



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 : Julie Anderson, Jenny Leren, and Jenne Miles

School: Franklin Elementary and Longfellow Middle Schools

Position/Title: Julie (3rd grade teacher), Jenny (occupational therapist), Jenne (specific learning disabilities teacher).

School Phone: 789- 7670 (Longfellow) or 789-7970 (Franklin)

Section 2: Basic Project Information:

Project Title: *Getting to the Core of Academics*

Total Request \$ 644.79

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. Upon receiving the Classroom Innovation Grant, twenty-six regular and special education students, ages 8 -14, will have access to stability balls to help further develop their on-task focusing skills to achieve greater learning. In addition, the gentle movement during use of the stability balls will entice learning, increase participation, and lessen anxieties surrounding classroom tasks.

II.

<i>Objectives of Project</i>	<i>List the corresponding district/school/curriculum goals (if applicable)</i>	<i>State how you will evaluate whether objectives are met.</i>
<p>Improve student focus and on-task behavior during seated class work</p>	<p>To sustain attention in order to meet Common Core Standards and to increase achievement per district curriculum.</p>	<p>I/we will be able to determine the effectiveness of the stability balls based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teacher prompts • student ability to self-control • improvements in quality of student produced class work • informal student survey on how they view use of the stability balls • attentiveness during instructional and independent class work
<p>Collaborative effort to provide stability balls to a variety of students, regular and special education, who experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • postural instability • impaired vision • low or high arousal state • anxiety • sensory impairments • ADHD • speech disorders • emotional and behavioral disorders 	<p>Students will engage effectively through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussions • understanding main idea • presenting claims and findings • using appropriate eye contact • using adequate voice and clear pronunciation • acquisition, retention, and retrieval of information 	<p>See Above</p>
<p>Improve student physical fitness</p>	<p>Students will experience increased opportunity to engage core muscles while sitting on a stability ball and less opportunities for poor posture</p>	<p>See Above</p>

By sitting on the stability balls, skills students will show greater: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impulse control, • maintaining “Body Basics”, • upright posture • core strength • development of handwriting skills 	In support of Franklin Elementary School’s rules that are defined by Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) to be “Safe, Respect, Responsible” In support of Longfellow Middle School’s mission statement “Engagement, Relationships, Learning”	See Above
Students will experience less anxiety in the classroom	In support the Longfellow and Franklin mission statements indicated above	See Above
Students will have a greater zest for learning		See Above

Stability balls provide many physical benefits for the students. They encourage upright posture and therefore “core” or trunk strength, which is imperative in handwriting abilities and class work. Core strength is also a necessary component of maintaining visual attention on a lesson. Gentle bouncing can help to raise energy level for a student fighting fatigue, or it can be calming for a student who needs to bring their energy level down a notch. For a student who needs to move a lot, the stability ball helps to channel their energy in a non-distracting manner. Movement allows for appropriate levels of alertness and attention. A growing number of studies are supporting the use of stability balls for enhancing learning, including a study focused on students with ADHD, where in-seat behavior and word legibility were found to be facilitated. (*Classroom Seating for Children with ADHD: Therapy Balls Versus Chairs. 2003; Schilling, D.L. et al; The American Journal of Occupational Therapy, Vol. 57, No. 5; pp.40-47*). There are also abounding testimonials on the internet implicating successful use of stability balls in the classroom.

III.

<i>Activities to Accomplish Objectives</i>	<i>Who Will Be Responsible for Implementation</i>	<i>Resources Needed (not financial)</i>	<i>Timeframe to Accomplish</i>
Measure students for appropriate fit of stability ball for age range and student size	Julie Anderson at Franklin Jenne Miles at Longfellow Middle	Initial direction from Jenny Leren, Occupational Therapist for both schools	1 hour
Research different types of stability balls (ball with chairs, balls in isolation, balls with	Julie Anderson Jenne Miles Jenny Leren	Online resources including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazon.com • Abilitations.com 	Three hours are needed, two of which have already been completed

stand) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with latex free schools • Quality • Best value • Best fit for age group (planning for the next class) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target.com • Variety of websites reviewing stability ball testimonials • Talking with three area teachers currently using stability balls in classroom 	
Ordering stability balls	Jenny Leren	Upon grant approval Ordering guidelines	Implementation during 2010-2011 school year
Inflating stability balls	Jenny Leren, Julie Anderson, and Jenne Miles, with assist of building custodian as needed	An air compressor will be used to inflate balls to two-thirds full. The manual ball pump will be used inflate the remainder of the way for best care of the stability balls.	1 hour
Franklin- Distribution of individual stability balls along with review of expectations.	Julie Anderson Jenny Leren	Stability balls	2010-2011 school year
Longfellow- Introducing individual stability balls along with expectations.	Jenne Miles Jenny Leren		

