

# ***Show Me the Money!***

## **Finding and Securing Technology Grants For the Classroom**

*Presented by  
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# Types of Grants

- **Reactive – Federal/State**
  - Official application
  - Larger projects
  - Longer time frame
- **Proactive – Foundations**
  - You contact them
  - Smaller projects
  - Shorter time frame



# Grant Terminology



**RFA:** Request for Application

**RFP:** Request for Proposal

**MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding

**Cycle:** Grant Application Timeframe

**Matching Funds:** Actual \$\$

**In-Kind Funds:** Support that may or may not be \$\$.

# Grant Proposal Components

- Abstract
- Introduction/Population
- Problem/Needs Statement
- Project Description:  
Objectives & Methods
- Evaluation
- Budget



# Grant Writing Tips

- Student Academic Need as Foundation
- Research your District's policies regarding grants
- Assemble Writing Team
- Appropriate Funding Source - Follow Their Guidelines
- Backward Plan (80%) – Develop a Timeline
- Educationally Sound Projects – Keep it simple!

# Grant Writing Tips

- Write Needs section first - Cite Research
- Clear & Concise - No Acronyms
- Detailed and Accurate Budget
- Is your project replicable?
- Meet all grant deadlines – Keep mailing receipts
- Blind Reader
- Reviewers' Comments

# Doug Prouty Classroom Grant

- Start at the end

# Abstract

- Last thing you write
- Usually required by the funding source
- First thing read by funding source
- Should provide a “snapshot” of your proposal



# Abstract A

Every year we see students enter school who don't know how to write their names due to underdeveloped fine motor skills. With 30 students to 1 teacher, it is really hard to focus on this skill with so many students. We are asking for 3 devices that will allow us to download applications to improve fine motor skills. Students could have chances to “play” on the tablet in order to improve their fine motor by completing pinching activities. Our outcome could be stronger muscles to hold the pencil correctly and write their name.

# Abstract B

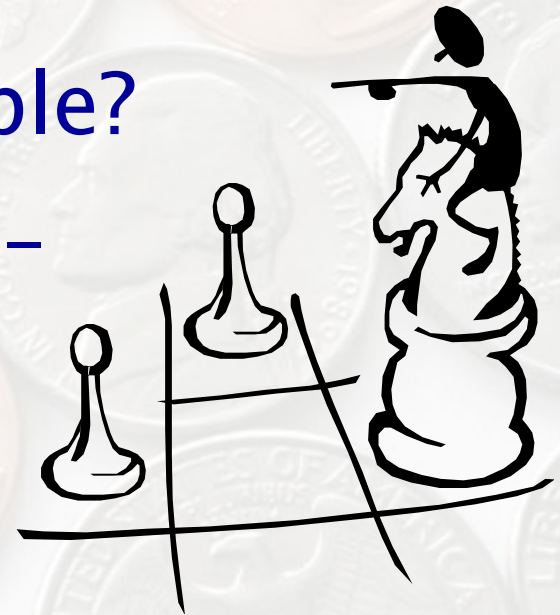
To institute a flip teaching approach in our math classes, utilizing the iPad's Showme application, we would record tutorials. These videos would then be posted on our web page, for students to watch at home with questions ensuring the students' comprehension of the material. The next day would be devoted to explanation and exploration facilitating our expected outcome of deeper understanding of the mathematical concept. The students would take turns working out problems on the iPad, which would simultaneously be projected onto the board for whole class instruction. These videos would then be published for use by our school community.

