



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Dance to Learn (DTL) Residency Grant?

A: Dance to Learn is a co-sponsored and developed program of [Dance New Jersey \(DNJ\)](#), [Young Audiences Arts for Learning \(YA\)](#), and selected dance companies/ensembles/teaching artists, financially supported by [The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#).

Q: What are the goals of the DTL Program?

A: Dance to Learn (DTL) aims to advance dance education in public and private elementary schools across New Jersey focused on grades 2-5. With Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) at the forefront, the intent of DTL is to promote equitable access dance experiences for historically excluded and systematically marginalized populations.

Q: What are DTL's Beliefs + Values?

A: The Dance to Learn community believes dance education should align with the lived experience of our collaborative partners. We value dance education that uplifts a variety of races/ethnicity, gender, class, and disability profiles. Learn more about DTL Beliefs + Values [here](#).

Q: What is the maximum grant funding per school year that can be awarded?

A: In applying for this grant, you can receive an award of \$4,000 - \$6,640. Decisions are based on the scope of curriculum content in a chosen dance form, residency impact advancing active participation in dance education, school partner support, DEIA commitments, and accessibility to historically marginalized populations.

Q: When is grant funding received?

A: Grantees will receive the first half of funding at the beginning of the grant cycle and the remaining half at the completion. Each grant check will be sent when a signed grant contract and completed W-9 form are received. All grant recipients will receive a 1099 Tax Form for the stated year and are responsible for reporting the income on their tax return which is potentially subject to taxes. Please consult an attorney or tax expert with questions on your filing status should you receive this grant.

Q: Who and how do you apply for the DTL Grant Program?

A: All companies/ensembles/teaching artists servicing New Jersey schools are eligible to apply. Applications open in late March and close the last week of June each year. Visit the [Dance New Jersey Teaching Artist Residencies](#) webpage to apply.

Q: What are the required criteria to apply for the DTL Grant?

A: The criteria of a DTL applicant is a professional dancer/member of a professional dance company and/or teaching artist in the NJ dance community. **First-time applicants are required to attend our [DTL Information Session](#) hosted in April of each year; register [here](#).** Additional requirements include a current [Dance New Jersey Membership](#).

Q: If awarded, what is the expectation of the Grantee per grant cycle?

A: Participation in DTL involves the nurturing of dance companies/ensembles and teaching artists to be more informed about how to create equitable teaching and learning environments that intentionally link to cultural nuances and lived experiences of students. DEIA Community Commitments, involved gatherings, and mentorship throughout the grant year include the following participation:

- Community Day #1: (Fall, September) DTL Community Introductions & Orientation, including Professional Development Session Provided (3-4 hours)
- Community Day #2: (Spring, June) DTL Community Year End Presentation & Reflection (3-4 hours)
- Dance to Learn Residency (36-40 teaching hours)
- Professional Dance In-School Assembly (40 minutes) - concludes residency
- 1 DEIA Grounding & Refining Session (3-6 hrs) - 1:1 w/ DTL DEIA Consultant
- 2 Check-ins dedicated to DEIA Grounding and Refining (3 hours)
- 1 Curriculum Review Session (30 minutes) - 1:1 w/ DTL DEIA Consultant

Q: Who is assigned to review applications and make selections?

A: The DTL leadership consists of three members, a representative from Young Audiences Arts for Learning (YA), the Director of Dance Education from Dance New Jersey, and the DTL Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Consultant. Meet the DTL Leadership [here](#).

Q: How many Grantees are chosen per school year?

A: Each school year varies depending on funding per awarded application. Over the years, DTL has selected up to nine companies/ensembles/teaching artists in a school year.

Q: Can you receive the DTL grant for consecutive years?

A: Yes. The expectation is for students to develop throughout the DTL curriculum, beginning in 2nd grade and finishing in the 5th grade.

Q: Do you have to reapply every DTL grant cycle?

A: Yes. All companies/ensembles/teaching artists are required to reapply each grant cycle to allow new companies/ensembles/teaching artists an opportunity to receive grant residency funding. Existing Grantees are evaluated based on the previous year's performance and success rate in addition to the proposed curriculum for the new school year.

Q: What is the duration of a DTL grant cycle?

A: The DTL grant cycle is one school year, awarded in August, with programming to be completed by June.

Q: Does the DTL Leadership provide support throughout the residency?

A: DTL dance companies/ensembles/teaching artists are provided professional development, mentorship, and funding to host dance residencies with a school partner of their own selection. DTL professional development and mentorship supports grantees in developing a curriculum reflective of their dance practice through an emergent and culturally responsive approach.

Q: Does the DTL Residency focus on a specific dance form?

A: No. DTL and its devotion to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) encourages all dance forms deeply rooted in the cultural and artistic lived experience of the residency teaching artist. Content must be demonstrated in a proven track for succession and a format appropriate for 2nd to 5th-grade students.

Q: Can mental health be explored through dance for the DEIA component?

A: Yes. Healing Centered Engagement is one opportunity for companies/ensembles/teaching artists to expand the design and delivery of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA).

Q: Does DTL have curriculum requirements?

A: DNJ provides DTL Residency Grants to dance organizations and individual teaching artists to engage in a continuum of learning and teaching comprising three applicable components: *Internal Capacity Development, Curriculum Development, and Residency Implementation*. Learn more [here](#).

Q: Are DTL Grantees required to hire a co-teacher, teaching artists, staff, or assistants?

A: No, it is not a requirement. Grantees have the flexibility to execute their residency within their current capacity (individually) and/or company/ensemble framework.

Q: Can you participate in more than one residency in a school year?

A: Yes. Each company/ensemble/teaching artist has the flexibility to participate in other grant residency opportunities as long as the agreed DTL residency schedule is fulfilled without interruption.

Q: How do you recommend beginning the process of finding a school partnership?

A: Explore schools within your geographical area which your company defines as home.

Q: Must the school partner complete an application to be approved?

A: No. It is the responsibility of the company/ensemble/teaching artist interested in the implementation of a DTL curriculum to be installed in a school of choice. Once the Grantees are selected, a Letter of Acknowledgement (provided by DTL Staff) is executed between the company/ensemble/teaching artist and the school partner/Administrator.

Q: If awarded, is the Grantee responsible for insurance?

A: No. It is DTL's recommendation to carry business and/or teaching artist liability insurance as good practice. The DTL Residency does not provide a certificate of insurance.

Q: Do Dance New Jersey (DNJ) and Young Audiences (YA) provide assessment tools to track the feedback of Grantee experiences?

A: Yes. Collecting the perspectives of educational leaders, teachers, teaching artists, and students are available throughout each grant cycle.