initiative is designed to improve educational achievement and strengthen family and community supports by creating a coordinated, cradle-to-career system of services for children and families.

Project Goals

- Improve kindergarten readiness.
- Increase academic achievement in literacy and mathematics.
- Support successful transitions through middle and high school.
- Increase high school graduation rates.
- Expand college, career, and workforce readiness.
- Promote student health, wellness, and safe learning environments.
- Strengthen family engagement and access to community resources.
- Increase access to technology and 21st-century learning opportunities.

Key Project Positions

On-Site Building-Level Coordinator

Each participating school will have access to an On-Site Coordinator who will serve as the primary liaison between the school, students, families, and community partners. The coordinator will connect families with services, strengthen family engagement, coordinate project activities, and support implementation of the Promise Neighborhoods initiative within the school.

Career Support Specialist (High School)

The project will also support a Career Support Specialist dedicated to helping high school students explore career pathways, prepare for postsecondary education and employment, participate in work-based learning experiences, connect with business and industry partners, and develop the skills needed for long-term success.

Building Stronger Communities Together

Promise Neighborhoods is built on the belief that lasting student success is achieved when schools, families, local governments, businesses, higher education, healthcare providers, and community organizations work together. This initiative will create a sustainable network of educational and community supports that improves opportunities for children and families while strengthening the future workforce and overall quality of life.