

TECHNOLOGY RICH CLASSROOM GRANT FAQ'S

Updated 12/7/2009

PARTICIPATION

Q. Can a district apply for more than one TRC Grant—ie. one for an elementary school, and one for a middle school?

A. Districts may submit multiple applications, however districts will be *limited to receiving 1 award per district*.

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Q. How can a district participate if they are not on the 'eligible districts' list?

A. Districts who are not eligible may partner with an eligible district to participate. In this scenario, both districts must agree on whether it is elementary or middle school application, and on a content area focus.

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Q. Priority Points—Elementary schools who have not participated receive priority points, but nothing is indicated for Middle School priority points—are middle schools at a disadvantage?

A. No—Middle School and Elementary School applications will not be competing against one another. A minimum of 8 grants will be awarded for each category (ie. 8 Middle School grants and 8 Elementary School grants). Middle School applications will not be at a disadvantage.

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Q. My school is a Grade 5-8 Middle School, do I have to have one classroom in each grade (1-5th, 1-6th, 1-7th, 1-8th) participate? How would that work?

A. No—you do not have to have all grade levels represented. 4 classrooms should be chosen—within the Elementary Grade level spread of Grade 3-6 OR within the Middle School spread of Grade 6-8. This could be 2 3rd Grade classrooms and 2 4th Grade classrooms, or 1 of each (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th), it could be 2 5th, and 2 6th, etc. For Middle School it may be 4 CORE classrooms (preferably of the grant content area focus) between grade 6, 7 and 8.

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Q. I have 3 core classrooms—can I participate with 3?

A. No--There must be 4 participating classrooms. In this case, the school should partner with a 2nd school to have 2 classrooms at each school participate in the appropriate grade level.

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Q. Although the school is called a "Middle School", it is Grade 5-8, and I want to focus TRC on **Grades 5-6 only**. Will this work?

A. Yes—however, we would ask that this school apply for the Elementary School grant since the grade levels for the participating classrooms (Grade 5-6) fall into that grade level spread outlined for Elementary of Grades 3-6.

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Q. My district wants to partner our (2) 6th grade classrooms at our Elementary school with (2) 6th grade classrooms which are at the Middle School in our partner district. How do we apply?

A. The LEAD LEA would determine this. If the school for the (2) 6th Grade Classrooms in the LEAD LEA is an Elementary school, you would apply for an Elementary School grant. If the school for the (2) 6th Grade Classrooms for the LEAD LEA is in a Middle school, you would apply for a Middle School grant.

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Q. We have two PreK-8 building and want to apply for the middle school Gr 6, 7 & 8 in both schools. The 6-7-8 grade students comprise the junior high, but this is actually a separate wing - not a separate school. How or where do we indicate that we are applying for a middle school grant?

A. The grade levels participating guide whether it is an Elementary (Gr 3-6) or a Middle School (Gr 6-8) application—more so than the building name. This is indicated in the Application Template on page 3.

The Application Template (a word doc) is available online at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2790>

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MATCHING FUNDS Q. Regarding district matching funds—are there requirements for what funding sources may be used for the match?

A. No. The district may leverage all available funding sources for the match, which includes Capital Outlay, Title IID Formula funds, General Funds, etc. Matching funds **MUST** provide support for the overall grant requirements, and the local match cannot be in-kind. Please note that the facilitator salary (.5 FTE Facilitator) must be funded through grant dollars.

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Q. Can Capital Outlay be used for the match?

A. Yes!

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Q. Can we use existing hardware and software for matching purposes? I.e. Can we claim a pre-existing interactive white board, which is approved by KSDE, as part of the match?

A. No--only equipment purchased during the '**approved grant period**' (we expect this to be March 2010-June 2011) may be considered matching funds. Existing equipment is simply something that (assuming approval) does not have to be purchased.

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Q. My school purchased laptops, projectors, smartboards, etc. this fall. Can we count this as matching funds?

A. No. Matching funds must be expended during the official grant period--which we anticipate will be March 2010 (upon grant approval) through June 2011. The purchased equipment may be used within the grant upon KSDE approval (to seek approval, email details to Melinda Stanley mstanley@ksde.org), so the equipment would not have to be purchased, but it can **ONLY** be counted as a match if purchased during the official grant period.

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Q. My school lease-purchases laptops. Can we count the lease-purchase payment as matching funds?

A. Only upon KSDE approval, and for brand new lease-purchases--for the 4 classrooms/facilitator equipment involved. 2nd/3rd year payments do not count. It is the intent to provide **NEW** equipment for the TRC Classrooms. Paying for 2-3 year old equipment, which will be 4-5 years old by the end of the TRC project does not set the TRC Classrooms up for successful sustainability. To seek approval, email details to Melinda Stanley mstanley@ksde.org

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PRIVATE SCHOOL CONSULTATION:

Q. Can Private Schools opt out ?

A. Yes --Private Schools can opt out, and are not required to participate.

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Q. If the Private School wants to participate, they would receive 2 of the classrooms and our LEA would have 2 classrooms and the private school was split the match providing 25,000.00, correct?

A. Yes—that is 1 way the Private school may participate. Another option, if the private does not want to fully participate (ie. if they do not have the match, or 2 classrooms to commit)--they could opt to simply participate in the 10 local days of professional development. The private school may elect to have a limited number of teachers participate from the same grade levels that LEA has participating.

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Q. Does this consultation happen before the grant proposal is submitted to make sure all 9 numbered points are addressed?

A. Yes-the consultation with private school(s) must occur prior to grant submission---it is a requirement on the statement of assurances that this is completed.

EQUIPMENT:

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Q. My district is considering the purchase of Plasma TV's instead of Projectors. Can we substitute a widescreen TV for a Projector?

A. No. Large, widescreen TV's do not always provide the clarity required for students to clearly read text from the back of the classroom.

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Q. Can we substitute the Interactive Whiteboard remote/virtual keyboard/keypad (ie. Promethean ActivSlate/ActivTablet, Interwrite Schoolpad, SmartBoard Airliner, etc.) for the Interactive Whiteboard itself?

A. No. Although the remote keyboards/pads are excellent options to include, they are not a substitute for the Interactive Whiteboard itself.