

## 2014-2015 Educational Grant Application

<b>Submission Date</b>	2014-03-26 18:54:25
<b>Name of Grant</b>	Bolin Bluebonnet Book Club
<b>Primary Contact</b>	Deb Scott
<b>Applicant E-mail</b>	deb_scott@allenisd.org
<b>Phone Number</b>	(972) 567-3031
<b>Campus</b>	Bolin Elementary School
<b>Curriculum Area</b>	ELA
<b>Other Curriculum</b>	Dyslexia Therapy
<b>Grade Level(s)</b>	3, 4, 5, 6
<b>Students Impacted</b>	42
<b>Approver Name</b>	Reena Varughese
<b>Approver E-mail</b>	reena_varughese@allenisd.org
<b>Project Purpose</b>	<p>Students with dyslexia are reluctant readers, often avoiding reading to satisfy school assignments and are hard pressed to pick up a book to read for pleasure. It's hard to blame them; the task of reading for them is laborious, fatiguing, and slow. However, the best way to improve and apply the critical reading skills the students learn in dyslexia therapy, build stamina, gain valuable vocabulary and comprehension skills is to – READ, READ, READ! To make reading a more enjoyable and sought after activity, I have offered Book Clubs to my dyslexic students at Bolin. Third through sixth grade DT students are invited to participate in a once a week book club for an hour after school. Book Club has become a way for students to engage with books that may be outside their comfortable reading zone and has provided an outlet to express what has been learned through creative and imaginative projects. Taking reading risks alongside other dyslexic students reduces the anxiety often felt in the regular classroom. Students feel safe to express their out-of-the-box thinking and ideas, as well as ask questions about vocabulary and plot. Book Clubs are now in the third year and have grown from 5 students participating to over 25 participating weekly.</p> <p>For next year, I'd like to expand Book Club to offer a new focus on the Texas Bluebonnet Award books selected for 2014-2015. Many of my students feel that reading the required number of books to be eligible to vote is a daunting task and completely out of their reach. With this book club, I want to change that paradigm. Through using books on the classroom Kindles, reading aloud to students, accessing technology solutions for text to speech, and providing related projects to pique interest, my aim is to have students</p>

set reading goals that they can not only reach – but are eager to surpass. Securing copies of the books on the 2014-2015 Texas Bluebonnet Award list in paper and digital (e-book/Kindle) formats through monies obtained from a Foundation for Allen Schools grant will make that possible.

## Project Description

Copies of each book on the 2014-2015 Texas Bluebonnet Award list will be secured in both paper and Kindle formats (one digital copy can be loaded to the 6 Kindles in use by Bolin's dyslexia therapy classroom.) Three copies are requested for each book title available in paperback, one copy if available only in hardback, and one Kindle copy for all titles.

Students will sign up to participate in the Bluebonnet Book Club and commit with a reading contract to a Bluebonnet Book Reading Goal. They can choose from progressive levels and can move their goal to the next higher commitment level when the initial goal is reached. Parent permission and acknowledgement/support of the goal will be obtained before a student begins participating in the Bluebonnet Book Club. The initial goal for each student will be to read 5 of the nominated books to be eligible for voting for the Texas Bluebonnet Award in January, 2015.

For the 2014-2015 school year, 40 dyslexic students will be eligible to participate in grades 3 through 6 based on the current enrollment number of Bolin students in the dyslexia therapy program curriculum and current 5th graders that have exited the program but still participate in the after school book club for 2013-2014..

They will attend book club weekly and participate in small group reading, reading on the Kindle, or reading using Bookshare (a digital book source for individuals with a print disability like dyslexia – although only some of the Bluebonnet books are currently available) and a text to speech app, to access the text of the book. Students may choose from the book copies made available from the grant to take home to read without the constraint of library due dates and potential fines. Discussion and guided questioning of each book will support comprehension skill development and enhance enjoyment of the story.

Students will respond to their reading and completion of a book by documenting their opinion and recommendation of the book. Related reading activities will be encouraged such as Skype interviews with authors of the books on the Bluebonnet list.

Accomplishments will be awarded and recognized through a special bulletin board outside the classroom that shows their picture and a picture of the book cover along with their attached book critique statement. They will further be encouraged by a congratulatory email sent to their parent, a tweet on Twitter of their opinion of the book, and through working on special projects like creating a video book commercial utilizing available apps and technology tools, or producing an art or drama project to promote or critique the book for others.

