Technology Equal Access for Children in Hospitals

TEACH Project

Proposal for the Technology Applications Readiness Grants for Empowering Texas (TARGET)

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TEACH Project 2003-2005

This narrative is written in response and application to the Technology Applications Readiness Grants for Empowering Texas (TARGET). It is our hope the information that follows will inform the reviewer concerning the crucial need for equal access to technology for those children residing in hospitals.

Children hospitalized in Children's Medical Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, and Our Children's House are served by the Dallas Independent School District (DISD). The children may stay in these facilities from one week to a year or longer. They are taught by one or more certified teachers and range in grade levels from Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade.

It is the challenge of the DISD to provide a comprehensive curriculum to these students and, at the same time, ensure that all credits necessary for graduation are maintained during hospitalization. The "districts mission is to prepare all students to graduate with the knowledge and skills to become productive and responsible citizens".

To further the district's mission for educating all students, including those that do not attend a traditional campus, we are requesting funds to install and implement an Integrated Learning System (ILS) computer lab in each of the three major children's hospitals served by DISD.

Statement of Need

A five-member team visited Children's Medical Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, and Our Children's House to survey the hardware, software, network connectivity, and electrical needs for each site. The team was comprised of DISD personnel and included a representative from special education, general education, special education technology, instructional technology, and the wide area network department.

Based on the site visits to each hospital the team recommended the following components to ensure equal access to technology and ILS software for credit recovery:

- Four desktop computers per facility
- Four personal laser printers per facility
- Access to a secure classroom with adequate electrical outlets
- Access to the Internet and the DISD network and dedicated server
- One switch/hub per facility
- Subscription to an elementary and secondary level integrated learning system
- Accessories and consumables to support the mini computer lab
- Comprehensive training on the ILS software/system for each teacher

The teachers for each hospital were asked to attend presentations by various vendors offering integrated learning system programs. After review the teachers and DISD staff recommended the use of CompassLearning (KindlePark and Learning Odyssey)for Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade students and NovaNET for 7th-12th grade students.

Use of these programs are already a Dallas ISD board approved credit recovery solution for student's at-risk. Children admitted to hospitals with chronic health problems, terminal illness, as well as drug addiction are included in the at-risk student population.

Description of CompassLearning and NovaNET

CompassLearning's KindlePark and Learning Odyssey is a computer-based learning system designed for the elementary level students. The system includes a cross-platform manager that is used with instructional, assessment, and Internet solutions from CompassLearning. The management system provides direction for students, as well as information for educators at all levels. The CompassLearning curriculum includes Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

NovaNET is a computer-based learning system designed for the secondary level student. It offers an online library of interactive instructional courseware. NovaNET provides students and teachers access to 10,000 hours of self-paced

instruction in 150 subject areas as well as access to many educationally oriented Internet resources.

All student and instructor records are centrally stored and maintained on the NovaNET system. Instructors can view, download, or print complete records of their students'.

Local Program Objectives

The objective of the TEACH Project is to provide Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade students, residing in Children's Medical Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, and Our Children's House, access to technology for academic credit recovery.

Access to Internet connected computers and integrated learning system programs will allow those students requiring long-term hospitalization opportunity to continue their current course of education. Students successfully utilizing the lab and software will be able to return to their home campus without losing credits and graduate on time with their peers.

Goals and Strategies/Activities Timeline

Year 1

Goals	Strategies/Activities	Date
Student access to technology.	Purchase recommended equipment.	January 2003
Student access to technology.	Set up, install, and connect computers to the Internet.	February 2003
Student access to integrated learning system(s).	Purchase annual license/subscription for CompassLearning and NovaNET	February 2003
Student access to integrated learning system(s).	Site set up by CompassLearning and NovaNET staff.	February 2003
Professional development for teachers who will be implementing the TEACH project.	CompassLearning and NovaNET staff will conduct comprehensive training for the facility teachers on the use of their programs.	March 2003
Implement TEACH Project	Students will access CompassLearning and NovaNET modules independently and/or with teacher assistance.	April 2003-December 2003

Year 2

Strategy	Activity	Date
Continue implementation of TEACH Project	Purchase annual license/subscription for CompassLearning and NovaNET	January 2004-December 2004

Year 3

Strategy	Activity	Date
Continue implementation of TEACH Project	Purchase annual license/subscription for CompassLearning and NovaNET	January 2005-December 2005

Personnel

The staff needed to implement the TEACH project is already in place and funded by the Dallas Independent School District. Currently there are two full-time certified teachers located at each of the three hospitals. These teachers will be trained and responsible for the overall implementation and management of the project with students.

