



State of Vermont

Department of Education

120 State Street

Title II, Part D: Enhancing Education Through Technology COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM – 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of the Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education Through Technology) competitive grant program is to provide modest financial assistance to schools with high poverty and the greatest need for technology support and/or schools identified for improvement.

TIMELINE FOR TITLE IID GRANT APPLICATIONS	
Application Release	June 1, 2008
Submission Deadline (Received in VT DOE)	July 1, 2008 4:00PM
Award Announcements	July 15, 2008
Project Implementation	July 15-September 30, 2008

SPARK GRANT:

- The focus of this grant is to promote student centered learning and flexible learning environments by providing modest funding amounts for program development in the area of classroom-based instruction through full time student access to computer technology. There will be three awards of \$20,000 awarded to schools demonstrating the ability and commitment to carry out a “starter” initiative on portable computing for a grade level group of students. One of the crucial aspects of the program will be the fostering of student centered learning concepts and the 25% professional development requirement (\$5000.00) should address this specifically.

ELIGIBILITY:

Three grant awards will be made to eligible high-need Vermont schools, or school districts/ supervisory unions (LEA’s) applying on behalf of one or more member schools.

For purposes of this competition, a “high-need local educational agency” is an LEA that:

- Includes one or more schools with the highest numbers or percentages in the state of children from low-income families *or*

- Serves one or more schools identified for improvement or corrective action under NCLB (§1116), *or*
- Has a substantial need for assistance in acquiring and using technology.

An “eligible local partnership” is a partnership that includes at least one high-need LEA *and* at least one of the following –

- An LEA that can demonstrate that teachers in its schools are effectively integrating technology and proven teaching practices into instruction, based on a review of relevant research, and that the integration results in improvement in classroom instruction and in helping students meet challenging academic standards.
- An institution of higher education that is in full compliance with the reporting requirements of section 207(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and that has not been identified by the State as low-performing under that act.
- A for-profit business or organization that develops, designs, manufactures, or produces technology products or services or has substantial expertise in the application of technology in instruction.
- A public or private nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in the application of educational technology in instruction.

REQUIREMENTS: For an LEA to receive funding under this program:

- All schools in the LEA *must* have a current “Educational Technology Plan” approved by the Department of Education through June 30, 2009.
- Must participate in the annual “Technology Indicators Data Collection” conducted by the Department of Education.
- Must certify that all “high-needs” schools in the LEA meet requirements under the Children’s Internet Protection Act.
- Must use a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of these funds for ongoing, sustained, intensive, high-quality professional development in integrating and using advanced technologies in instruction and in new learning environments to:
 - a. Address student-centered learning
 - b. Let teachers use the Internet & other technology to communicate with parents, other teachers, principals, & administrators, and to retrieve internet-based learning resources
 - c. Lead to improvements in classroom instruction in the core academic subjects
- Private School Participation - LEAs or partnerships must engage private school officials with whom they consult for Title I purposes during the development and implementation of competitive Title II-D programs. Therefore, for the Education Technology competitive awards, the consultation should begin during the development of the local grant proposals and, preferably, as part of the LEA consolidated application process. Expenditures for educational services and other benefits for private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel must be proportionate, taking into account the number and educational needs of the children to be served, to the expenditures for participating public school children.

GRANT PROGRAM AREA

NOTE: APPLICATIONS MUST FOLLOW THE FORMAT AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS AS FOUND ON PAGE 4.

1. SPARK GRANT:

- A. Purpose:** The purpose of this grant is to promote student-centered learning and flexible classroom environments through student use of portable computing devices and teacher tools for classroom instruction. The intention of the grant is to foster classrooms in which students and teachers utilize technology to create a student-centered learning experience. Grantee should approach this proposal as a “jump-start,” as funds may or may not be available in successive funding years. Schools should consider carefully the long-term aspects that may impact decisions from their local school board on future funding.
- B. Requirements:** The application must outline the intention of the school to utilize the funds for a student centered learning environment in which both students and teachers utilize technology for their work. Best proposals will tie grant goals to direct instruction in specific classrooms (e.g. ongoing Social Studies classroom embarking on student-centered project around issues of world-wide oil consumption or Science classrooms tackling water quality studies in local communities over a period of time). The application must strive to convince the reviewers that the applying district or supervisory union has the capacity to support this project and that the size and/or scope of the grant are appropriate. An outline of the grant evaluation plan that is aligned to the project goals must be included in the application. Finally, an itemized budget must be included (see Budget Page).
- a. **The grant will support the following:**
- i. “x” number of computing devices for grade level classroom
 - ii. 25% of funds targeting professional development structured towards supporting teacher understanding of student-centered environments and the use of technology to support learning within those environments.
 - iii. Other devices as seen necessary for classrooms to achieve stated grant goals. Some of these devices may be: a computer LCD projector, an interactive white board, a classroom response system, etc.
- C. Use of Funds:** Grant funds may be used to purchase hardware, software and professional development services towards the goals of the grant.
- D. Grant Amount:** The maximum amount of funds for which a school, district or supervisory union may apply is limited to \$20,000.
- E. Timeline:** Award in July 2008, funds available July 15, and grant expiration Sept. 30, 2008. (*all monies MUST be encumbered with documentation by Sept. 30*)

Please see the “Format and Contents” section for information on how to structure the application starting on Page 4.

Application Format & Content

Provide a narrative of **NO MORE THAN TWO (2) PAGES**, single-spaced, font sizes 10-12.

