

Jonesboro Education Trust (JET)

Building Aspirations Through Civic Engagement

Prepared by the Office of Councilman Alfred Dixon

**25 Jonesboro Kindergarten Students
Building Toward \$30,000+ by Graduation**

Program Overview

The Jonesboro Education Trust (JET) is a civic engagement-driven education and opportunity program designed to support the long-term success of children in the City of Jonesboro. The program introduces students and families to saving, financial literacy, and civic responsibility at an early age.

JET connects community participation with opportunity investment. Through seed deposits, financial education, civic engagement incentives, milestone recognition, and partnerships, the program helps participating scholars build financial support that can be used toward college, workforce training, or entrepreneurship by the time they graduate from high school.

Role of the City of Jonesboro

The City of Jonesboro serves as the convener and steward of the program, coordinating partnerships, facilitating civic engagement opportunities, and ensuring transparency and accountability. By providing structure and leadership, the City enables philanthropic and corporate investment in Jonesboro's youth.

How JET Works

JET operates through a Positive Civic Engagement Incentive System. Families and students earn education credits through activities such as financial literacy workshops, volunteering at city events, community cleanups, attending civic meetings, and participating in youth leadership initiatives.

JET Pilot Program (2026–2027)

The pilot program will launch during the 2026–2027 school year and serve 25 kindergarten students in the City of Jonesboro. Each student will receive a deposit-only savings account and a \$100 seed deposit funded through pilot resources. Civic engagement incentives and family participation will help grow accounts over time.

Through consistent engagement and strong partnerships, participating scholars may build toward approximately \$30,000 or more by the time they graduate from high school.

Eligible Uses

JET funds may be used for college tuition, trade certifications, books and educational materials, entrepreneurship startup costs, and workforce development programs. Funds are generally accessible by age 25, with extensions available for national or community service participation.

Pilot Budget Snapshot – \$40,000

Category	Amount
Student Seed Deposits	\$2,500
Civic Engagement Incentives	\$12,500
Workshops & Family Engagement	\$7,500
Milestones & Recognition	\$5,000
Evaluation & Reporting	\$5,000
Program Reserve	\$7,500
TOTAL	\$40,000

Long-Term Vision

JET is designed to grow through strong public-private partnerships including local businesses, philanthropic organizations, and education partners. Over time, the program will expand to support more students while strengthening civic engagement and opportunity pathways across Jonesboro.

Contact

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