



Spark Learning Grant Description and Criteria

Purpose:

The Bastrop Education Foundation (BEF) is offering BISD teachers and administrators the opportunity to apply for grants for innovative programs or projects to support higher levels of student learning. The grants must enhance student academic performance and support the objectives, goals, and initiatives of the Campus Improvement Plan.

Eligible Proposals:

- Instructional approaches or projects designed to begin during the 2012-2013 school year
- Proposal meets the selection criteria
- Educators may reapply for grants that were previously awarded (renewals), provided the program or project has been fully implemented and the final report submitted to BEF
- Educational support groups (such as PTAs and booster organizations) are not eligible.
- BEF funds are not available for personnel cost or travel expenses.

Selection Criteria:

- The degree to which the grant addresses an area of need substantiated by data.
- The degree to which student academic performance is emphasized.
- The degree to which sound evaluation procedures are incorporated in the proposal.
- The degree to which the proposal represents a creative or innovative approach to the accomplishment of objectives.
- The degree to which the grant would be compatible with district policy and procedure.
- The degree to which the grant would be compatible with district technology and operation standards.
- The degree to which campus and district funding sources have been exhausted.

Award of Funds:

- Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to programs or projects initiated by an individual educator
- Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to programs or projects initiated by campus teams or departments
- The number of awards will depend on funds available from BEF.
- The BEF reserves the discretion to make awards greater than \$5,000 for program proposals that by their nature (e.g. targeted to impact large numbers of students or are systemic in nature, serving students in more than one grade or school, etc.) may require greater funding to implement.

- Grants are campus specific so if there are personnel changes after a grant is awarded – the grant will still be awarded to the original campus.

Submission Deadlines:

- Submit your completed grant application to your campus principal for review and signatures **no later than December 9, 2011**.
- Principals will send the applications they approve to Donna Fiebrich at the Service Center **no later than Wed., January 18, 2012**. (*Principals – please send the original application and keep a copy for your records.*)

Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed and annotated by BISD Administration and the Technology Department before submission to the BEF Grant Selection Committee. The committee is made up of BEF Directors appointed by the president of the BEF Board of Directors and others as determined by the BEF Board and the Superintendent. The Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction will serve as an advisor.

Responsibilities of Grant Recipients:

- Use the awards for the purposes intended.
- Fully implement the project and submit a final report to BEF at the completion of the project but no later than May 30, 2013.
- Agree to share successful procedure in staff development sessions.
- Agree to schedule site evaluations conducted by BEF to measure effectiveness.
- Purchases from grant funds shall be in accordance with district policies and procedures.
- Communicate and include BEF on all activities and publicity related to the grant.