

## 2014-2015 Educational Grant Application

<b>Submission Date</b>	2014-03-27 15:08:05
<b>Name of Grant</b>	Will the Next Steve Jobs, Please Raise His or Her Hand?
<b>Primary Contact</b>	Julie McGary
<b>Applicant E-mail</b>	julie_mcgary@allensd.org
<b>Phone Number</b>	(972) 816-6778
<b>Campus</b>	Bolin Elementary School
<b>Other Campus</b>	This grant could serve as an enrichment model for all other AIM teachers and their campuses.
<b>Curriculum Area</b>	Other (See Other Curriculum)
<b>Other Curriculum</b>	This enrichment program would span all disciplines and grade levels K-6.
<b>Grade Level(s)</b>	K-6
<b>Students Impacted</b>	670
<b>Approver Name</b>	Reena Varughese
<b>Approver E-mail</b>	reena_varughese@allensd.org
<b>Project Purpose</b>	<p>In 2014, knowledge should not solely be a commodity that is handed from teacher to student. Knowledge is at anyone's click of a finger. To prepare our students for this 21st century world, teachers should give students opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive through teaching themselves and each other. Let students discover their passions, and we might just uncover the next Steve Jobs. Will it be an identified gifted and talented student learning in the AIM (Activating Inquisitive Minds) classroom? Maybe. It might also be that high achiever or daydreamer in the regular classroom. To give students more opportunities to reach their full potential, we need to nurture higher-level, critical, and creative thinking. It's as simple as offering prompts, stepping aside, and watching as the students take learning to places they want to go. As simple as it seems, planning for this takes lots of time and effort. Funding this idea would help teachers tap into what students can do, not just what they know.</p>
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>Here at Bolin Elementary, we have initiated an enrichment program that we like to call "Brainy Bags." For each Brainy Bag, the AIM teacher has gathered and prepared a ready-to-use activity. The activities are designed to be quick and easy. They may be used in a whole class setting, with early finishers, or as a center activity. All of the materials foster higher-level, critical, or creative thinking and span many disciplines. The bags are currently in a weekly rotation among the Kindergarten, first, and second grade</p>

classrooms. There are a few bags that require replenishing some consumable items before the next use. Most of the activities were designed to be prepared once and used forever.

Many of the requested materials will focus on STEM, and Bolin hopes to double their use by using them in the AIM classroom as well. In this respect, this grant could potentially reach all Bolin students as it would allow us to grow the program to include more grade levels. With the positive feedback received about the Brainy Bags from teachers and students so far, it is probable that the teachers will be more apt to use the AIM teacher as an open resource when it comes to getting help with enrichment ideas as they make their daily lesson plans.

If this grant were awarded, it would fund the purchase of valuable resources including books, manipulative materials, puzzles, games, and kits for furthering the development of our Brainy Bags enrichment program. Having more teachers use the Brainy Bags more often will help develop the many talents of the gifted and non-gifted Bolin students alike. With its success, our enrichment program could serve as a model for all the elementary campuses in the AISD.

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

Upholding the core belief that “every child deserves the highest quality education,” this enrichment program strives to reach EVERY student at Bolin. Supporting the AISD Graduate Profile that states “students will master the skills needed to design innovative solutions within independent and team settings,” the Brainy Bags activities nurture high-level, critical, and creative thinking skills that are necessary in our 21st century world. Though our students are still in elementary school, it is never too soon to start planning for life after high school graduation.

#### **Measurements**

This program will be measured through student participation, work effort, enthusiasm, and ability to communicate and apply these high-level, critical, and creative thinking skills/ideas to other areas of their schoolwork; through the feedback from students, teachers, administrators, and parents; and possibly through finding unidentified gifted students.

#### **Teaching Methods**

The Brainy Bag enrichment program may be used with a variety of teaching methods. Teachers may use the activities in a whole group setting, fast finishers may use them individually as needed, or students may utilize the Brainy Bags at a center activity. All methods will guide students to develop, enhance, or challenge their higher-level, critical, and/or creative thinking skills.

#### **Timeline for Project**

After the requested items are purchased, it is estimated that the materials will be prepared for rotation use before the end of the 2014 fall semester and will be in continual use thereafter.

#### **Curriculum/System Support**

The brain-based nature of the requested materials is designed to keep students actively engaged and enthusiastic about their learning. The goal is for the learning to feel more like a game or competitive challenge (with oneself or with classmates). The Brainy Bag activities can

	be an exciting “break” from the general classroom routine, or they can be integrated to enhance or support the existing curriculum.
<b>Additional Comments</b>	The initiation of the Brainy Bags enrichment program has already received praise from teachers and students alike! The teachers have appreciated the time saving benefits of the easy-to-use system and say that the students really seem to enjoy the activities.
<b>Instructional Supplies or Resources</b>	<p>BOOK RESOURCES: Brilliant Activities for Gifted and Talented Children That Other Children Will Love Too, Brilliant Activities for Stretching Gifted and Talented Children, Brilliant Activities to Stimulate Creative Thinking: Stretch Gifted and Talented Children - And Everyone Else - In Primary Schools, Evan Moor Critical and Creative Thinking Activities (6 books grades 1 – 6)</p> <p>KITS: Lego Life of George – 5 kits; Lego Education Build To Express (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Leadership) – 1 kit</p> <p>GAMES: Mental Blox Critical Thinking, AnimaLogic, ThinkFun Visual Brainstorms, Perplexus Original, Perplexus Maze, Perplexus Rookie</p>
<b>Supplies Budget</b>	733
<b>Technology</b>	NA
<b>Technology Budget</b>	0
<b>Staff Training / Staff Development</b>	NA
<b>Training Budget</b>	0
<b>Transportation/Field Trip</b>	NA
<b>Transportation Budget</b>	0
<b>Other</b>	NA
<b>Other Budget</b>	0
<b>Total Budget</b>	733
<b>Additional Funds</b>	NA