The five member team that initially surveyed each hospital will comprise the TARGET-TEACH committee. This committee will meet monthly to discuss and evaluate the project. The committee will also work with the Dallas ISD Technical Assistance Center to facilitate equipment maintenance and repair issues.

The special education technology representative, Amy Coffey, will be the TEACH Project Director. The project director will oversee the project and will serve as the liaison between the Dallas Independent School District and Children's Medical Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, and Our Children's House.

Other Funding Sources

The cost of needed staff to implement the project will be funded by the Dallas Independent School District. This includes the salaries for six certified teachers and five program specialists. Approximate yearly total cost for staff is $440,000.

DISD will also be responsible for the purchase of a dedicated server for the CompassLearning and NovaNET systems. The server will be installed and maintained by DISD staff.

The funding for additional electrical and network connectivity will be the responsibility of each individual hospital. The approximate total cost for upgrades is $2,000. The facilities will also be responsible for providing a secure room for the lab of four computers and printers.

Budget for TEACH Project

(see next page)

Item	Qty	Initial Exp	Initial Total	On-Going Exp	On-Going Total	Comments
Hardware						
Student Workstation	12	$1,500.00	$18,000.00			Dell desktop with Windows XP and Office XP installed.
HP Personal Laser Printer	12	$450.00	$5,400.00			
Dell Server	1	$-	$-			District will purchase and install server.
Infrastructure						
Electrical	12	$-	$-			Facility will provide electrical access at no cost
Network Connectivity	12	$-	$-			Facility will provide network access at no cost
Supplies						
Computer Security Device	12	$60.00	$720.00			
Linksys 8 Port Switch	3	$150.00	$450.00			
Parallel Printer Cable	12	$28.00	$336.00			suggested cable: Belkin 6ft IEEE-1284 Gold
Patch Cable	18	$3.15	$56.70			category 5 patch cable, 15 ft. & 3ft.
APC Surge Protector	12	$30.00	$360.00			APC Professional Surge Arrest
Headphones	12	$60.00	$720.00			
Replacement toner for printer	36	$90.00	$3,240.00			replacement toner, 1 cartridges/printer for 3 years
ILS Package (PK-6)						
CompassLearning						
KindlePark	150	$21.00	$3,150.00	$21.00	$3,150.00	for ages 2 - 6 years old, annual license (50/site)
The Learning Odyssey	150	$38.00	$5,700.00	$38.00	$5,700.00	for K-8, annual license (50/site)
Professional development	1	$3,030.00	$3,030.00			training for both web based packages-KindlePark
						is 1 day at $1020 and Odyssey 2 days at $2010.
ILS Package (7-12)						
NovaNet	12	$840.00	$10,080.00	$840.00	$10,080.00	Annual license is $840 for each CPU.
Initial set-up fee	3	$500.00	$1,500.00			
5 day training package	1	$3,250.00	$3,250.00			Training for 10 participants
		Initial Total:	**$55,992.70**	**On-Going Total:**	**$18,930.00**	
			Grand Total:	**$74,922.70**		

Budget by Year

Year 1:

- Purchase needed equipment to implement TEACH Project
- Purchase CompassLearning and NovaNET annual subscriptions and site set-up
- Purchase accessories and peripherals for computers and printers
- Provide professional development for the teachers implementing project
- **Total Cost: $55,992.70**

Year 2:

- Purchase annual subscriptions for CompassLearning and NovaNET
- **Total Cost: $18,930.00**

Year 3:

- Purchase annual subscriptions for CompassLearning and NovaNET
- **Total Cost: $18,930.00**

Total Request for funds from the TARGET Grant:

- **$74,923.00**

Performance Measures

Working in conjunction with the DISD Research and Evaluation department an evaluation instrument will be created. The evaluation of the TEACH Project will be two-fold:

- Evaluate the progress of student achievement by tracking the students' grades before hospitalization, during, and six weeks after returning to their home campus.
- Utilizing previous student records to track student graduation rates for three years prior to the TEACH Project and make a comparison by tracking student graduation rates after year one, year two, and year three.

Conclusion

It is our belief that the Technology Equal Access for Children in Hospitals (TEACH) Project will create educational opportunities for students that otherwise would fall behind in school and become at-risk for not graduating.

By creating the computer labs at Children's Medical Center, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, and Our Children's House students will have the necessary tools to stay on track and continue to earn credits for grade promotion and graduation from high school. Funding from the TARGET grant will ensure that students in hospitals will not be a forgotten part of the "digital divide" and will graduate to become productive and responsible citizens.