IV. What is the lifespan of this project?

The stability balls will be reused each school year. A higher grade stability ball has been selected to ensure the product is durable and latex-free. With proper care and use, the stability balls should serve several classes or years of students. Additionally, the selected stability balls have an anti-burst feature. If accidentally punctured, the ball will deflate slowly, giving the student time to get off of the ball safely.

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

At Franklin Elementary School, Mrs. Julie Anderson’s third grade class has 16 students. In collaboration with Jenny Leren, Occupational Therapist, Julie’s students have had the opportunity to utilize one ball on

a rotational basis. Based upon their current exposure, the children have verbalized the desire to use stability balls on a more frequent basis. Individual student benefits have been noticed by Mrs. Anderson and the student needs exceed the rotation of one ball throughout the classroom. Mrs. Anderson is requesting twenty stability balls as her class size may increase in the next year.

At Longfellow Middle School, Mrs. Jenne Miles Specific Learning Disability classroom varies from 3 to 13 students per period. One student currently uses the stability ball in accordance with their IEP (Individualize Education Plan) goals in collaboration with Jenny Leren, Occupational Therapist. Due to the versatility and effectiveness of the stability ball, other students with Special Educational needs would also benefit from this approach. Sensory approaches are beneficial for many students, including those with Special Education needs. Stability balls are a wonderful and age-appropriate sensory activity for teenagers.

VI. Please state how you will collaborate with:

Other organizations in the community (if applicable)
Not applicable.

Other schools in the district (if applicable)
After program implementation, we would be happy to share our experience and observations with other interested schools.

Other departments/classrooms (if applicable)
We strongly believe in this tool being an effective and productive intervention for students and would gladly lend other classrooms the opportunity to use the stability balls on a trial basis.

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

We are very enthused that this project is perpetual!

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

We've already had the opportunity to share our grant idea with Dr. Penny Reedy, Longfellow principal. She observed the impact that one ball can provide to one student, specifically in the special education setting.

Upon obtaining the grant, we would like to publicize pictures and/or a short article about ***** in the "Highlights" section of the La Crosse School District web page, as well as each Franklin Elementary and Longfellow Middle Schools' staff communications. We will label the stability balls with "funded with thanks by La Crosse Public Education Foundation". A "thank you to LPEF" in school newsletters' will be shared. Lastly, when parents are notified of the stability balls, either in the newsletter home or during parent/teacher conferences, we will include a special thanks to LPEF. As mentioned above, we would be happy to lend the stability balls to other students for a trial basis.

Section 4: Budget Information:

Item	Supplier	Budgeted Amount
Gaiam Balance Ball Chair (2) (ball pump included)	Amazon.com	79.98 x 2 = \$159.96
75 cm ball (2)	Abilitations.com	40.49 x 2= 80.98
65 cm ball (6)	Abilitations.com	31.99 x 6= 191.94
55 cm ball (14)	Abilitations.com	26.99 x 5= 134.95
45 cm ball (3)	Abilitations.com	18.99 x 3= 56.97
Bi-directional high volume ball pump	Abilitations.com	19.99 19.99

(2 ball chairs and 5 stability balls for Mrs. Mile's classroom; 20 stability balls and ball pump for Mrs. Anderson's classroom)

**all items will have free shipping

Total request: \$644.79

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

Not applicable

Total budget to accomplish project: \$644.79

Section 5: Summary:

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

Through Parent/Teacher conferences, parents will have the opportunity to observe the classroom environment and share with other parents. Building staff will also take notice and interest. The teachers and students will be pleased to share a written thank you and/or testimonial.

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

The classroom continues to evolve with new challenges including budget cuts, higher standards, and one may also state children with greater socio-emotional-physical needs. Stability balls offer a low tech, and inexpensive element into a student's day. Twenty-six students on a daily basis will have this exciting opportunity that would: finesse focus abilities, improve physical activity level, and decrease of anxieties surrounding school. The benefits we are looking for include improved quality of class work, zest for learning, and that the students will always remember when they had balls for chairs in their classroom! We are excited about *Getting to the Core of Academics*, reaching students in both regular and special education.