



## 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](http://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](mailto: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 : Heather Stern

School: North Woods Elementary School

Position/Title: Special Education Teacher-EBD

School Phone: 608.789.7000 ext 2119

**Section 2: Basic Project Information:**

Project Title: Alternative Seating Options for Kinesthetic Learners

Total Request \$4899.60 plus shipping

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 March 2010, classroom movement options will be available to students,  
(date) (something will happen - activity)

resulting in increased time in the classroom and classroom performance.  
(objective)

II.

Objectives of Project	List the corresponding district/school/curriculum goals (if applicable)	State how you will evaluate whether objectives are met.

By providing kinesthetic learners movement options in their classrooms, learners will remain focused and engaged in classroom learning tasks for longer periods of time evidenced by decreased need to leave classroom or decreased redirection by teacher.	School: Continue to promote a healthy, safe, and a problem solving environment among staff and students District: The district will be able to meet the needs of a variety of learners, while holding all of the students to high expectations. District/Special Ed: Met the RTI goals providing a variety of interventions prior to a referral of a student. Special Ed: Offers a continuum of services meeting the needs of the learners and developing programming based on the individual needs of each student in special education program.	Objective will be measured through the documentation of the EBD staff counting and comparing the number of student removals from the general education classroom.
Students will be able to successfully complete the WKCE test.	District: Raise sub group scores in reading and mathematics on the WKCE State Test	Objective will be measured by the increase test scores.
Reduce the number of minor and major classroom behaviors reported to the office	Special Ed: Offers a continuum of services meeting the needs of the learners and developing programming based on the individual needs of each student in special education program. District/Special Ed: Met the RTI goals providing a variety of interventions prior to a referral of a student.	Documented by office and classroom teacher behavior forms.

### III.

Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Who Will Be Responsible for Implementation	Resources Needed (not financial)	Timeframe to Accomplish
Purchase seating options	Heather Stern		One month
Teach the classroom teachers about the tools available	Heather Stern / Dana Young	staff meeting, support from principal	one month
Introduce furniture and seating options to students	regular ed staff, special ed staff, OT	time	1-2 weeks depending on students and classroom implementing seating options

Use of movement options and data collected	Regular ed staff, special ed staff, OT	time	7 months

IV. What is the lifespan of this project?

The lifespan of the this project will be the lifetime of all the seating options made available. Once they are purchased, staff will be informed. Staff will be able to utilize within the general education classrooms and will be able to try more than one option to help the students succeed in their academics.

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

With the purchase of all the seating options, fifty or more students will benefit from the options available to them.

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

Other organizations in the community (if applicable)

Other schools in the district (if applicable)

The results will be shared with other buildings at the conclusion of the year they are implemented.

Other departments/classrooms (if applicable)

The regular education, occupational therapy and special education staff are collaborating together to create and implement the grant.

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

The seating options will remain in the special education department. A check out system of the items will be made for teachers to access the movement options within their classrooms. The results will be shared within the district.

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

The desks, wiggles seats and ball chairs will be available through the special education program to be utilized within the general education classroom allowing students to be successful in their classrooms without having to be removed for movement and/or sensory breaks. A check out system will be created use the items purchased. Once all the items are available, a short training will be presented during a spring staff meeting teaching the staff how to correctly use the movement chairs. The variety of choices will help to meet the variety of needs the students present in the regular education classrooms. When in need, the items could be shared with other buildings based on student needs.

**Section 4: Budget Information:**

Item	Supplier	Budgeted Amount
Standing Desk	Visualedtech.com	249.10 x 10 = 2499.50

Desk Stool	visualedtech.com	119.40 x 10 = 1194.00
Disc O Sit	Abilitations**	23.99 x 10 = 239.90
Swis Disk	Abilitations	38.69 x 5 = 193.45
Movin' Sit Jr	Abilitations	31.11 x 5 = 155.55
Movin' Sit	Abilitations	37.47 x 5 = 187.35
balance ball chair system	Abilitations	69.99 x 5 = 349.95
Deskerciser-stretch bands for chairs	Abilitations	7.99 x 10 = 79.90
Desk and Stool shipping	Visualtech.com total = 3693.50	Free (any purchase of 2000.00 shipping is complimentary)
Other movement items shipping	Abilitations total=1206.10	Free (shipping is free for orders over 99.00)

\*\*Abilitations offers latex free products. North Woods International is a latex controlled environment.

Total request: \$ 4899.60 (plus shipping)

Other sources of funding for this project (if applicable):

Total budget to accomplish project: \$

### Section 5: Summary:

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

It is a new form of student furniture. Several schools throughout the US has begun to use these desks. The initial grant will allow for the special education program at North Woods to experiment with the usefulness of the desks. Teachers will be able to share amongst the district the benefits the students received from the use of these desks. In addition to the desks, the special education department will have a variety of seating options for children who struggle to focus and sit in their classrooms. The options will allow for a variety of interventions to be used and documented the usefulness of the items.

The items will be introduced to the students and staff through the building. The families will be informed through the school newsletter and through the building website.

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

Twirling and falling out of a chair, walking around the classroom, standing or lying on top of a desk, blurting out answers, and using a pencil for imaginary play are all typical behaviors demonstrated of students who are kinesthetic learners. Kinesthetic learners or those who think and learn best while in motion, struggle to remain still and remain focused on the academic task asked of them. The struggle to remain still is clearly evident in students with emotional behavior disorders and students with attention deficit hyper activity disorder. Teachers may not understand that these children need and seek movement to stay focused in the classroom. Providing students with a variety of seating

options that fulfill their need to move while thinking and learning can only promote academic success. Movement items include: stand up desks, wiggle seats (circle seats), wedge seats, balance ball chairs and resistance bands for chairs. The stand up desks have proven to be successful for both students with and without disabilities. A study was completed by a graduate student of UWL documenting a reduced time removed from the general education classroom. The stand up desks have also received world wide news coverage for the success they have brought to several classrooms throughout the United States. A student was quoted saying, "My favorite part of the desks is the 'feet swing' because now my feet don't get as jumpy." The use of wiggle seats, wedge seats and ball balance chairs will provide the staff with alternative seating options within the class. There are many times when a circle seat might not be beneficial, but a balance ball chair will help the student to focus forcing them to use their core muscles to balance and complete their work. The stretch-bands are placed at the bottom of chairs, creating resistance for students who just need a small way to let out their energy. The variety of seating options will benefit up to 50 students (if all items are in use) throughout the building. All the seating choices help provide the extra stimulation the students need in order to be successful in the classroom.