



Classroom Innovation Grant Application (*formerly Venture Grants*)

Deadline - October 27, 2010

Overview

The information that you will include in the attached application form will provide the LPEF Grants Committee with the data needed to determine whether or not to fund your project. Applications may be from staff, students, parents or community members who partner with School District of La Crosse staff. Applications for other opportunities with the Foundation are available for download on our website at www.lpefonline.org.

Guidelines

- Grants must serve the students in the School District of La Crosse.
- Projects must be innovative, creative and new funding initiatives within the School District of La Crosse.
- The grant may be denied if another funding source might be more appropriate.
- Project funds must be spent by May of 2012.
- Interim and final reports will be required.
- Payments for services of La Crosse School District employees are prohibited.

Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by the Grants Committee of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Priority is given for Classroom Innovation Grants that:

- meet multiple educational objectives
- align with district/school/curricular goals
- impact a variety of students and/or schools
- are collaborative
- are sustainable

Please see the Classroom Innovation Grant evaluation rubric for the grant proposal evaluation criteria. Although most applications are worthy of awarding, the committee has limited funding and must set priorities that help the foundation fulfill its mission.

Instructions

- € Complete the following grant application.
- € Save as a Word document. Name the document the same name as your grant proposal.
- € Print page 1 of the application. Sign and obtain other necessary signatures. Submit a paper copy of page 1 to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation at Hogan via inter-school mail or by mail to P.O. Box 1811, La Crosse, WI 54602-1811.
- € Submit the entire application electronically to lpef@centurytel.net.
- € Both the paper copy and electronic copy must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Geva Thole at 608-397-0176.



**La Crosse Public Education Foundation
Classroom Innovation Grant Application**

Section 1: Personal Information:

Name : La Her

School: Hamilton/SOTA 1

Position/Title: ELL Teacher

School Phone: 608-789-7695 ext. 1260

Section 2: Basic Project Information:

Project Title: Paired Non-Fiction and Fiction Books

Total Request \$ 2,363.00

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Principal _____

Signature of IT Department Rep (if applicable) _____

The intention of the Foundation is to fund projects not covered by the regular school budget. Please document that regular avenues of funding have been exhausted. (i.e. requests to Principal and curriculum supervisors)

Section 3: Project Description:

- I. By June 2011, students will have been exposed to paired non-fiction and fiction texts, resulting in an increase of their ability to make connections, their knowledge of content areas, and their understanding of academic vocabulary.

II.

Objectives of Project	List the corresponding district/school/curriculum goals (if applicable)	State how you will evaluate whether objectives are met.
To help students make connections between non-fiction and their lives.	Listen to literature and respond to questions	By having students verbally articulate and/or write down their connections either in whole group, small group or with a partner.
To provide background knowledge for ELL students and/or students with little experience outside of their homes in content areas like social studies, math, and science.	--To use reading recognition strategies (this skill will come after a child has enough background knowledge to decode words in context), --to understand math (coins, numbers, sorting, counting), science (plants, animals, life cycles, community, habitats), and social studies (community, different countries).	Observe or take notes on whether a student is able to demonstrate better understanding of a subject after gaining some background knowledge. Demonstration can include writing a sentence, doing their work independently, participating in class discussions, making connections, etc.
To increase academic language or vocabulary in subject areas like social studies, math, and science.	Demonstrate the ability to read and comprehend a variety of texts (fiction and non-fiction)	By requiring students to explain what the vocabulary words mean or use them in a sentence.

III.

Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Who Will Be Responsible for Implementation	Resources Needed (not financial)	Timeframe to Accomplish
Reading Groups-focus on vocabulary, compare and contrast with venn diagram, partner sharing about ideas, K-W-L charts, reading responses, etc.	Any teacher who takes the books	Books (Non-fiction and fiction)	This can be done every year as often as possible
Books can be used to support, preview, or review lessons in content areas such as social studies, math, and science.	Teacher	Books (Non-fiction and fiction)	Can be done every year with multiple lessons in each content area.

IV. What is the lifespan of this project?

This project will last as long as the books last. Classroom teachers and specialists can reuse the books every year.

V. Approximately how many students will be affected by this project? Explain your number.

We have many needy children that come with no background experiences and low reading ability. All students in grades K-5 can benefit from having these books here. We have roughly 250 students. Even though the books are geared towards students in K-2, many students in the upper grades can benefit if they are reading at a lower level or if they need more support in a certain subject.

VI. Please state how you will collaborate with...

Other organizations in the community (if applicable)

Other schools in the district (if applicable)

Other departments/classrooms (if applicable)

The books will easily be accessible to all teachers (both classroom and specialists). They can use the books for guided reading or to simply support something they are teaching about.

VII. What will happen to the project at the conclusion of the grant? If it is to continue, how will it be sustained?

The books will be maintained by either the ELL teacher or the LMC director. Teachers will have open access to it every year.

VIII. How could the project be shared with other teachers and schools to benefit more students?

If the results indicate that paired non-fiction and fiction books highly increase a child's knowledge of a certain subject and increase their ability to understand informational texts in the higher grades, that information should be passed forward to other schools, either during staff collaborations or meetings so that they can do the same thing for their kids.

Section 4: Budget Information:

Item	Supplier	Budgeted Amount
Emergent Set A (6-packs of 24 titles) Levels A-E	Benchmark Education	\$792
Early Set A (6-packs of 24 titles) Levels F-I	Benchmark Education	\$888
Early/Fluent Set A (6 packs of 12 books) Levels J-M	Benchmark Education	\$468
Shipping & Handling	Benchmark Education	\$215

Total request: \$ 2,363.00

Other sources of funding for this project (if applicable): None

Total budget to accomplish project: \$ 2,363

Section 5: Summary:

How will this project bring visibility to LPEF in the community?

Hamilton/SOTA 1 can put up a sign thanking the LPEF for their generous financial contribution. We can also recognize LPEF in newsletters and flyers that are sent home with the students.

Please provide a one paragraph summary of our project including an explanation of why we should fund your project.

In the seven years that I've been at Hamilton/SOTA 1, there have been many ELL students who come to school with no background knowledge. They are not enriched at home with language or with experiences that give them insight as to how the world works. When they start reading non-fiction books, they often feel no connection because they can't figure out how it connects to their lives. They also don't have early exposure to informational text so when they see that kind of writing, they don't understand the vocabulary. These special books that I am requesting pair a non-fiction with a fiction book so that students can make connections to the real world. Not only do these books contain rich academic vocabulary, but they are leveled so that they are easy to comprehend no matter what reading level the student is. This is a resource that will benefit not only ELL kids but every student in the building who lacks understanding in subject matters such as science and math. I truly believe that if students are to achieve success, they need to have background knowledge and be able to make connections between the real world and themselves.