

Acton Agua-Dulce USD



Best Practices of Teaching

Mini Grant Application

The administration of AADUSD recognizes the implementation of best practices to change the way teachers teach and students learn. When designed and implemented well, methodology (including technology) can expand the curriculum, target instructional standards, improve teaching effectiveness and student performance.

Mini grants are designed for principals and teachers who have a vision of promoting powerful teaching and learning by developing and testing unique strategies that will enrich a curricular area. Mini grant recipients share an excitement about integrating best practices into the curriculum and have an interest in new paradigms as they relate to the roles of teachers and students. Successful integration of methods must include a vision of a classroom where learners construct, evaluate, manipulate, and present their ideas while demonstrating understanding of curricular concepts.

It is highly recommended that anyone applying for the grant read our District plan and craft your proposal accordingly. These grants are designed for immediate classroom implementation.

The application packet must include the following:

- ❖ Abstract – one page maximum
- ❖ Proposal that contains the elements identified in the scoring rubric – 3 pages maximum

All information about the person(s) applying for the grant is to be on the cover sheet. Neither the abstract nor the proposal should have references to applicants' name(s).

**All grant applications must be received by your site principal
No later than October 30, 2011.**

Judging:

The judging of these grants will be done in two tiers. In the first tier there will be 3 judges. Each grant will be read independently by any 3 of these judges. Each judge will score according to the rubrics that follow. The three scores will be averaged and the finalists will be passed onto the final set of judges. These judges will make the final determination. The judges are teachers and administrators from AADUSD.

Scoring rubric:

Points	Proposal Component
10	Abstract that summarizes the vision of how the project can enhance teaching and learning and the role the project plays in that vision. One page maximum.
20	Specific details of how the project will be used and the uniqueness of the project
10	Specific details of how the project will enhance student centered learning.
20	Relationship of the project to district essential plan.
15	Specific details of how and what curricular areas will be effected
10	Specific details of the assessment plan to measure student and project success
5	Past experience of planning and implementing a project
5	Time line containing planning, implementing, sharing and assessment benchmarks
5	Itemized resources needed for project success with a total dollar amount given – this should include training, development time, technology equipment, etc.

Example of projects:

- Create a WebQuest. A WebQuest is an Internet project in which some or all of the information that students interact with comes from sites on the Internet. It can focus on a single topic or be interdisciplinary.
- Organize a virtual field trip or museum by collecting and codifying artifacts on such topics as a setting for a given novel, historical event, artist, desert ecosystem, mathematical shapes and formulas associated with them, scientific discovery, etc. Strategies for the collection, analysis and presentation of data will need to be developed.
- Examine ways in which communication devices (chat rooms, email, NetMeeting) can create a virtual classroom without walls to create collaborative projects with students studying a common concept or topic with students around the world.
- Explore ways in which various instructional methods can be used to assist EL students achieve in their classes. Interactive software may be an effectively incorporated.
- Collaborative projects using a 5 – 7 laptop mobile lab in a classroom.
- Whatever your imagination can design... The district would be more than happy to sit down and explore ideas. This list gives a few examples; we await your ideas!

Best Practices of Teaching Mini Grant Application Cover Sheet



Applicant(s) Name	Subject(s)	Grade Level(s)

REQUIRED SIGNATURES:

_____ Date _____
Signature of Director of Education/Student Services to ensure appropriate nature of request

_____ Date _____
Principal's Signature verifying that the goals of the application fit into the context of the overall school site plan.

Mini grant applicant(s) acceptance of responsibility for the following:

- ❖ Attend grant implementation meetings to examine research and implementation techniques, to learn the district's requisition process, and to build a network to share ideas.
- ❖ Develop, implement and assess the curricular strategies to realize the ideas of the grant within the time line established in the grant proposal.
- ❖ Shares grant ideas with other teachers – formally and informally. Provide in-service training to other teachers who want to replicate the project.

_____ Date _____
Mini grant applicant Signature

_____ Date _____
Mini grant applicant Signature

_____ Date _____
Mini grant applicant Signature

_____ Date _____
Mini grant applicant Signature

_____ Date _____
Mini grant applicant Signature

If the proposal is a team effort, please indicate the person who will play the role of team leader.