



SAIL GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

SAIL (Summer Adventures in Learning) has one grantmaking cycle. We accept applications for high-quality academic summer learning programs for PreK – 12th grade from all areas of Alabama.

SAIL programs incorporate best practices from summer camp and school to maximize student engagement and learning opportunities. SAIL programs are encouraged to develop or utilize a curriculum that aligns with the Alabama Course of Study. Each organization has the flexibility to design a summer learning program that meets students where they are academically, is tailored to the child's interests, and addresses the needs of the whole child. On average, in 2024 SAIL students received 48 hours of reading instruction and 40 hours of math instruction.

Applications will be reviewed by 12-15 funders.

2026 Grant Timeline

Cycle Opens: September 1, 2026

Cycle Closes: October 11, 2026, at 11:59 pm.

Notifications: Applicants will be notified of decisions in mid-to-late December.

The first SAIL meeting will be on Thursday, January 21 or 28, 2027, from 10:00 am to 12:00 at the Junior League of Birmingham. Other meetings are scheduled for March, late April/early May, and September.

Applications must be submitted electronically on the CFNEA grant website:

Application Portal: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfna>

Create a new account if you don't already have one.

Once you have created your account, you can go to the top left and hit the Apply button.

All proposals are due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 11th.

General Log-In: [Receive | Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama \(cfnea.org\)](#)

Applicant Restrictions:

1. Applicants must be currently designated a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the IRS OR be a 501(c)(3) exempt religious institution OR be a school, school system or government entity.
2. Private non-operating foundations are not eligible.
3. Applicants may use a fiscal sponsor only if there is a meaningful mission fit and an existing, working relationship between the two organizations.
4. Applicants must serve PreK-12th grade students in Alabama.
5. Grant recipients are required to adopt the SAIL Quality Assurance Framework, which seeks to increase program quality over time. This involves:
 - attendance at FOUR peer-learning meetings throughout the year.
 - utilizing a research-based assessment system, currently Renaissance STAR that will be provided by SAIL at no charge to each grantee. A pre- and post- test is required. Technical assistance and equipment are available.
 - submission of narrative report and KPI measures.
6. SAIL grantees are required to attend FOUR meetings throughout the year. They take place in Birmingham, Alabama, and sometimes in other areas of the state.
7. SAIL grantees are required to utilize a research-based assessment system, currently Renaissance STAR that will be provided by SAIL at no charge to the grantee. A pre- and post- test is required.
8. SAIL grantees are required to submit a final grant report. **Failure to submit a final grant report will result in an organization being ineligible to apply for another grant from SAIL.**

Proposal Restrictions:

Funding Purpose: If eligible, applicants may request a grant to support a summer learning program in the next calendar year. The summer learning program must provide reading and math instruction.

Grant Terms: SAIL grants are awarded to support learning programs that take place in the summer. If for some reason, the grantee is unable to offer the program, the organization will be expected to return the funds.

Grant Amounts: There is no maximum request amount, but in recent years awarded grants have ranged From \$5,000 to \$60,000. The applicant's request and project budget should be reasonable in relation to the applicant's prior revenue, budget, and activities.