2014-2015 Educational Grant Application

Submission Date	2014-03-31 00:39:45
Name of Grant	Smartscape
Primary Contact	Laurie Merrick
Applicant E-mail	laurie_merrick@allenisd.org
Phone Number	(972) 396.7714
Additional Teachers/Staff who are applying for or will be working with this grant:	Michelle Harlan
Campus	Ereckson Middle School
Curriculum Area	Science
Grade Level(s)	7-8
Students Impacted	25
Approver Name	Kim McLaughlin
Approver E-mail	kim_mclaughlin@allenisd.org
Project Purpose	The purpose of the project is to engage and educate the students about the wisdom of using native, drought tolerant plants in landscape. The students will plant and monitor Texas natives in the school garden. The students will then share their understanding, publicly, at Earth Fest and at the EMS Earth Day Festivities.
Project Description	The project will be student led with guidance from Mrs. Merrick. The students will study learn about the different Texas Natives, the soil composition of the garden and the use of a rain barrel to water the garden. The task will be to determine which plants would grow best in the conditions, given the challenge of our current water shortage. The students will determine the types of wildlife that will be drawn to these plants. The students will document the number and kinds of organisms in this micro-habitat. The students will benefit as they share this information with their peers and their parents. It will benefit the community as a whole as the students learn to grow drought tolerant plants during Allen's current water restrictions.
Allen ISD Goals/TEKS	7.10A Students will observe and describe how different environments, including micro-habitats in schoolyards and biomes, support different varieties of organisms. The students will study the levels of organization in this micro-habitat. 8.11C investigate how organisms and populations in an ecosystem depend on and may compete for biotic and abiotic factors such as quantity of light, water, range of temperatures, or soil composition. The students will study

	the ecosystem created in the garden and will investigate and determine how each of the organisms compete for the resources.
Measurements	The students will be given a pre and post evaluation to determine the depth of understanding of how Texas Natives improve the ecosystem of the garden.
Teaching Methods	The students will be engaged in researching Texas Natives by using the internet. The students will be given the opportunity to learn from the Allen Garden Club as well as Texas Master Naturalists. The students will be working with an Environmental Scientist who specializes in native Texas plants. The students will measure and determine the layout for the garden.
Timeline for Project	Some of the funds will be used immediately to have plants ready for Spring. The other part of the funds will be used in the Spring for the planting after the last frost.
Curriculum/System Support	This project is a way to introduce the opportunity to join the high school environmental class. This project would be a great introduction to City of Allen Water Conservation Plan and the Allen ISD campus improvement.
Additional Comments	The use of a smartscape will not only encourage the use of drought tolerant Texas natives, and educate the students to the need to be wise with our water resources, but will also enhance the beauty of the campus.
Instructional Supplies or Resources	Texas Native Plants
Supplies Budget	300
Technology	None
Technology Budget	0
Staff Training / Staff Development	None
Training Budget	0
Transportation/Field Trip	None
Transportation Budget	0
Other	None
Other Budget	0
Total Budget	300
Additional Funds	200 from the City of Allen