**INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROPOSAL**

**Name of Applicant Birgitta D. Johnson**

**District/School Adamsville Primary/Atlanta Public Schools\_**

**Date \_\_7/19/2016\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost of Project: \_\_$1600.00\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Title of Project: \_\_\_Creating Fluent Readers: Student Achievement Through 21st Century Tech\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**To what organization will you submit this grant application in the future?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_Any organization willing to provide funding of this size for our school.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Why is this project important (In 2-3 paragraphs, describe the need for the project.)?

Students in our school culture are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to technology at home or in their community to help them with their work at home. It is during the school day that students have a greater chance at exposure to programs through technology to help to enhance their learning. Our district’s technology plan strives to present more opportunities within the school through the increase of technological devices and resources to engage and enhance students’ learning experience.

This project is needed because the low socioeconomic status of the community shows that they are already at hardships within their home life and need assistance regarding day to day living. This community needs help with getting the students all of the tools they need to be successful. It is the purpose of this project to help provide for these students their educational technology needs so they can become 21st century learners.

Based on data, there is a need for improvement in students’ reading and writing levels. There are so many resources available for students in regards to educational technology that can help students meet their academic goals. They need to have the resources available to them so they can use these tools and be successful at showing academic growth.

1. What would you like to accomplish (In 2-3 paragraphs, describe the unit or lesson and list instructional objectives.)?

According to the 2nd grade standards, students are required to read with sufficient accuracy and fluency that they can comprehend the text that they are reading. According to the data collected based off of testing from last year, the students are struggling in that area. Students need to have resources that will help with their reading fluency. I think that it will help with students’ reading to have some technological aids that students can use through various reading skills. Once students are able to read more fluently, they will have a better time understanding author’s purpose for the reading and answer related questions. It is so important to have students master fluency and comprehension in the 2nd grade so they will be ready for inferences in the upper grades. They need to use this time in the 2nd grade to master the basics of reading fluency and comprehension.

I would like to accomplish this first by adding the reading tutor program Reading Buddy Software to the school to help assist students at their various reading levels. Students need to work on their level and once baseline testing is completed at the beginning of the school year, this program determines the level for students at all needs. The teacher can provide engaging work for the students to use during their center times or extra time with the teacher to help reach the goal of improving fluency and comprehension. When the students are assigned to the computer, they can use Reading Buddy to work with those skills independently with confidence.

1. How will you complete the work? (In 1-2 paragraphs for each section, describe how the project will be completed.)
2. Describe how the instructional objectives will be met.

The teachers will collaborate with the technology teacher to discuss the needs of various students in regards to reading and writing. The teachers will use baseline testing at the beginning of the year to determine appropriate reading levels for the students. The homeroom teachers will introduce and use technology in the classroom during center times so the students have exposure to those resources. The technology teacher will also use those same resources to help guide students through various programs and resources. Reading Buddy Software (readingbuddysoftware.com) is a great program for reading fluency and comprehension that can help all levels of reading. It helps students with their fluency and comprehension skills.

B. Describe the time involved (project length including amount of time each day/week).

The project should take about 4 months. This includes: 1 month of baseline testing and setting up reading groups. The other months should be spent with the students working with the software or online programs at least 3 times a week. Assessments will be taken at to determine if there is growth in the students fluency and comprehension skills to determine if a student needs to move to another reading group with similiar level. Reading Buddy has its own assessment built in through eduSpeak that will also be reviewed.

C. Describe the people involved (grade level/subject & # of students, teachers and/or staff).

All 2nd grade level teachers and technology teacher (150 students, 6 teachers, 3 staff members (media specialist, technology teacher, and reading instructional coach). Administration is needed to approve and secure funding for the programs and additional technology needed to support all classes.

D. Describe the materials needed for the project.

Computers and/or tablets accessible to the students throughout the week. The computer programs Reading Buddy Software available for the students, teachers, administration and parents to access to see progress.

IV. What is the timeline for assessing accomplishments and objectives (In 1-2 paragraphs, describe program evaluation procedure.)?

Students will take a mid year test at the end of the first semester to see if there has been growth in the students’ fluency and comprehension skills. Test results will determine if the students have shown improvement and if they have, other goals will be set for the for the next round of fluency and comprehension. Those students will still need to be provided with rigorous meaningful work to help maintain their achievement.

If there are students who did not meet goals, it will require looking into other applications and programs that can assist struggling readers. This may require additional resources that will meet those students at their level and still provide the skills needed to hopefully improve their reading fluency and comprehension by the end of the year.

V. How will the students be assessed (In 2-3 paragraphs, include details regarding how student progress will be assessed and reported to students, parents, teachers, and others.)?

Students will be taking formative assessments during this time in order for all stateholders to see where the students’ progress is. The assessments could be based on comprehension of stories read by the students with stories similiar to the ones they are working on in their online or computer software resources. The teachers will be able to use these formative assessments to determine if the student is getting added value to their work with the addition of the software.

Teachers will provide information to their parents through parent teacher conferences, communication during the school week regarding their child’s process. Teachers can create charts or graphs that may be more visually helpful to parents in regards their students progress from the beginning of the year to the present. It is important that teachers open and keep open that line of communication regarding a student’s progress. If the programs the students work on provide some type of assessment form or data tracker, it should be strongly encouraged for teachers to use it to provide data for the students and their parents. Reading Buddy provides parents with progress reports based on the students performance.

VI. What is the proposed budget? Include information on the following:

A. Materials/supplies

readingbuddysoftware.com (cost depends on how many computers the school will be willing to download program to). Estimated $1,000 for software to be downloaded to computers in 2nd grade classrooms, technology room, media center, and computer check out room.

Headphones with speakers: Estimated $20/headset Total cost $600

B. Equipment

Computers, laptops and iPads are already available in the classrooms and for check out.

C. Total Cost of Proposed Project: $1,600

D. Additional Funding Sources

V. List your supporting references.

https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Frameworks/ELA-Grade-2-Standards.pdf

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/developing-fluent-readers>

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**EVALUATION FORM/SCORING RUBRIC**

**Total Points (out of 200): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. Impacts a variety of skill levels and/or learning styles or impacts an important target population.

Possible number of points: 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Clearly identifies standards and learning objectives being addressed.

Possible number of points: 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Pedagogically sound, based on research and/or best practices.

Possible number of points: 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Clear plan for assessment of project and goals with examples of implementation methods.

Possible number of points: 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Impacts large number of students and/or can be recycled/reused.

Possible number of points: 40 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

General Comments:

Adapted from: The Education Foundation of Oconee County, Inc.