# 2024 ADOPT A SCHOOL APPLICATION:

**\*question is mandatory**

# Section A: SCHOOL INFORMATION

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| Full Name of School\* |  |
| Full Street Address of School: (street name, City, province, postal code )\* | (dropdown menu for provinces/territories) |
| Is the above address also the mailing address for your school? | Yes/No |
| If No, input mailing address: | (dropdown menu for provinces/territories) |
| Grades served by your School\* | \_ JK \_ SK \_ 1 \_ 2 \_ 3 \_ 4 \_ 5 \_ 6 \_ 7 \_ 8 |
| Number of students at your school in eligible Grade Levels\* | (can only enter a numerical value) |
| Full name of School Board or other Affiliation\* |  |
| Does your school have charitable status?\* | \_Yes (input charitable registry number)  \_No |
| I hereby indicate that the above listed school board/affiliated organization has been informed of and granted permission to submit this application to the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation\* | Yes/No |
| The Love of Reading Foundation defines a high-needs school as a Canadian publicly funded elementary school that receives at least 80% of its funding from the provincial or federal government. Does this accurately represent your school funding situation?\* | Yes/No |
| *Principal Information\** | |
| Name |  |
| Phone Number |  |
| Email |  |
| *Secondary Contact Information\** | |
| Title |  |
| Name |  |
| Phone Number |  |
| Email |  |
| School Website: |  |

Additional Information

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| 1. Has your school previously participated in the Indigo Adopt A School Program\* | Yes/No |
| 1b. If yes, what year(s) |  |
| 2. Has your school been awarded an Indigo Love of Reading Literacy Fund Grant in the past?\* | Yes / No |
| 2b. If yes, indicate the year your school was awarded the grant\* |  |
| 3. Is your school a French speaking school?\* | Yes / No |
| 4. Is your school French Immersion?\* | Yes/ No |
| 5. Do you have an English-speaking staff member available for correspondence via phone?\* | Yes/No |
| 6. Is your school a First Nations operated school?\* | Yes / No |
| 7. The Love of Reading Foundation specifically directs resources to communities in need. Which of the following demographic groups does your school community identify as serving?\* | \_ Low socio-economic  \_ Indigenous  \_ Newcomer  \_ Other |
| 8. How did you find out about the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation? (Check all that apply):\* | \_ loveofreading.org  \_ indigo.ca  \_ In an Indigo, Chapters or Coles store  \_ A former Love of Reading Literacy Fund grant recipient or applicant  \_ School Board/Trustee  \_ Other |

Section B : SELECTING YOUR PARTNER STORE

In the event that your school is selected as a Adopt A School partner, what store location (e.g. Indigo, Chapters, Coles, Indigospirit store) in your community would you like to be partnered with to help fundraise for your school library?

NOTE: Schools may be paired with a store ANYWHERE in Canada. Stores are provided with all school applications and are encouraged to partner with any school that their staff are passionate about supporting. We will try our best to match you with the store of your choice, but this may not always be possible.

Select your preferred store\* (a drop down list of all existing Indigo locations within proximity to your school will be displayed)

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| **PLEASE NOTE:** The information you provide in all upcoming sections of this application will be viewed by the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation and our partners at Indigo Books and Music, Inc. and may be made public during the run of the Adopt A School campaign in the Fall if your application is successful to help share your school’s literacy journey. We understand that this information is sensitive. The Indigo Love of Reading Foundation and Indigo will keep this information internal and confidential during the application review period.  **Please indicate that your school is aligned and consents to these conditions.\***  **(School must e-sign)** |

Section C: TELL US ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Often, a community's demographic composition can impact student literacy. The purpose of this section is to determine whether this is the case for your school and to allow you to convey your school community’s literacy journey to our Foundation and supporting Indigo stores.

Generally, we consider a “high-needs” school to be one that is challenged by various socio-economic factors. These factors can include for example, a higher-than-average number of students from single-parent or low-income families, a high level of transience amongst the student population, or a high number of students who face linguistic barriers to learning.

1. Explain in as much detail as possible**,** the literacy challenges and opportunities at your school. In doing so please cite any relevant local or national research, test scores (reading inventories, qualitative/quantitative surveys, report card data, etc.) to support your current reality.\*
2. Please speak to how the demographic landscape of your school community may have impacted your reason to apply for the Adopt A School program. In doing so, please cite any relevant information to support your statements and provide context as to *how* these factors present barriers or challenges to literacy within your community. \*

Some examples of information (factors) you can provide that help to paint a picture of the scope of need faced by students and families in your school community:

* Average Median family income within your school community
* The percentage (%) of lone-parent (also referred to as single-parent) families in your school community
* The percentage (%) of students in your school community that speak a language other than French or English in the home
* The percentage (%) of students in your school community that self-identify as Indigenous (I.e. Aboriginal, First Nations, Métis, or Inuit)
* The percentage (%) of people/families in your school community who have a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree (e.g. university, trade school, college, etc.)
* The percentage (%) of people who moved from one residence to another at least once in the last year (e.g., family moved to a new apartment)
* The percentage (%) of your students’ families needing financial support to buy school supplies and/or enable their child to participate in school activities (e.g. field trips and clubs)?
* The percentage (%) of students that access nutrition programs through your school
* Any special learning designations or indexes such as the [TDSB Learning Opportunities Index (LOI)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/research/docs/reports/LOI2023.pdf) that apply to your school. When citing a special learning designation or index, please ensure you are describing the criteria that define the designation.

