

2014-2015 Educational Grant Application

Submission Date	2014-02-27 17:17:49
Name of Grant	A Myriad of Possibilities ... Texas Performance Standards Project Investigations
Primary Contact	Beth Winger
Applicant E-mail	beth_winger@allenisd.org
Phone Number	(972) 747-3331
Additional Teachers/Staff who are applying for or will be working with this grant:	Elementary campus AIM teachers: Beth Winger – Boon, Beth Bell – Marion, Cindy Capes – Story, Tiffany Dudley– Olson, Julie Georgas – Cheatham, Jane Gillette – Boyd, Jennifer Gurs – Lindsey, Jessica Look – Reed, Julie McGary– Bolin, Diane Moore – Chandler, Vanessa Norman– Rountree, Terry Rains/Karri Decker– Anderson, Carrie Sledge – Green, Cindy Stein– Vaughan, Karen Szeryk – Norton, Ashley Weller – Kerr, Jackie Zander – Evans
Campus	Boon Elementary School
Other Campus	All elementary campuses
Curriculum Area	Gifted & Talented
Grade Level(s)	4th grade AIM students
Students Impacted	300
Approver Name	Barbara Myer
Approver E-mail	barbara_myer@allenisd.org
Project Purpose	<p>A Myriad of Possibilities ... just what a gifted and talented student needs to learn to his/her highest potential. From self-selected learning to divergent questioning, strong components of critical thinking and creative exploration, collaboration/group interaction, independent research, logic, higher order thinking skills, focus on social skills (leadership, teamwork, citizenship), and advanced academics.</p> <p>The Texas Performance Standards Projects outline a variety of in-depth and engaging tasks and are a resource for differentiated instruction for our fourth grade AIM students. The Texas Performance Standards Projects provide enhanced academic experiences, opportunities for choice, and global connections. The end result is professional quality work reflecting student-centered research. The investigations are based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and focus on the cross-curricular connections in the core content areas of English language arts and reading, mathematics, science, and social studies.</p>

Most importantly, this learning opportunity challenges students to develop and apply their talents through a variety of integrated multidisciplinary learning activities and highly engaging projects that each student selects based on his/her interests.

Project Description

The Texas Performance Standards Project tasks for the fourth grade researchers have two modules, or phases. Phase I of the project allows each fourth grade learner to become submersed and engaged in investigations/activities surrounding each of the five intriguing topics ... Enigmas, the Gift of Age, Innovation Celebration, Math Around Town, and We are Texans.

In Phase I of the project, students are inundated in learning experiences that include inquiry through large group, small group, and individual discovery of concepts. Phase I sets the groundwork for understanding of each theme as it establishes knowledge about the subject matter through exploration.

Phase II of the endeavor focuses on independent research. Students utilize and extend their learning experiences from Phase I to design and implement a plan that fits their learning styles and interests. The product allows students to apply research, synthesize learning, and utilize knowledge in a concrete situation. After Phase II is complete, fourth graders will participate in a district wide SHOWCASE of student talent. Parents and special guests will be invited to view backboards, research logs, game boards, and other products that display valuable knowledge gained from the journey of learning provided by encounters with the Texas Performance Standards investigations. Ultimately, the TPSP provide students with the opportunity to show an advanced, high-quality demonstration of their inquiry and communication skills ... A Myriad of Possibilities.

Allen ISD Goals/TEKS

These learning opportunities are aligned with the TEKS and the Texas State Plan for the education of gifted and talented students supporting the development of logical thinking, creative problem solving, intellectual risk taking, and communication. Above all this grant proposal promotes the goal in which Allen ISD cultivates innovation in education that empowers every learner to realize his or her full potential.

Measurements

Texas Performance Standards Project rubrics help guide students to intended goals. District judges use rubrics to score projects on content knowledge and skills, research validity, analysis, synthesis, multiple perspectives, communication, and student presentation of knowledge acquired.

Teaching Methods

Round Robin discovery effectively introduces each problem/project choice to the class (Phase I). Phase II allows for a student-driven project that focuses on individual research of personal appeal. Teachers plan and conference with students to guide inquiry and products through mini-lessons held with the whole group or with individual TPSP task groups. (i.e. Innovation Celebrations – mini-lesson on logos, Math Around Town – mini-lesson on resumes, Whole Group- mini-lesson on website accuracy)

Timeline for Project	<p>This project will run for the entire 2014-2015 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase I – fall semester • Phase II – spring semester with a completion date at the beginning of May • Texas Performance Standards Showcase of Talents – Mid May
Curriculum/System Support	<p>This project is relevant, rigorous, open-ended, and challenging. It is differentiated learning at its best! The Texas Performance Standards tasks enrich all content areas and allow for student choice based on personal strengths. These projects support English/LA TEKS related to research/writing along with various math, science, social studies, and technology TEKS within each respective project.</p>
Additional Comments	<p>The main focus of the grant proposal is to allow students to choose their in-depth studies within a certain content area of interest. Student researchers are given the chance to make connections across disciplines, conduct research, and draw conclusions about a selected area of study. Student experts showcase their products, creativity, and originality in a district wide display in which parents and guests are invited to view personal investigations.</p>
Instructional Supplies or Resources	<p>Tri-Fold Presentation Boards (Staples #826022) 300 @ \$3.66 ea Journals (Staples #749566) 300 @ \$.94 ea Gameboards (Bare Books #GM01) 200 @ \$3.95 ea Gameboard Boxes (Staples #630521) 200 @ \$1.58 ea</p>
Supplies Budget	\$2486
Technology	No technology funds needed
Technology Budget	\$0
Staff Training / Staff Development	No Staff Training/ Staff Development funds needed
Training Budget	\$0
Transportation/Field Trip	No transportation/ field trip funds needed
Transportation Budget	\$0
Other	No other funds needed
Other Budget	\$0
Total Budget	\$0
Additional Funds	No additional funds needed