



2013 - 14 Educational Grant Application
Deadline: Wednesday, March 20, 2013, by 4pm

Name of Grant: **A Myriad of Possibilities ... Texas Performance Standards Project Investigations**

Name of person(s) submitted by: (if submitted by a team of teachers, grade level, etc. please list all names involved and select one individual to be the contact person for the grant.)

AISD's AIM (Activating Inquisitive Minds) Program for elementary gifted students: Beth Bell – Marion, Cindy Capes – Story, Tiffany Dudley– Olson, Julie Georgas – Cheatham, Jane Gillette – Boyd, Jennifer Gurs – Rountree, Jessica Look – Reed, Julie McGary– Bolin, Diane Moore – Chandler, Vanessa Norman– Cheatham, Terry Rains– Anderson, Carrie Sledge – Green, Cindy Stein– Vaughn, Karen Szeryk – Norton, Ashley Weller – Kerr, Beth Wininger – Boon, Jackie Zander – Evans. Contact person: Diane Moore- Chandler

Campus/Department: **Gifted and Talented Program (AIM)** **Grade Level(s):** **4th grade AIM students**

Total Dollar Amount Requested: **\$ 2486**

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: **Approximately 300 students across the district**

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: **Barbara Myer, Gifted and Talented Coordinator**

Project Purpose: What is the problem, need or opportunity that this grant will address? What is the **student need** which the project will address? The purpose should explain **what students will know and be able to do** as a result of this project. Please explain how a problem will be addressed or a situation improved because of the grant. **(200 words or less)**

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.

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.

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.

Project Description: How will the project or program be implemented? Describe activities and tasks. Who is the target population and in what ways will they benefit? **(200 words or less)**

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 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.

Foundation For Allen Schools: 2013-14 Educational Grant Application

Allen ISD Goals/TEKS: Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Limit to top two or three examples. (50 words or less)

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: What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project? (100 words or less)

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: What teaching methods will be used to implement this project? (100 words or less)

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: Funds will be available after September 1, 2013. (50 words or less)

This project will run for the entire 2013-2014 school year

- 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: Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems. (100 words or less)

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.

Additional Comments: Include any additional comments or information. (100 words or less)

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.

Foundation For Allen Schools: 2013-14 Educational Grant Application

Grant Budget: specific product numbers, vendor addresses, etc. **are not required** on this budget page. The name of the product or the type of training or estimated cost of transportation is sufficient.

***Please round numbers to the nearest dollar amount.**

Instructional Supplies or Resources: (Books, Manipulatives, etc.)	
Tri-Fold Presentation Board (Staples #826022) 300 @ \$3.66 ea	\$ 1098
Journals (Staples #749566) 300 @ \$.94 ea	\$ 282
Gameboards (Bare Books #GM01) 200 @ \$3.95 ea	\$ 790
Gameboard Boxes (Staples #630521) 200 @ \$1.58 ea	\$ 316
	<u>Total:</u> \$ 2486
Technology: (Software, License, etc.)	
	Total: \$
Staff Training / Staff Development:	
	Total: \$
Transportation:	
	Total: \$
Other Expenses:	
	Total: \$
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$ 2486

Additional Funds: Are there any additional funds available for this grant? Campus or district funds? PTA funds? If you have or will be seeking funds from any other sources to help with this project, please explain.