

NORTH THURSTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Learning Improvement Grants

Application Form

For **2008-2009**, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation will award up to seven learning grants for up to \$1,500 each to teachers in the district. Applicants may be individual educators or teams of educators who choose to work together on a project for improving student learning. A selection committee representing district staff and the Trustees will review applications and select the projects for funding. Action Research, as a teacher-directed inquiry approach, is to be used as a process for collecting information and evaluating the project. **Recipients are required to collect evidence of benefits to students and to provide both written and oral reports to the Foundation. In addition applicants must obtain the signature of the principal or supervisor to be sure the project is feasible within goals and programs of the school or district.** An excerpt of an article gives an overview of action research. Copies will be sent to the schools. (Sue Shannon will provide assistance with Action Research upon request.)

Applications are due December 3, 2008

Mail to NTEF P. O. Box 3312, Lacey, WA 98509

Applicant's Name: Sharon Moorehead, Assistant Principal

Home Address (deleted)

Home Phone (deleted)

School Name: Lakes Elementary 6211 Mullen Rd SE

School Phone 360-412-4600

Proposal Date November 30, 2008

Title of Proposed Educational Improvement Project: What is the area of interest and focus of the project?

Grant for Peer Observation of High Yield Instructional Strategy Lessons

Needs and Objectives: Why do you want to undertake this project? What are the results you want to accomplish through this proposed project?

Teachers have been working deeply and with focus to implement instructional strategies shown in the educational research to produce high levels of student engagement and achievement. Teachers meet in data teams to compare data and analyze the best next steps for lesson development for students not achieving standard.

The next step to impact student achievement is for teachers to be able to observe their colleagues as they teach using the best practices in our school. This peer coaching/visitation model is a researched based strategy that will boost student achievement by increased emphasis on instructional strategies that promote differentiation and meet needs of the range of students.

Description of Educational Improvement: What student learning requirements including Essential Academic Learning Requirements(EALRs) and Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) will you address; what will you do to address them? What instructional strategies or materials will you use?

Our efforts at Lakes will address Washington EALRs and GLEs in the areas of reading/vocabulary through our collaboratively sharing/modeling high yield strategies and building background knowledge /vocabulary in a peer coaching/visitation model. Teachers will utilize current NTPS curriculum as they collaboratively demonstrate/share lessons.

Intended Impact on Student Learning: How will the proposed project assist student learning? What will students know and do as a result of this project?

It is through visitation and collaboration that we expect higher student achievement in reading, the goal being 90% of students reaching standard on the WASL.

This project will assist student learning through the expansion of our data team/PLC process to the wider school facility thus providing greater opportunities for successful teaching strategies to filter throughout the school to all students. Students will receive an increase in the number of lessons using high yield strategies as more teachers observe other teachers practicing the strategies in the area of reading. Each substitute day could impact as many as 12 classrooms, and positively affect up to 150 students.

Evaluation Plan: Action Research is an integral feature of the mini-grant program. What evidence will you collect to demonstrate your project is making a difference to student learning? What types of data, assessments and evaluations will you use? (Contact Sue Shannon 360-491-2703 or 951-4365 for assistance, training or materials on action research.

Our reading scores on the WASL have flattened out in the past three years ranging in the 70 to 80 percentile range in grades 3-6. Our goal is to increase our WASL scores to 90% in grades 3-6 and grade level measure in reading to 90% in grades K-2.

Lakes Elementary will develop a baseline of reading data using the Dibels Kindergarten through grade 6, and the number of observations and teachers participating in Peer coaching/visitation. We will evaluate whether the increased visitations provide increased instructional skills that increase student achievement.

This request is consistent with the goals of our school improvement plan and with the Effective Schools initiative of North Thurston Public Schools. This process of peer observation would support and enhance the professional growth opportunities offered by both the district and our school and would provide additional collegial communication and leverage to translate learning into high yield instructional practices in our classrooms.

Attachment: 2008-2009 School Improvement Plan

Project Report: Recipients of the mini-grant will be expected to provide a description of their project proposal at the annual meeting of the North Thurston Education Foundation on **January 27, 2009**, and to make a report at the following annual meeting in 2010. (The report may be status of progress if the project is incomplete at that time.) The **complete report is also to be submitted in writing** to the Foundation board. Please indicate your commitment to submit reports both orally to the Foundation and in written form that may be shared with other educators and posted on the website.

A project description of our proposal will be provided to the North Thurston Education Foundation on **January 27, 2009** in writing so it may be shared with other educators and orally to the Foundation Board.

Proposed Budget: How will you use the up to \$1,500 in mini-grant funds? What are the needs and costs involved in the proposed project?

This grant is to request \$1,500.00 to hire substitute teachers to cover classes as teachers observe other teachers utilizing best practices for enhanced student achievement in classrooms. The process will support student achievement through teacher collaboration. The Classroom Visitation Interest Survey and Protocol are attached.

Each substitute day could impact as many as 12 classrooms, and positively affect up to 150 students.

Staff development activities:	\$ _____
Materials and supplies:	\$ _____
Substitute reimbursement:	\$ <u>1500.00</u>
Other costs:	\$ _____
Total	\$ <u>1500.00</u>

PRINCIPAL/SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE _____
Date _____