



2012-13 Educational Grant Application
Deadline: Wednesday, March 7, 2012, by 4pm

Name of Grant: Social Studies Reading

Name of person(s) submitted by:

Kim Leslie, Jennifer Wright, Jenny Armentrout, Jamye Hall, Monica Serrano, Bethany McIntyre

Campus/Department: Marion **Grade Level(s):** Kindergarten

Total Dollar Amount Requested: \$1,725.72

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: 120 students

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: Johnna Walker

Project Summary/Purpose: Be specific. What is the student need which the project will address? The purpose should describe 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.

Children have more success learning and understanding material when it is presented to them in a way that is meaningful to them. Using literature to engage and develop interest in new concepts leads to greater student understanding. Students presented with varied opportunities for investigation also develop a more positive attitude about social studies. Connecting literature to social studies leads students in making meaningful connections and understanding of social studies concepts that will last a lifetime.

The purpose of this project is to provide each kindergarten class with literature recommended by the Allen ISD social studies curriculum documents. Each literature selection would aide in engaging and enhancing student learning in each unit of study. This will assist in the building of foundational social studies skills to promote lifelong learning.

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?

The social studies reading project will improve academic achievement in social studies, as well as develop knowledge and interest in various reading genres while providing different purposes for reading. Ways the books will be used to enhance the social studies curriculum include, but are not limited to:

- Providing the teachers with resources to support social studies instruction.
- Providing a context or model for an activity.
- Inspiring a creative social studies experience for children.
- Developing or explaining a social studies concept or skill.
- Preparing for a social studies concept or skill.
- Demonstrating some of the concepts introduced in the story.
- Making connections to social studies situations in everyday life.

- Reviewing a social studies concept or skill

These methods promote improved performance and demonstration of skills in the classroom. If the children can make a connection to social studies content in literature, it can make social studies more interesting, engaging and applicable to real life situations. Monies from the grant would be used to purchase books that correlate with each social studies unit in the Allen ISD curriculum.

Marion Elementary has a large and diverse population. We have a large number of students with English as a second language. As educators, we strive for all children to be able to understand and perform social studies skills at grade-level or above. There is a need to provide students and teachers with readily available materials that promote learning by an effective means. Our classroom needs to be enriched with the materials that will promote the development of social studies skills and concepts.

Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Limit to top two or three examples.

These books support each unit in the Allen ISD social studies curriculum, which covers all the TEKS for social studies in kindergarten.

What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project?

Kindergarten curriculum will be enhanced with specific literature to target skills we are required to teach. We currently do not have resources available for instruction of skills that are tested on the middle school STAAR test. These specified literature choices will allow students to build a foundation for learning concepts that are built upon over their elementary school career.

What teaching methods will be used to implement this project?

Social studies instruction will involve active participation and will be implemented daily. Books will be presented within the applicable unit. Mini-lessons using these books will offer opportunities for engaging work correlating with the book topic. After large group implementation, the books will be used for:

- Classroom discussions
- Cooperative learning
- Small group instruction
- Individual practice of social studies skills

The literature will provide for remediation as well as enrichment for the advanced learner in social studies concepts presented in the books.

Timeline for project (Funds will be available after September 1, 2012):

September 2012	-order selected books
October 2012	-Distribute books to each of the classrooms
September 2012- June 2013	-report card assessments administered during the school year will track progress and learning needs.
June 2013	-Examine report card results to determine if objectives have been met.

Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems:

All books listed are recommended by the Allen ISD social studies curriculum that is developed by the district for the use of kindergarten classrooms, thus supporting the district learning goals.

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED			\$
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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.