Multiple days per week will be offered for the student to choose a Bluebonnet Book Club that fits their personal schedule and encourages all eligible students to participate while keeping each club to a manageable size for

supervision, support, and mentoring. Bluebonnet Book Club will meet for one hour each week; 3:00– 4:00 p.m. in the DT classroom and supervised by the sponsor, Deb Scott, Bolin’s dyslexia therapy teacher. Remind 101 (a one-way texting tool for teachers) will be used to keep parents informed and reminded of Bluebonnet Book Club meetings.

A culminating award recognition ceremony will be added to the annual Bolin Dyslexia Awards Breakfast in late May, 2015 to acknowledge the achievements of Book Club members.

### **Allen ISD Goals/TEKS**

The project aligns in support of the ELA reading TEKS for grades 3 through 6 involving comprehension of fiction and non-fiction texts; vocabulary development; reading media literacy; writing conventions; writing composition; and listening and speaking/teamwork.

### **Measurements**

The effectiveness of the project will be measured in the number of dyslexia students participating and the number of books read on the 2014-2015 Texas Bluebonnet Award list. There are 20 total books on the list and approximately 40 students that could participate. That is a potential total of 800 books read by Bolin’s dyslexic students! A project goal of an average of 10 books per student participating would be a remarkable accomplishment for these students and worthy of great pride. The boost to reading skill development, self-esteem, comprehension and stamina in reading would further be felt in positive impact and a boost in reading assessment scores as well.

### **Teaching Methods**

The Bluebonnet Book Club sponsor will serve as a mentor and coach to students, encouraging student creative input, involvement, and direction for projects. At the initial kickoff Book Club meeting, students will be shown the book titles through a media presentation and presented with the reading contract levels they can choose. Excitement will be generated as students select their top choices for books to begin reading.

The sponsor will read aloud to students during book club meetings, students will also read aloud, read in pairs, read on Booksource (for titles available through this tool). Paperback/hardback copies will be used as well as digital e-books on the Kindles.

Student ideas for projects will be generated in group discussion facilitated by the sponsor teacher. Students will be encouraged to take pictures of book club activities with the iPads for posting on Twitter, to compose and design printed critiques of the books they have read for posting outside the classroom in the hallway and on Twitter, to video book commercials to be posted to the school website promoting books they have read, and produce other projects that can be displayed in the cases in the school reception area for visitors to see.

Students will research authors for possible Skype interview opportunities and write questions to ask the author regarding the book. When interview appointments can be made, students will participate in asking questions of the author and sharing their comments and reactions to the book written by the author.

<b>Timeline for Project</b>	Bluebonnet Book Club recruitment and organization will begin when school starts and students return to dyslexia therapy. Students that have exited/completed the program will be notified as well to invite their participation. Books can be ordered when the funds are available after September 15, 2014 although the Bluebonnet Book Clubs will begin meeting the week of September 8, 2014 for a kick-off to introduce the books on the list and conclude the week before the end of school in May, 2015. While the voting dates for the Texas Bluebonnet Award occur in January, the reading goals for students will continue through the end of the school year with the initial goal to be eligible to vote (reading a minimum of 5 books) for voting on the award in January, 2015.
<b>Curriculum/System Support</b>	The Bluebonnet Book Club directly supports and enhances reading development for students identified with dyslexia. Building enthusiasm and engagement in reading helps students apply the skills they are learning in dyslexia therapy and provides them with the repetition necessary to lock in the learning. Additionally, the project supports development of self-esteem and self confidence as students overcome obstacles to reading and gain access to fulfillment, accomplishment and pride at reaching a goal. Reaching their reading goals in the supported environment of the Book Club will help them reach for and realize that other goals are possible, too.
<b>Additional Comments</b>	None
<b>Instructional Supplies or Resources</b>	3 copies of the Texas Bluebonnet Award nominee book titles that are available in paperback - \$249 1 copy of the titles that are only available in hardback - \$94 1 copy of all 20 titles for Kindle (one copy can be loaded onto 6 Kindle devices) - \$148
<b>Supplies Budget</b>	\$491
<b>Technology</b>	\$0 - using available technology devices and tools
<b>Technology Budget</b>	0
<b>Staff Training / Staff Development</b>	\$0 - none required
<b>Training Budget</b>	0
<b>Transportation/Field Trip</b>	\$0 - none planned
<b>Transportation Budget</b>	0
<b>Other</b>	\$0
<b>Other Budget</b>	0
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$491
<b>Additional Funds</b>	\$0