\*For any metrics provided you must state **the source of this information.** This can be derived from a number of different sources, eg. Census data ([Statistics Canada](https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm?MM=1)) family/caregiver surveys, school board data, etc.

Section D: CURRENT ACCESS TO BOOKS

The questions in this section are designed to provide us with a deeper understanding of the challenges your school community faces in accessing literacy resources, but also the commitment you’ve demonstrated in the face of these challenges. Your school will most likely need to consult library and office records to fill out this section of the application (i.e. operational funding available to your library, the average age of books, gaps in your library collections, etc.).

1. How do students currently access books in your community (i.e. your school and/or classroom library, leveled book bins, a community library or literacy resources external to your school such as Scholastic book fairs)? \*
2. What strengths exist in the current system? \*
3. What gaps/challenges exist in the current system (you can note details such as the average age of library books in your school, lack of funding to purchase new/relevant/diverse books, distance of your school to the nearest public library or community centre, etc.) ? \*

Section E: ENHANCING READING LITERACY AT YOUR SCHOOL

Two of the primary goals of the Adopt A School program include:

* **Improving Library infrastructure and inventory:** Increase access for schools to a greater number of relevant literature and reading resources in an enhanced learning library environment

AND

* **Increasing student literacy engagement:** Increase student engagement with literacy and reading to develop a life-long love of reading

The questions in this section are designed for you to provide us with detail on how you hope the Adopt A School grant will help to grow progress in these impact areas.

1. Specifically**,** how would accessing new books through the Adopt A School grant help you enhance resources for your students? In your response feel free to specify any literacy pillars you are looking to grow in your school. For e.g.\*

* **Science of Reading (e.g. Decodable book resources)**
* **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I)**
* **Reconciliation and/or Indigenous Knowledge**
* **Environmental Literacy**
* **Social-Emotional Learning**
* **STEM**
* **High-interest books (e.g. picture books, graphic novels, manga, reference books, high-graphic/low vocabulary books, etc.)**

1. How would you currently rate reading engagement in your student population? (scale of 1 to 5, 1= not engaged, 3= moderately engaged, 5= highly engaged)\*
2. Specifically, what plan does your school have in place to build student engagement around books accessed through the Adopt A School program?\*

Section F: AMPLIFYING AWARENESS AND CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

One of the main goals of the Adopt A School program is for our Indigo stores and high-needs schools to connect with their surrounding community to generate awareness about the Canadian literacy crisis and about the challenges schools and educators face. A large part of what contributes to fundraising success during the run of the Adopt A School campaign rests on building firm partnerships between schools and their supporting Indigo retail partners in executing a unified vision.

This section of the application will give you a chance to express your ideas and capacity for effectively partnering with a neighboring (or remote) store to communicate your story, as well as promote awareness-raising activities within your own school and parent community.

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| 1. **Has your school been a previous recipient of the Adopt A School grant? (Yes/No)\***   **If answer is “yes”**   1. What was the greatest change you saw in your school based on the funding that you have received through the Adopt A School program in previous year(s)?  *Feel free to use this section to tell us about changes in areas such as student attitudes towards reading, sparking conversations around diversity, equity and inclusion, changes in reading literacy achievement, etc.* 2. Did you face any challenges in implementing the Adopt A School program? If your answer is “yes”, please discuss. 3. Why do you want to see the Adopt A School return to your school? | Long answer format |
| 1. **Partnering with an Indigo store:** How would you partner with a neighborhood or remotely-located store to bring your school’s story to life? \*   Examples for neighborhood partnerships:   * Student can produce artwork, bookmarks, etc. for customer donations * Producing video or other social media content illuminating your school culture and literacy needs   Examples of remote partnerships:   * Working with a store to produce a video for in-store presentation or social media purposes * Written letters from students/teachers/parents that can be printed and shared * Providing photos (with permissions in place) to help tell your story | Long answer format |
| 1. **Online Fundraising and Awareness:** Schools that are chosen to participate are required to generate awareness of the program and participate in online fundraising outreach with the help of their partner store.   Please provide links to the social media accounts that your school actively uses.  (NOTE: schools without a social media presence are not disqualified from participation, however, they will be asked to submit an alternate engagement plan)\* | Facebook  Twitter  Instagram  Tiktok  Other |
| 1. **Generating awareness within your own School and parent community**: How would you raise awareness for the Adopt A School program with your members of your School and/or parent community? \*   Some ideas:   * Reading challenges: engage students in a school-wide reading challenge or students and parents in a home-reading challenge * Fundraisers: School-wide read-a-thons, donation jars in every classroom, etc. * Hosting a virtual Literacy Night at your school (run in part with your school’s Parent council) to drive awareness of your school’s literacy goals and the Adopt A School program * Connecting with a local high school or Private school to help with fundraising for your school (many high-school students participate in volunteer projects as part of their graduation requirements or participate in Co-op community-based programs) | Long answer format |
| 1. **Share your story:** Please provide us with a short blurb (250 words or less) about your school and its literacy needs to use when creating an online fundraising page that you will share with your school’s supporters.\* | Long answer format |

**SUBMIT BUTTON**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUBMISSION! The Indigo Love of Reading Foundation has successfully received your application. We will be in contact with you regarding the status of your application in late April. Thank you for your interest in the Adopt A School program and your dedication to support school libraries and children’s literacy in Canada.