



**Pilot Civic Engagement and Educational
Opportunity Initiative**

Jonesboro Education Trust (JET)

Building Aspirations Through Civic Engagement

JONESBORO EDUCATION TRUST, CITY OF JONESBORO, CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Prepared by the Office of Councilman Alfred Dixon

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1. Program Description

The Jonesboro Education Trust (JET) is a civic engagement-driven education and opportunity initiative designed to expose students and families to financial literacy, leadership development, educational planning, and long-term pathways to success beginning in kindergarten. Through approved civic engagement, educational participation, leadership exposure, and financial literacy opportunities, participating families may receive periodic JET participation updates, milestone recognition opportunities, and future sponsor-supported educational opportunity initiatives that may be associated with verified family-owned deposit-only savings accounts administered independently by participating financial institutions.

JET is intended to complement, not replace, existing educational savings tools and financial opportunity programs available to families. Participation in JET does not create a guaranteed right to funding, account growth, sponsorship support, or future financial contributions.

2. Why Staying Connected in Jonesboro Matters

While JET is designed to support individual students, its impact is deeply rooted in strengthening connection, pride, and long-term engagement within the City of Jonesboro. Remaining engaged in Jonesboro allows students to fully participate in the program's engagement and recognition opportunities, leadership opportunities and long-term partnerships. More importantly, it reinforces the belief that Jonesboro is not just a place to live, but a community that invests in its young people when they invest back into it.

Through education, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement, JET prepares scholars to succeed while cultivating future leaders who understand the value of community, service, and ownership. In doing so, JET strengthens both individual outcomes and the long-term vitality of the City of Jonesboro.

3. Role of the City of Jonesboro

The City of Jonesboro shall serve as the convener, facilitator, and coordinating entity of the Jonesboro Education Trust (JET) initiative. The City's role is limited to civic engagement coordination, outreach, and participation verification and shall not include financial administration or sponsorship decision-making.

The City of Jonesboro shall not hold banking funds, maintain financial account records, operate as a financial institution, serve as a fiduciary over family-owned accounts, or manage family-owned

banking accounts. Financial account administration, compliance responsibilities, deposit processing, and recordkeeping shall remain the responsibility of participating financial institutions selected by participating families.

4. How JET Works: Civic Action Builds Opportunity

JET encourages civic engagement, financial literacy, leadership development, educational exposure, and community participation beginning in kindergarten.

Participating families voluntarily engage in approved educational, civic, leadership, and financial literacy opportunities throughout the school year. Participation in approved activities may support milestone recognition opportunities, educational exposure experiences, and future sponsor-supported participation opportunities, subject to available funding, sponsor participation, and applicable program guidelines.

JET is intended to promote long-term aspirations, educational attainment, workforce readiness, entrepreneurship exposure, homeownership, and future economic mobility for participating students and families.

5. JET Accounts

Participating families voluntarily opt into the JET program and open a deposit-only savings account for their child at the financial institution of their choice.

Families maintain ownership and control of the account while participating financial institutions maintain account administration, compliance responsibilities, deposit processing, and financial recordkeeping.

The program focuses on strengthening financial literacy, civic engagement, leadership development, educational exposure, and future planning for participating families.

The City of Jonesboro may verify participation in approved civic engagement and educational activities for limited program coordination purposes only.

6. How JET Accounts Are Managed and Protected

JET accounts shall remain family-owned and maintained through the participating financial institution selected by the family.

Participating banking institutions shall be responsible for account administration, compliance, deposit processing, and financial recordkeeping associated with family-owned accounts.

The City of Jonesboro may maintain participation records, milestone tracking, and engagement verification records only.

Any future sponsor-supported educational or opportunity-based support associated with the initiative is intended to encourage long-term education, workforce, entrepreneurship, trade certification, and future homeownership pathways for participating students.

