



GRO-o-gram September 2005

Editor's Note: Another school year has begun! We hope you are thinking of creative ways to sustain or improve the programs and services you offer. Do you need grants to make changes and/or fund staff development? GRO has resources to support your work—research to practice ideas, grant opportunities, staff development trainings, consulting services, and more. Check out some of our services and fundraising ideas below. Please note: Hotlinks are available directly from the INDEX (just click on underlined titles), or scroll down to read brief descriptions of the topics.

INDEX

1. [GRO SERVICES](#)
2. [GRANT SEARCH HELP REQUEST FORM](#)
3. [NEW DIAL RESOURCES](#) ON GRO WEB SITE
4. [STRIVING READERS](#) GRANT OPPORTUNITY
5. GRANT TIP: [WRITING A LETTER OF INQUIRY](#)
6. GRANT FUNDER PROFILE: [MEDTRONIC FOUNDATION](#)
7. SCHOOL FUNDRAISING IDEA: [BLUE SKY GUIDES](#)

1. GRO SERVICES

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

The Grants and Research Office provides 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; and
- evaluate the implemented research-based educational programs and practices.

Checkout our web site at <http://www.grantsandresearchhelp.us/> to learn about three research-to-practice initiatives including:

- Differentiated Instruction for All Learners (DIAL)
- Personalizing the High School Learning Experience
- Scientifically Based Education Research (SciBER)

2. GRANT SEARCH HELP FROM GRO

Do you have a program or project for which you need funds? GRO staff can help search for grants and link you with possible funders. To better serve you, we have developed a short [grant search help request form](#) available on our web site. Describe your project and the difference you'd like it to make, and we'll send you some grant funder ideas or other ways to find community support.

3. NEW DIAL RESOURCES ON GRO WEB SITE

Check out the new resources for differentiated instruction now available on the GRO web site: <http://www.grantsandresearchhelp.us/research/html/differentiated.htm> Look for examples of differentiated lessons and units by content areas. Other resources include books, periodicals, planning materials, and training ideas. Whether you are just beginning to address differentiated instruction or you are ready for action research---there are many hotlinks to the latest materials on the GRO web site.

4. STRIVING READERS GRANT OPPORTUNITY

The Striving Readers grant offers a great opportunity to improve reading instruction and participate in cutting-edge research. The Grants and Research Office (GRO) is collaborating with three member districts and offering to help with grant design, teacher training, and provide technical assistance. If you are interested in collaborating with GRO, contact either Jane Holmberg of District 287 at 763-550-7152 or Jessica Wiley of Northeast Metro 916 at 651-415-5609.

The purpose of the Striving Readers program is to raise the reading achievement levels of middle and high school-aged students (grades 6-12) in Title I-eligible schools with significant numbers of students reading below grade level. The program supports new comprehensive reading initiatives or expansion of existing initiatives that improve the quality of literacy instruction across the curriculum, provide intensive literacy

interventions to struggling adolescent readers, and help to build a strong, scientific research base for identifying and replicating strategies that improve adolescent literacy skills.

The notice inviting applications for the Striving Readers Grant program was released on August 15, 2005. The deadline for Transmittal of Applications is due November 14, 2005. For complete details go to www.ed.gov/programs/strivingreaders

5. GRANT TIP: WRITING A LETTER OF INQUIRY

Building relationships with foundations and corporations takes time. A good way to begin developing a relationship is by sending funders a letter of inquiry, a short description of your school(s) and your project. A helpful short article on what to include in a letter of inquiry is available from the Foundation Center's web site at <http://fdncenter.org/learn/faqs/html/letter.html>

6. GRANT FUNDER PROFILE: MEDTRONIC FOUNDATION

The Medtronic Foundation's STAR Program is a K-12 science education program that stimulates and sustains the interest of young people in science. Medtronic considers requests from private and parochial nonprofit schools, school districts and other nonprofit organizations working with kindergarten through grade 12 in the seven county metro area of Minneapolis/St. Paul. The Foundation encourages cooperation between schools and organizations. Typical grants range from \$2,000 to \$50,000, depending upon scope and impact of the program. Grants can be submitted by October 15, January 15, or July 15. For more information please visit <http://www.medtronic.com/foundation/>

7. SCHOOL FUNDRAISING IDEA: BLUE SKY GUIDES

Are your students and parents tired of candy and popcorn fundraisers? Then try Blue Sky Guides, a healthy choice for families and our planet! **Blue Sky Guide**, the coupon book for healthy living, is the smart choice for fundraising. With a focus on health, community, environment and saving money, *Blue Sky Guide* is a feel-good fundraiser. In the past couple years, more than 200 area schools and community organizations have used *Blue Sky Guide* to raise much needed funding. With one of the highest returns available - up to 50% - and no up-front costs, *Blue Sky Guide* fundraising is fun and easy. Start making money today with *Blue Sky Guide*! Books retail for \$20 and your school keeps \$10. For details please visit <http://www.findbluesky.com>

Rachel Hefte, GRO Grants Manager & GRO-o-gram Editor
Send comments, suggestions, and ideas to: Rhefte@visi.com