



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lilly Endowment Inc. Gifts Perry Township Schools with Life Changing Grant

Perry Township, Ind – Perry Township Schools has received a forty-million dollar grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Marion County K-12 Public Schools Initiative. This is one of 34 large-scale implementation grants being awarded through phase 3 of the initiative, which is designed to help strengthen the academic achievement of students in Indianapolis and improve their prospects for success after high school.

With the grant, Perry Township Schools will work to:

- Close the mathematics achievement gap
- Enhance K-8 real world, career experiences where students develop practical employability skills
- Cultivate teacher excellence to ensure the highest quality educators in our classrooms
- Expand the entrepreneurship graduation pathway in partnership with the University of Indianapolis by building an innovation facility located on UIndy's campus

“We are incredibly grateful to receive the Phase 3 grant of the Marion County K-12 Public Schools Initiative made possible through Lilly Endowment Inc. This investment directly supports and accelerates our goal to empower the Southside community of Indianapolis,” said Perry Township Schools Director of Grants and Strategic Partnerships, Melissa Morris. “We look forward to working with our partners over the next five years to develop a self-sustaining system that inspires students to dream and equips them with the skills to turn those dreams into reality.”

"We are excited to partner with Perry Township Schools for this grant," said University of Indianapolis President Tanuja Singh. "UIndy is deeply invested in improving outcomes for students at every level of education and developing the next generation of Hoosier dreamers and thinkers who will solve the problems of tomorrow. I believe this collaboration serves as a model for how higher education institutions and K-12 schools can work together to expand opportunity, strengthen the state's talent pipeline and transform student outcomes across Indiana."

Perry Township Schools received a 7.8-million-dollar implementation grant from Lilly Endowment in May 2025 through phase 2 of the Marion County K-12 Public School Initiative.

Lilly Endowment is making large-scale implementation grants to private schools in Indianapolis through a separate, complementary initiative.

About Lilly Endowment

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, and maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

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