

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

THE KESSLER SCHOOL

Dallas, Texas

thekesslerschool.com

Start Date: July 2025



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Mission Statement

The Kessler School creates a community of diverse learners that values individuality, cultivates a passion for learning, instills a respect for others, and promotes leadership and community service.

Vision

The Kessler School community collaborates in equipping its students with skills and values that help develop self-sufficient, high-achieving learners and aspiring leaders.

At a Glance



Established
1999



Total enrollment
145



Total faculty
**25 full-time,
15 part-time**



Annual operating budget
\$3.1M



Students of color
32%



Financial aid awarded
\$290K+



Faculty with advanced degrees
50%



Campus size
**1.8 acres,
60K square feet**

Faculty of color: 30%

Students receiving aid: 21%



Overview

The Kessler School (TKS) is at a pivotal moment in its growth. Nestled in the historic neighborhood of Oak Cliff near Downtown Dallas, Texas, TKS serves 145 students in its Early Childhood Center and Pre-K through 8th grade. It provides responsive and individualized learning experiences utilizing curriculums and instructional approaches designed to create an UNLIMITED educational experience. With a newly renovated campus, an engaged community, and a deeply committed faculty, TKS is well-positioned for an exciting future.

The Kessler School seeks a dynamic, strategic, and growth-focused Head of School to drive fundraising, marketing, and student recruitment while ensuring continued academic excellence. The next Head of School will be a visionary leader who can effectively champion its mission while ensuring long-term financial sustainability and institutional advancement.

What Makes TKS a Unique Leadership Opportunity?

- **Growth & Expansion Potential** – A new campus and increasing enrollment provide a prime opportunity for strategic leadership.
- **Established Academic Foundation** – TKS has well-established instructional models aligned with its student population. That strong foundation will allow the next Head of School to focus on enhancing institutional success through marketing, outreach, and fundraising.
- **A Thriving Community** – Engaged families, a passionate faculty, and a dedicated Board of Trustees create a strong foundation for success.
- **A Commitment to Faculty Development** – The Board fully funds professional development for all faculty, ensuring continuous improvement in teaching and learning.
- **An Untapped Market** – Oak Cliff is a rapidly growing community, presenting a huge opportunity to increase awareness and enrollment.



Opportunities and Challenges

This is more than just a Head of School role—it’s an opportunity to be the architect of The Kessler School’s future. TKS seeks a visionary leader with a passion for growth, fundraising, and community engagement who wants to make a lasting impact on a school that values creativity, individuality, and academic excellence.

The new Head of School will focus on:

1. Fundraising & Institutional Advancement

- Develop and execute a comprehensive fundraising strategy, including major gifts, grants, and corporate partnerships.
- Engage the Board and community in building a strong culture of philanthropy.
- Drive annual giving and capital campaign efforts to support campus expansion and programmatic growth.

2. Marketing & Enrollment Growth

- Hone and amplify TKS’s brand and value proposition in a competitive K-8 private school market.
- Expand awareness and increase enrollment by strategically engaging prospective families, particularly at key transition points for local talented and gifted public schools and area private schools with high school programs.
- Build relationships within Oak Cliff and beyond to position TKS as a top choice for independent education.

3. Strengthening Community Engagement

- Enhance communication and relationships with parents, alumni, and key community stakeholders.
- Activate and inspire parents as ambassadors for admissions and fundraising.
- Expand partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and educational institutions to increase TKS’s visibility and support.



4. Academic & Faculty Leadership

- Deep understanding of and appreciation for the joys and compelling qualities of an Early Childhood, Pre-Kindergarten-Grade 8 school.
- Support and retain a talented and mission-driven faculty by continuing the school's commitment to professional development.
- Maintain the school's dedication to its current instructional models, ensuring they remain cornerstones of TKS's instructional approach.
- Foster a culture of collaboration and innovation while ensuring a nurturing learning environment.

Qualifications and Personal Attributes

The Kessler School seeks a strategic, entrepreneurial leader with:

Community-Building & Engagement and Growth Expertise

- A natural connector who can build and sustain relationships with families, donors, and community leaders.
- Forward-facing, externally oriented, and passionate about advocating for TKS's mission, students, and educators locally and regionally.
- A strong communicator who can effectively tell The Kessler School's story and expand its reach.
- Successful experience in fundraising, donor relations, and institutional advancement.
- Strong marketing, branding, and enrollment management experience.
- Ability to develop and execute a strategic plan for financial and institutional growth.

Operational & Administrative Skills

- Experience leading an independent/private school or a similarly complex educational organization.
- Strong financial acumen, with an ability to manage budgets, operations, and fundraising initiatives.

Educational Leadership

- A commitment to maintaining TKS's academic excellence.
- A passion for teacher development, ensuring faculty continue to thrive.

Personal Qualities

- A balanced blend of humility and confidence;
- Exceptional verbal and written communication skills across the full range of formats and styles required of a Head of School;
- Exceptional interpersonal skills, including demonstrating empathy and authenticity in interactions and building genuine and long-lasting connections with others.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about The Kessler School.

[School Website](#)

[About Dallas, Texas](#)

[Core Values](#)



To Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

Chris Boyle

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