

2024 Giving Circle Application

Member-Nominated Nonprofit

Islamic Schools League of America



Leader

Shaza Khan, Executive Director



Summarize what is the core mission & vision

The Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA) is a national network dedicated to strengthening full-time Islamic schools through research, resources, and relationships. As a thought leader, ISLA tackles key issues impacting students, families, and the wider Muslim community, providing essential support and professional development to improve educational experiences and outcomes for Muslim students across the U.S. Recognizing Islamic schools as enduring centers for American Muslims across generations, ISLA works to make them more inclusive, effective, and reflective of our communities' diverse needs—empowering these schools to nurture future leaders and contribute to the growth of the American Muslim community.

Briefly explain when your nonprofit was founded, why and by whom.

ISLA was founded in 1998 to provide a professional network for Islamic school educators to learn from one another and to break the silos they often worked in. Karen Keyworth was the co-founder and executive director who also recognized that Islamic schools must be seen as part of the fabric of America. Therefore, she focused on forging relationships between the Islamic schools and the US public. Through these foundational efforts, ISLA now serves over 300 full-time Islamic schools through a professional mailing list, professional development, and board membership in national organizations that advocate for and represent Islamic school needs at the federal level.

Who is your constituency and approximately how many people are served by your nonprofit?

ISLA's constituency is nearly 6,000 individuals who are connected to Islamic schools. Approximately 1,000 of the direct constituents are educational professionals through whom approximately 75,000 Muslim students grades K-12 are served. Our social media constituency includes nearly 4,000 followers, while our mailing list reaches 6,000 individuals. We serve 300 full time schools, amongst whom 75 are paying members. In the last month alone, we had over 3,000 unique visitors to our website.

What is the impact of your nonprofit over the past five years?

In the past five years, ISLA has trained over 2,000 educators in North America and globally through our Professional Development Week, workshops, webinars, and Professional Learning Communities. We created a Crisis Response Toolkit to help school leaders ensure school safety, and our Teaching Palestine Toolkit has been accessed by 700 visitors this month alone. Additionally, ISLA has published dozens of articles to support stakeholders with valuable research and resources. Our recent national survey of Islamic schools, shared via bi-weekly emails, is informing educators, leaders, and families about Islamic schools' strengths and challenges to drive continuous improvement.

What is your goal for the next 1-5 years?

ISLA seeks to create a database and collaborative network that connects Islamic schools around North America and the world with research-based resources, professional learning opportunities that are grounded in an Islamic worldview, and support networks, ultimately reaching 80% of

Islamic schools across the U.S. This initiative would include an expanded toolkit library, a mentoring system for educators and leaders, and annual research reports highlighting trends and best practices. By 2030, ISLA aims to strengthen the educational experience and foster a unified, resource-rich community that supports every school's growth and resilience.

What is one key item our giving circle members should know?

ISLA is the only organization dedicated exclusively to advancing Islamic schools across the U.S. through rigorous research, high-quality resources, and strategic relationships. This unique focus ensures that ISLA addresses the specific needs of Islamic schools, their students, and educators, driving measurable improvements in educational quality, inclusivity, and community impact. Every contribution supports initiatives that empower schools to thrive and strengthens the foundation for future generations of American Muslim leaders.

If you receive funding from the Women's Giving Circle, how would you plan to use the funds?

If awarded this grant, ISLA would dedicate the funds to developing a comprehensive Trauma-Informed Toolkit tailored for Islamic school educators and families. Recognizing the significant emotional impact of current global and local events on both adults and children, this toolkit would provide culturally relevant resources, strategies, and training to help educators and families address trauma in a supportive, informed way. By empowering educators and parents to respond effectively to students' emotional needs, ISLA aims to create environments where all can thrive, fostering resilience, mental well-being, and a stronger sense of community across the ummah.

Learn more about the Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA)

Website: www.theisla.org

Address: PO Box 6198 Round Rock, TX 78683

Contact Email: info@theisla.org

Nonprofit Tax ID# 54-1926543

Follow on Social Media: @islamicschoolsleague

Facebook: facebook.com/theisla/

Instagram: instagram.com/islamicschoolsleague

YouTube: youtube.com/@the-isla

Additional Information

Pictures



ISLA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
Shaping the Future of Islamic Schools
The Role of Research
Co-Chaired by *Dr. Nadeem Memon & Dr. Seema Imam*

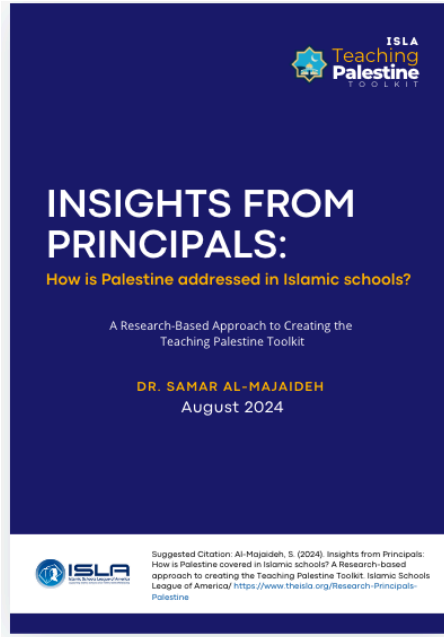
Audience
This symposium is intended for researchers, educators and school leaders who are passionate about gaining new insights into Islamic schools through research-practitioner dialogue.

Call For Proposals
We invite academics, grad students, educators and school leaders who have completed doctoral or master's research or are actively conducting research in their own school contexts (e.g. action research) to submit an abstract for consideration.

Dates
Abstracts Due
October 6, 2024
Committee Response
November 3, 2024
Virtual Conference
Sunday, December 8, 2024

Symposium Sponsors

- BAYAN ISLAMIC GRADUATE SCHOOL
- University of South Australia
- Centre for Islamic Thought & Education
- CENTER FOR ISLAM IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD at Islamiah University
- GUIDANCE COLLEGE
- INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT
- ISAC
- IELC



ISLA Teaching Palestine TOOLKIT

INSIGHTS FROM PRINCIPALS:

How is Palestine addressed in Islamic schools?

A Research-Based Approach to Creating the Teaching Palestine Toolkit

DR. SAMAR AL-MAJAJDEH
August 2024

ISLA

Suggested Citation: Al-Majajdeh, S. (2024). Insights from Principals: How is Palestine covered in Islamic schools? A Research-based approach to creating the Teaching Palestine Toolkit. Islamic Schools League of America/ <https://www.thisisq.org/Research-Principals-Palestine>



ISLA

TELLING OUR OWN STORY

USING DATA TO TELL THE STORY OF U.S. ISLAMIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Seema Imam | Dr. Samar Al-Majajdeh | Dr. Shaza Khan
Islamic Schools League of America

October 1, 2024
Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

College Budget Analysis
Expenses Overview
Summary