

2006-2007 Annual Report

Mission Statement

The Grants and Research Office of Intermediate District 287 and Northeast Metro 916, working collaboratively with member districts, will implement research-based educational programs and practices and seek funding for these programs.

The Grants and Research Office will provide services to help member districts:

- identify, plan and implement research-based educational programs and practices;
- seek funding for these research-based educational programs and practices;
- evaluate the implemented research-based educational programs and practices.

Grant Services

- Grant Search Help requests: Responded to 6 requests for the GRO grant search service offering over 90 grant ideas. Each member receives an average of 15-20 grant prospects, including local businesses, community foundations, as well as regional and national grantors. Members complete 10 questions to describe their project/goals and submit on-line. The Grants Manager searches for local, regional, and national grant funders and sends back a list of prospective foundations and/or corporations. When appropriate, community connections and fundraising ideas are suggested.
- The Grants and Research Office submitted proposals for funding to 4 grantors during the fiscal year.
 1. **ACE: Improving Academic Achievement for EBD Students through Career and Technology Training Programs.** This grant was awarded by Minnesota Department of Education under the State Personnel development Grant Capacity Building for LEA's. Submitted September 27, 2006 and was awarded \$49,964.00. This project was implemented in December, 2006 and will conclude in December, 2007.
 2. **TechMath: Improving Student Performance for Technical Careers.** Submitted to GRACO Foundation on February 22, 2007. (declined)

3. **TechMath: Improving Student Performance for Technical Careers.** Submitted to Thomson West Community Partnership Program on March 15, 2007.
 4. **TechMath: Improving Student Performance for Technical Careers.** Submitted to Andersen Corporate Foundation on March 30, 2007. (declined)
- An inquiry letter was sent to SUPERVALU Inc. describing the TechMath program, redesigned with an emphasis on culinary and food service career and technical training programs. SUPERVALU declined this proposal for funding.

Telephone conversations with grantmaker representatives at Thompson and Anderson Corporate Foundations encouraged the GRO office to submit proposals next year. As the grant committees become familiar with applicants, chances of funding can increase. Grantors also encouraged recruitment of their employees as volunteers. Employee/volunteer connections may increase the likelihood of grant funding.

A timeline for proposal submissions to potential funders has been established, and will focus on the following grantors in 2007 – 2008:

Allianz Life Insurance
Ameriprise Financial
Curtis Carlson Family Foundation
iSEEK
Phillips Family Foundation
XCEL Energy
ADC Foundation

- The Grants and Research Office joined the Minnesota Council on Foundations, and paid a basic membership to receive access to their Minnesota Grantmaker Online directory. The Grants Manager uses this national database of more than 68,000 trustees, officers, and donors to search for potential funding sources. Information from the MCF was also used in the GRO-O-Gram communications.
- The web site for the Grants and Research Office provided a valuable service for members. The Web Master reports that the site received 400-500 visits per month during the 2006-2007 school year (see page 4 of this report). To see the usage statistics for the GRO web site go to <http://grantsandresearchhelp.us/webalizer/>
- On the GRO web site, the demographic information on our 24 member districts was updated. Direct links to the MDE School Report Card Data were added to create easy access to important data.

Related Joint Projects

- The network of gifted education professionals from around the region is sponsored by GRO in cooperation with Metro ECSU. This group, called the Friday Forum, has met six times during the year to discuss issues common to the group and be exposed to the products available through GRO that promote gifted education.

Research Services

Differentiated Instruction for All (DIAL) Project

- Exemplary programs and resources gathered from other schools and institutions are hot-linked into our website. Hot-links were updated and expanded.
- Differentiated strategies focusing on reading/language arts/English, math, science, and social studies for elementary, junior high/middle school and high school were updated.
- Exemplary resources were added to the website focusing on assessment driven differentiated instruction.
- Exploring opportunities to provide the NWEA MAP Tests Step 2 Workshop: Stepping Stones to Using Data and NWEA MAP Tests Step 3 Workshop 3: Climbing the Data Ladder.
- Extensive resources were added to the website focusing on Response to Intervention as a differentiated instructional strategy.
- The differentiated instruction learning communities program now includes two levels. No learning communities were in operation during this year.
- Offering an exploratory workshop on “Lesson Study to Support Differentiated Instruction” facilitated by Peter Ziegler.
- Differentiated literacy strategies workshops were facilitated by Lin Kuzmich for elementary and secondary educators.
- The Leading for Literacy in the 21st Century workshop was facilitated by Lin Kuzmich for educational leaders. Opportunities to repeat this workshop next year are being explored.
- The DIAL Project was shared at professional conferences.

Scientifically Based Education Research (SciBER) Project

- The website includes the resources shared at the three-part *Bridging Research to Practice Symposium*.

- Scientifically based education researched literacy curriculum, assessment, and instructional resources were updated on the website.
- Scientifically based education researched science, math and social studies curriculum, assessment, and instructional resources were added to the website.
- Differentiated literacy strategies workshops were facilitated by Lin Kuzmich for elementary and secondary educators.
- The Leading for Literacy in the 21st Century workshop was facilitated by Lin Kuzmich for educational leaders. Opportunities to repeat this workshop next year are being explored.
- Exploring future literacy strategies for mathematics instruction and social studies instruction resources and workshops.
- Exploring opportunities for partnering with the University of Minnesota's "Teacher Professional Development in Understanding the Brain Classroom Neuroscience Curricula Inquiry Pedagogy" project.

Personalizing the High School Learning Experience Project

- Resources from the Personalizing the High School Learning Experience Forum are posted on the website including grant planning materials.
- Extensive resources were added to the website on personalizing the high school learning experience.
- Updates were sent to member districts on the status of funding and the process for applying for U.S. Dept. of Education Smaller Learning Communities grants for the upcoming school year.
- The High School Reform: Personalizing the Learning Experience 2-day workshop is scheduled for August 15-16, 2007 and will be lead by Joe DiMartino, President of the Center for Secondary School Redesign at Brown University.

Professional Development Experiences

- An exploratory workshop on "Lesson Study to Support Differentiated Instruction" is scheduled for 20 educators.
- Differentiated literacy strategies workshops were held for 54 elementary and secondary educators.
- The Leading for Literacy in the 21st Century workshop was held for 29 educational leaders.

- The High School Reform: Personalizing the Learning Experience 2-day workshop is scheduled for 75 educators.

Grants and Research Office Operations and Promotion

- The Grants and Research Office Advisory Committee met during the year to provide input and feedback related to GRO initiatives.
- Materials associated with GRO initiatives are frequently distributed at professional meetings to connect people to the Grants and Research Office.
- The Grants and Research Office promoted its services at the Education Minnesota Fall Conference.
- The GRO-o-gram e-newsletter was electronically distributed bi-monthly to over 1700 people. GRO-o-grams announce grant opportunities, updates, and promote workshops sponsored by the Grants and Research Office, Minnesota Department of Education, and others. Each month a grant profile is included in the GRO-o-gram. (GRO-o-grams from the past three years are available on the GRO web site).
- Electronic messages were sent out periodically to alert members to upcoming grant application deadlines. These deadlines pertained to grantmakers who are interested in the areas of youth and special and regular education, and are focused on the Twin Cities metro area.
- The GRO Grants manager was invited to a Staff Development day at Otter Lake Elementary School in White Bear Lake. The manager was able to demonstrate the extensive resources located on the GRO website and how to complete the Grant Search Help request form.

**Compiled by:
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