- 1. Program Description** (no more than 2 pages) – Describe what school will do with the funds if received. Use the descriptions on pages 1 and 3 for guidance. In addition to a clear description of the activities to be undertaken, also include: **(50 Points)**
 - **Goals** - Clear articulation of the measurable goals of this proposal.
 - **Scope of Work** – Specific, bulleted list of the work to be performed and the products or outcomes of the project clearly articulated. Since the focus of this grant is student-centered learning, clearly indicate how teachers currently understand the concept and how professional development will focus on fostering greater understanding either at a grade level team or school level.
- 2. Capacity for Success** (no more than 1 page) - Describe why this is the right kind and size of project for your school(s), and what structures, policies, and/or procedures are in place or planned that support this proposal. Include such items as: **(20 Points)**
 - Who (describe roles, not individual names please) will be responsible for conducting the work
 - What structures, resources, policies, and procedures are already in place or proposed that will support this project and/or enhance its sustainability
 - Evidence that this plan is realistic and that the school has the capacity to achieve its objectives
- 3. Evaluation** (no more than 1 page) - Describe the process you will follow to evaluate this grant. Include such items as: **(20 Points)**
 - The critical questions you want to answer about the impact of your project
 - Who you will involve or work with (within your organization or outside) in order to complete the evaluation
 - Who within the state needs to learn about your evaluation findings and what difference the knowledge might make
 - How you will plan for and collect relevant data.
 - How you will make sense of your findings and use those finding to make improvements.
- 4. Budget Narrative (no more than 1 page.): You must also complete the ****SEPARATE BUDGET PAGE****.** The budget narrative should demonstrate a logical connection to the goals described (above), and should be specific enough to give reviewers an idea of your priorities and focus for funding. The budget does not need to identify brand names of equipment or include “to the penny” prices. The narrative should include: **(10 Points)**
 - Justification for the major expenditures proposed, especially salaries
 - Explanation of any items on the budget sheet that might not be completely clear to a reader.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

All proposals must include an Original plus TWO (2) copies (Faxed or e-mailed applications will NOT be accepted) with:

- Proposal Cover Page with superintendent’s signature
- Narrative not to exceed TWO (2) pages (see instructions above)

Application Deadline: Original plus two (2) copies of proposals must be received by the Vermont Department of Education no later than **4:00 p.m. on July 1, 2008**. Mail to:

Title II, Part D Technology Grants - c/o Peter Drescher
 Vermont State Department of Education
 120 State Street
 Montpelier, Vermont 05620

Selection Process: All proposals will be read and reviewed by an independent review panel. This panel will rate the quality of the proposal (See Scoring Guide below) and the capacity of the applicant to successfully implement what has been proposed. Proposals will be scored in each of the five areas described above.

Scoring Rubric: Enhancing Education Through Technology

Criteria	Poor	Average	Excellent
<p>Program Description – Describe what grantee will do with the funds if received. In addition to a clear description of the activities to be undertaken, points will be assigned for: (50 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are goals clearly articulated?</i> • <i>Is the Scope of Work specific? Products/outcomes identified?</i> • <i>Does program support Vermont’s standards or GEs?</i> • <i>Are needs & process for identifying them clearly identified?</i> 	0 – 17	18 – 35	36 – 50
Program Description – Total Score (MAX is 50):			

<p>Capacity for Success - Describe why this is the right kind and size of plan for your school(s), and what structures, policies, and/or procedures are in place that support this plan. (20 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have the parties responsible for conducting the work been identified?</i> • <i>Are structures, resources, policies, and procedures in place or proposed?</i> • <i>Is the plan realistic? Does capacity exist to achieve objectives?</i> 	0 – 6	7 – 13	14 – 20
<p>Capacity for Success – Total Score (MAX is 20):</p>			
<p>Evaluation - Describe the process you will follow to determine if the goals described in #1 are achieved. (20 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are the primary focus areas and specific measurements identified?</i> • <i>Are the participants and their roles identified?</i> • <i>Will the evaluation plan reflect student performance gains?</i> • <i>How will you report your findings to stakeholders in your community?</i> 	0 – 6	7 – 13	14 – 20
<p>Evaluation – Total Score (MAX is 20):</p>			
<p>Budget Narrative and Page – The budget should demonstrate a logical connection to the goals described (above), and should be specific enough to give reviewers an idea of your priorities and focus for funding. The budget does not need to identify brand names of equipment or include “to the penny” prices. (10 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is justification for major expenditures (especially salaries) reasonable?</i> • <i>Explanation of items that won’t be immediately obvious to someone reading your proposal for the first time</i> 	0 – 3	4 – 7	8 – 10
<p>Budget – Total Score (MAX is 10):</p>			
<p>TOTAL SCORE (MAX IS 100)</p>	_____		

Budget Page

Grant Area

SPARK Grant

Budget (Describe as appropriate)	TOTAL
Professional Development (25% requirement) For example: Consultants/Contracts, Teacher Stipends, Direct Instruction	
Hardware	
Software	
Equipment	
Evaluation	
Other	
TOTAL	

- Please use Budget Narrative page to elaborate and/or describe further

Title II, Part D: Enhancing Education Through Technology

Competitive Grant Program – 2008-09

PROPOSAL COVER PAGE (Use for both Grant types)

School District or SU			
Contact Person			
Phone			
Fax			
E-mail			
Grant Program Area	SPARK grant €		
List all schools for which this proposal applies	<u>Schools</u>	<u>Grade Spans</u>	<u>Enrollment</u> (To be completed by VT DOE)
Total Funds Requested			
CIPA Certification	Superintendent has certified CIPA compliance (Check one or more): <input type="checkbox"/> on school technology plans <input type="checkbox"/> on last E-Rate application <input type="checkbox"/> on 2004 Consolidated E-Application		
Superintendent's Signature			
Date			