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Problem Solving Center Grant Pre-Proposal
Library Media Center
John Quincy Adams Elementary School
2005-2007

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John Quincy Adams Elementary

Problem Solving Center Grant Proposal

John Quincy Adams Elementary Media Center desires to implement a research model to promote critical thinking, problem solving and information literacy skills by installing six computer workstations equipped with appropriate hardware, software and Internet access because current technology resources hinder students' abilities to plan, implement and evaluate information-based problems as required by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

Potential Grant Funding Source

Koch Industries, Inc., a privately held company based in Wichita, Kansas, has long supported programs dedicated to educating tomorrow's leaders. In many communities where they operate, Koch companies donate funds and equipment and are also a source of volunteers for local schools, colleges and other educational organizations. Koch companies look for programs that help people apply economic and scientific principles to problem solving. Koch companies' commitment to adding value in the community includes financial support for many programs that help educate and enrich children, preserve natural resources, or offer a hand up to those in need. In addition, Koch and its affiliates find ways to help schools, community groups, emergency response agencies and charitable organizations near their facilities with in-kind contributions of equipment, furniture or needed supplies.

Justification

John Quincy Adams shares the mission of the Dallas Independent School District: to prepare all students to graduate with the knowledge and skills to become productive and responsible citizens. To attain these goals, students today must be actively engaged and responsible for their own learning. Students must be involved in strategic problem-solving activities, based on authentic, challenging and multidisciplinary tasks. The instructional resources and materials intended to deliver, support, enrich and assist in implementing the District's educational program should stimulate growth in factual knowledge while developing the critical thinking and analysis skills necessary for the successful mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills in all core curriculum areas. Activities requiring the student to inquire, research and evaluate information gained from a variety of sources, both print and electronic, are critical to the development of the skills students will need to develop the problem-solving skills vital to success in school and, later, the world of work. Increasing the number of workstations and access to additional online databases in the media center will insure that students may be engaged in problem solving activities to promote critical thinking.

Target Population and Scope

Located in the southeast area of Dallas known as Pleasant Grove, John Quincy Adams Elementary serves approximately 950 minority students in grades pre-kindergarten through six. Faculty and staff consist of eighty-five administrative, professional, para-professional and support personnel.

91% of the students are eligible for free or reduced lunch, qualifying the school for Title I status. While Adams has an acceptable rating from the State of Texas, passing rates on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in 2004 have earmarked the campus as a "targeted school" for the current academic year.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to promote critical thinking and problem solving by utilizing a research model that combines the Internet and online databases. Such a model will ultimately provide instruction that will stimulate interest in reading, viewing, and using information and ideas to help students determine their own research needs and strategies. By adding six computer workstations and appropriate software, as well as access to sufficient current and relevant electronic resources, students may benefit from individual or small group instruction in research techniques, in a secure, barrier free, and appropriate learning environment.

Implementation

This plan will be implemented over a period of three academic years.

January 2005: The Media Center will submit surveys to teachers assessing their level of familiarity with the Big6 research model, the use of Online Public Access Catalog (Dallink), and existing Dallas Independent School District library databases.

February 2005: Conduct training for staff on Big6 and Super3 research models as well as Dallink and EBSCO database.

March 2005: Begin instruction on elements of Big6 (grades 4-6) and Super3 (grades 1-3) with classes in the media center. The order will be placed for three workstations, furniture and peripherals, including two tables and four chairs, as

well as security devices. The subscription database WorldBookOnline Gold will

be ordered.

April 2005: As materials arrive, a schedule will be developed with the Technical

Assistance Center (TAK) for installation of workstations, insuring certain that all

elements of each workstation are in place, with necessary furniture and security

devices. As per District contract, Kinkos will be notified to provide connection with

network printer. Media Specialist will meet with Campus Instructional Leadership

Team (CILT) to arrange for teacher training on WorldBookOnline with local sales

representative. The Media Specialist will conduct faculty/staff survey on the

effectiveness of the implementation model.

May 2005: Using survey results, a training plan will be developed for implementation in

academic year 2005-2006.

August 2005: Three additional workstations, furniture, and peripherals will be ordered.

Re-orientation training for students in grades 2-6 on the use of WorldBookOnline,

Dallink, and EBSCO databases will be conducted. September 2005: With input from

CILT, a research topic for grades 2-6 will be selected. Students will begin research

projects with the media specialist providing support to the classroom teacher for

acquiring information and determining appropriate method to organize and

synthesize results of research. Training on databases and Dallink for new faculty

and staff and returning teachers desiring additional training will be provided in the

Media Center.

October-November 2005: Arrangements for installation of new workstations will be

made, including connection to network printer by Kinkos. Instruction with

individual and small groups on inquiry and research will continue.

December 2005: A fall semester "Show and Tell" will be held in the media center,

allowing each grade level an appropriate period of time to exhibit and share their

research projects.

January 2006: WorldBookOnline subscription database will be renewed and Grolier

Online will be purchased. Orientation training for staff and students will be

conducted. Students will be assisted in the selection of a Science Fair topic for

research.

February 2006: Select topics for Big6/Super3 spring projects. Individual and small group

instruction will continue in the media center.