Neither the City nor participating schools shall administer financial accounts, guarantee contributions, control sponsor-supported funding decisions, or determine access to funds. Any access to funds, extension of use periods, deferral of eligibility, return of contributions, or reallocation of sponsor-supported funds shall be governed by the rules of the participating financial institution and any applicable sponsor agreements or separate program guidelines. Funds are generally intended to be used by age 25, subject to those applicable rules, agreements, and guidelines.

7. Incentives through Civic Engagement

Participation in approved activities may support eligibility for milestone recognition opportunities, educational engagement experiences, leadership exposure activities, and future sponsor-supported participation opportunities administered pursuant to separate program guidelines and available funding.

Approved activities may include financial literacy workshops, educational opportunities, leadership exposure, community service activities, civic engagement opportunities, family participation sessions, and milestone recognition activities.

All participation opportunities remain subject to available funding, sponsorship support, participation verification, and program guidelines. Participation does not create a guaranteed right to sponsorship support, account contributions, or future financial benefits.

8. JET Pilot Program Overview (2026–2027)

The JET Pilot Program seeks pilot operational and community engagement support funding to support civic engagement programming, financial literacy opportunities, milestone recognition, participation tracking, outreach, reporting, parent engagement, and long-term program

sustainability.

The pilot cohort is intended to initially serve twenty-five (25) kindergarten students residing within the City of Jonesboro, with the long-term vision of future expansion as partnerships and capacity grow.

9. JET Pilot Program Goals and Budget Snapshot

Over time, as partnerships deepen and participation grows, students and families may strengthen long-term educational, workforce, and leadership pathways through continued participation and community engagement. JET is intended to strengthen aspirations, increase exposure to long-term educational and financial opportunities, encourage civic participation, and encourage future economic mobility for participating families.

Jonesboro Education Trust (JET) Pilot Initiative Budget
Pilot Year: 2026-2027 | Participants Served: 25 Students | Total Budget: \$40,000

Budget Category	Description	Amount (\$)
Initial Pilot Participation Support	Initial pilot participation support for 25 students	2,500
Civic Engagement Programming and Participation Support	Civic engagement activities, educational exposure opportunities, leadership development, and participation support	12,500
Workshops and Family Engagement	Financial literacy workshops, educational materials, parent engagement, and family support programming	7,500
Milestones and Recognition	Enrollment recognition, milestone acknowledgements, participation recognition events, and community celebrations	5,000
Evaluation and Reporting	Program tracking, surveys, CPA/fiscal review, evaluation, and reporting	5,000
Program Reserve	Pilot sustainability reserve and future program planning	7,500
TOTAL		40,000

10. Building Long-Term Support Through Partnerships

Long-term success depends on strong public-private partnerships and sustained community support. JET will pursue local business sponsorships, community-based fundraising events, and

partnerships with the CCPS Foundation and Clayton State University to align with education-focused grant opportunities and resources.

All sponsorship participation and future funding support shall remain independent and discretionary and shall not be controlled or guaranteed by the City or CCPS.

11. If a Scholar Moves

If a participating student relocates outside the City of Jonesboro or no longer meets program eligibility requirements, the family shall retain ownership of all family-owned account funds maintained through the selected financial institution.

Participation eligibility, future sponsor-supported participation opportunities, and milestone participation may be adjusted in accordance with program guidelines and eligibility requirements.

12. Permitted Uses of Future Sponsor Supported Opportunities.

Any future sponsor-supported educational or opportunity-related support is intended to support long-term educational, workforce, and economic advancement for participating scholars.

Eligible future uses may include post-secondary education, workforce development programs, trade certifications, entrepreneurship pathways, and future homeownership opportunities, helping students and families build sustainable pathways toward long-term success and stability.

If no eligible pathway is pursued by age 25, any treatment of sponsor-funded contributions, including any return, reallocation, or continued availability of such contributions, shall be governed by applicable sponsor agreements, financial institution rules, and separate program guidelines, and shall not be determined by the City or CCPS.

13. Legal Disclaimer

Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted to create a guaranteed financial benefit, vested right, or enforceable entitlement associated with participation in the JET initiative.

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