

Background Notes

Since 2005-06, SEEDS has distributed over \$48,000 to the five Daphne public schools and Christ the King Catholic School through our Classroom Enrichment Grant Program – primarily in the form of teacher mini-grants. However, in 2007, the SEEDS Board of Directors established a **School Block Grant** component within this initiative to ensure the equitable distribution and maximum impact of foundation dollars. A number of major technology improvements and campus-wide programs were made possible in the Daphne schools over the past year as a result of this new approach. Consequently, SEEDS has earmarked another \$3,000 per school for the 2008-09 term to be utilized in keeping with our grants program criteria (see below) to undertake school-level instructional projects.

In addition, the SEEDS Board remains committed to encouraging innovation by **individual teachers** and collaboration among **school colleagues** by funding a number of smaller projects each year through **our Competitive Classroom Grants**. These funds are set aside to support the implementation of especially creative and substantive new projects designed by individual Daphne teachers and/or self-selected faculty teams. The total number and amount of these awards is determined annually based on availability of funds and appropriateness of proposal designs.

What You Need to Know

ALL 2008-09 SEEDS grant proposals (for both **School-Level** and **Competitive Classroom Grant** projects) must be received by no later than **Monday, August 11** * and should address at least THREE of the following criteria:

- **Innovative teaching** of core (i.e., standard) curriculum or enrichment learning (i.e., topics beyond the standard course of study);
- **Instructional impact** (i.e., grant funds will serve a significant number and range of students);
- **Professional collaboration** (i.e., educators on your campus will work together effectively to utilize these funds);
- **Community partnership** (i.e. use of these funds will involve innovative interaction with other Daphne schools OR will promote meaningful involvement of local businesses, community organizations/agencies or non-parent citizens).

School Block Grants – Notes to the Principal

School Block Grant funds may be requested to undertake more than one project on each campus but may NOT exceed a total of \$3,000 and MUST clearly address at least 3 of the 4 above-named criteria.

To underscore SEEDS' continuing commitment to improving instruction, the School Block Grant proposal must be developed by a designated team of **teachers** (i.e., School Block Grant Committee) with leadership from the school administration.

* Early submission of all proposals is recommended.

Competitive Classroom Grants – Just for You, Teachers

For 2008-09, the SEEDS Board of Directors has set aside up to \$7,000 for Competitive Classroom Grants (i.e., in addition to the \$3000 earmarked for each campus) that will be awarded to individual teachers or self-selected teams of teachers who request funds for special class-, grade-level or departmental initiatives. These grants will be decided by the Grant Distribution Committee of the SEEDS Board of Directors and awarded **competitively** on the basis of which proposals most effectively address SEEDS' designated grant criteria (see page 1).

While no definitive limit has been established for these competitive classroom grant requests, most funded proposals to date have received \$500-\$1000. All requests should include a detailed budget and project description that clearly demonstrates the cost-effectiveness of the concept and its relevance to SEEDS designated grant criteria. (Note: grants will remain at the project school in the event of teacher transfer and all local/district level approval procedures must be completed in time for your proposal to be received by no later than August 11, 2008. See your principal for details.)

Each teacher may submit only one proposal **as the lead applicant**; however, if a teacher is part of a team for one proposal, the teacher is not prohibited from submitting another proposal as part of a different team or on his/her own.

Also, SEEDS Classroom Enrichment Grant proposals should not be designed to address *basic instructional or equipment/facility needs that are the responsibility of the local school or district.*

Finally, funds cannot be allocated toward *individual* professional development, for personal honoraria, or for the expansion or maintenance of previous grants. However, grants **may** be written to request funds for professional development resources that will impact multiple faculty members – provided the focus of the training is to improve classroom instruction or promote enrichment.

How to Get Started?

Begin now brainstorming with your colleagues about ways in which a SEEDS grant could enrich the learning experiences of students in your school. Develop a proposal concept and work together to complete the application process.

Applications must be typed and a signature is required from your school principal to ensure that all appropriate administrative personnel are aware of your submission of the grant application.

A completed application contains –

- ✓ the original application form (i.e., the one with the original signatures)
- ✓ the project description
- ✓ 3 additional copies of both of the above-listed items **(These must be provided by the grant applicant – i.e., 4 total sets of application materials!)**

Please note: The name(s) of the primary applicant, team members and the school should NOT appear in the text of the narrative project description. Include this information only on the application.

SEEDS reserves the right to fund programs it considers appropriate for one school, but not for another; to publicize all grant programs; and to conduct scheduled site visits during grant program implementation. **An end-of-year evaluation report is required for each grant received by a school in order for that school to be eligible for subsequent SEEDS grants.** It is the responsibility of the lead teacher and ultimately the school principal to ensure this requirement is met.

Please contact Denise D'Oliveira, SEEDS Communications Coordinator, at (251) 656-7333 for additional information.

Completed application packets should be mailed to --

SEEDS
Post Office Box 460
Daphne, AL 36526

All grant applications must be **received by August 11, 2008**. Grant recipients will be notified within two weeks and an awards ceremony scheduled later that month.