# Introduction

- Use letterhead when appropriate
- Include your purpose/mission statement
- Include history or significant events related to the proposal
- Focus on your credibility

# Problem/Needs Statement

- Who are the people or agencies of concern?
- What is the problem or need that you will focus on?
- Is the problem manageable?
- Hook the funder's heart – compelling need



# Student Need C

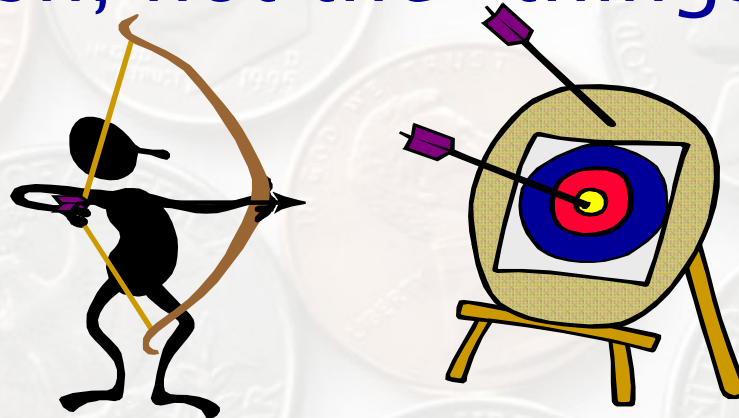
Since adopting new curriculum, it's evident that while students progress through lessons, they did not go deep enough to gain long-term understanding. The last few years, students have consistently achieved 85% or higher on tests. This year we are seeing 5–6 students that are not scoring above 80%. We have been using iPads in math. Student engagement and scores have increased. Students need to be actively engaged in their learning. My hope is that allowing students more access to the iPads will raise their confidence and ultimately math scores will increase.

# Student Need D

According to The Davidson Institute for Talented Development, research states that fine motor skills among pre-school children can best predict later performance on standardized achievement tests in the first grade. Further studies confirm correlations between fine motor skills and scholastic performance up through, at the very least, the end of primary school. Currently, on the 116th day of school, 36% of our kindergartners continue to have underdeveloped fine motor skills. We need supportive materials to assist these students with underdeveloped motor skills so that it does not negatively impact their future.

# Project Description

- Are objectives measurable and time specific?
- Objectives become the criteria to judge effectiveness of the program
- Start with what you want to accomplish, not the “things” you want



# Evaluation: Product & Process

- **Product**

- Program has achieved its stated objectives
- Accomplishment of objectives can be attributed to the program

- **Process**

- Whether the program has been conducted consistently with the plan
- Relationship of program activities to effectiveness of the program



# Evaluation Design



- Clarify program objectives
- Measures effectiveness of the project
- Determine the potential audience for the evaluation
- What type of evaluation? Product, Process or both
- Who will conduct the evaluation?
- How will the data be collected, analyzed and reported?



# Searching for Grants

- **Local/Regional Grants**
  - Ideal starting place
  - Smaller projects
  - Corporate “community” grants

# Finding a Funder Match

- Does the funder's interest match yours?
- Do they fund the type of activities you are proposing?
- Are there limitations on who can be funded?
- Does the funding amount match your project?

# Types of Funders

- Private Foundations
- Corporate Grantmakers
- Grantmaking Public Charities
- Community Foundations



# Funders seek projects that...

- Are Innovative
- Demonstrate measurable goals
- Provide a positive public image for the funder.



# **Develop a Grant Library**

- Your Mission and Vision Statements
- Statistics of Your District or Site
- Personnel Information
- Existing Partnerships and Collaboration Information
- Copies of Prior Funded Grants

# Online Grant Resources

## The Foundation Center

- <http://fdncenter.org/learn/classroom/index.html>

## Schoolgrants.org

- [http://www.k12grants.org/grant\\_opps.htm](http://www.k12grants.org/grant_opps.htm)

## Renaissance Learning

- <http://www.renlearn.com/fundingcenter/fundingsources/step1.aspx>

## Grant Wrangler

<http://grantwrangler.com/>

# General Resources

- School District Education Funds
- Local PTA
- [DonorsChoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org)
- Local Businesses
  - [Target](#)
  - [Wal-Mart](#)
  - [Kids in Need](#)
  - [Chevron Fuel Your School](#)
  - [Leshner Foundation](#)



# Final Thoughts

- Take the time to research opportunities
- Read and follow the guidelines
- Think outside the box
- Read, Evaluate, Rewrite, Proofread
- Join a listserv
- Keep trying!



# Questions????

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