May 2006: A spring Show and Tell will be coordinated by the Library Media Specialist.

August-December2006: The Media Center will continue to provide ongoing support to

classroom teachers as they implement the research model. Training will be

conducted for new students and faculty on an ongoing basis. Library space and

time will be appropriated for student research and for showcasing student

research projects.

January 2007: The WorldBookOnline and Grolier subscription databases will be

renewed. Workshops for parents on the scientific process and the selection of

Science Fair projects will be held in the Media Center, with the cooperation of the

Campus Instructional Leadership Team.

March 2007: A survey on the effectiveness of the Library Media Problem Solving Center

will be conducted to guide ongoing planning.

Grant Budget 2005-2006

Item	Description	Amount
3 computer workstations with software	HP Compaq Business Desktop dc5000 MT Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional	$3,459.00
1 Subscription database	WorldBookOnline	455.00
2 Tables	Texwood Odyssey Sit-down Workstation 60"W x 30"D	1,039.98
4 Chairs	Texwood Solid Oak Library Chair W/Crown Back	369.98
Total for 2005-2006		$5,323.96

Local Budget 2005-06

Item	Description	Amount
Security locks	4 @ $41.95	$167.80
Computer supplies		250.00
Total for 2005-06		$417.80

Grant Budget 2006-2007

Item	Description	Amount
3 computer workstations with software	HP Compaq Business Desktop dc5000 MT Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional	$3,459.00
2 subscription databases	WorldBookOnline Grolier Online	1,565.00
1 Table	Texwood Odyssey Sit-down Workstation 60"W x 30"D	519.99
2 Chairs	Texwood Solid Oak Library Chair W/Crown Back	194.99
Total for 2006-07		$5,738.98

Local Budget 2006-07

Item	Description	Amount
Security locks	4 @ $41.95	$167.80
Computer supplies		250.00
Total for 2006-07		$417.80

Grant Budget 2007-2008

2 subscription databases	WorldBookOnline Grolier Online	$1565.00
Total for 2007-2008		$1,565.00

Local Budget 2007-2008

Item	Description	Amount
Computer supplies		250.00
Total for 2007-08		$250.00

Project Administration

The Library Media Specialist will serve as Project Director. The Director's duties will be to conduct surveys of faculty and staff and, together with the Campus Instructional Leadership Team, and prioritize needs for faculty and staff training. The Director will facilitate staff training on the use of existing databases and the Online Public Access Catalog as well as training on new databases as they are purchased. In addition, extensive instruction will be provided to students on the use of electronic and print resources during research and problem solving activities.

Additionally, the Director will be responsible for ordering all hardware, software, online databases, furniture, supplies and for requesting timely installation and securing of equipment. The Director will maintain a professional working relationship with the funding agency, insuring that all timelines are met and documentation is provided.

The Director will assume the responsibility for providing opportunities for students to display products produced as a result of authentic problem selection, inquiry, and research.

Personnel Support

This project requires support from the Campus Instruction Leadership Team, Dallas Independent School District's Library Media Services and Technology Department, a partnership with Kinkos, the Library Media Specialist, and the faculty and staff of John Quincy Adams Elementary School.

Sources of Continuing Support

The Library Media Center's computer budget will provide consumable supplies as needed. The Technology Department and Library Media Services will repair hardware and provide desktop support. The printer will be maintained through a partnership with Kinkos.

Performance Measures

Success of student participation in authentic, hands-on research may be measured with both formal and informal assessments. Increased student use of online resources to self-select materials to read for both personal enjoyment and academic endeavors may be gauged by library circulation statistics. Additionally, an increase in problem solving performance as assessed by district Benchmark tests and the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills will give a formal gauge as to the success of providing increased access to computer hardware, software, and subscription databases in the media center.

ADA Compliance

The Library Media Center at John Quincy Adams currently meets ADA requirements for facilities. Equal access will remain a high priority, including the elimination of both physical and intellectual barriers to use of all of the resources available in the center. (Dallas, CS Legal).

Works Cited

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Texas Association of School Boards. (2002). *Electronic Communication and Data Manual*.

Retrieved on September 17, 2004. http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/057905/

Texas Education Agency. (2004). Proposed Revision to 2004 School Library Programs: Standards and Guidelines for Texas. Austin, TX: Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Appendix

STUDENT WORKSTATION $1153 Each (includes shipping/handling)

Part# DZ216AV

HP Compaq Business Desktop dc5000 MT

Intel® Pentium® 2.8GHz/533MHz FSB; Intel 865G chipset

Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional SP2

512MB DDR Dual Channel PC2700

40GB ATA/100 7200 RPM Hard Drive

Integrated Intel Extreme Graphics 2 (64MB Equivalent)

Integrated Intel audio w/internal speaker

Broadcom NetXtreme Gigabit Ethernet

48x32x48 CD-RW Drive

HP USB Optical mouse (silver)

S5500 15" Monitor

Floppy Drive

CompuTrack Software

Installation of Computer Only

Three (3) Year Warranty (parts and service)

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NOTE: Additional appendices removed to save bandwidth. –Dr.D.