

Background Notes

Since 2005-06, SEEDS has distributed over \$180,000 to the five Daphne public schools and Christ the King Catholic School through our Classroom Enrichment Grant Program. These funds are set aside to support the implementation of creative and substantive projects designed by individual Daphne teachers and/or faculty teams. The total number and amount of these awards is determined annually based on availability of funds and appropriateness of proposal designs.

With the adoption of the new **Yes We Can Baldwin Co-owned Strategic Plan**, the SEEDS board of directors has actively endorsed the development of 21st century learning skills as a top priority for our schools and community. As our signature project, **SEEDS' Classroom Enrichment Grant Program** represents a prime opportunity to encourage Daphne teachers and administrators to emphasize these areas in planning their annual enrichment projects. By doing so, we underscore our support for aligning and targeting the community's resources to address the strategic plan's overall goal of preparing **every Baldwin graduate for college, career, and ultimately, for success in the global marketplace.**

In his 2008 best seller *The Global Achievement Gap: Why Even Our Best Schools Don't Teach the New Survival Skills Our Children Need and What We Can Do About It* (2008), Harvard professor Tony Wagner describes **21st century learning as an integrated, interdisciplinary, project-based approach to developing the following skills:**

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Collaboration across networks and leading by Influence
- Agility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Entrepreneurialism
- Effective Oral and Written Communication
- Accessing and Analyzing Information
- Curiosity and Imagination

Consequently, we request that all Classroom Enrichment Grant proposals be clearly tied to some aspect of these 21st century skills.

What You Need to Know

ALL 2011-12 SEEDS Competitive Grant proposals (i.e., School-Level) must be received by no later than Tuesday, November 1 * and should address ALL of the following criteria:

- **The development of specific 21st century learning skills** selected from those detailed above; these **must be specified** in your objectives and project description; (Please note: Project-based learning is of particular interest to the grant selection committee! School-based summer programs, administered by the lead teacher and principal, and which address 21st century skills are also welcome.)
- **Instructional impact** (i.e., grant funds should serve a significant number of students);
- **Professional collaboration** (i.e., educators on your campus should work together effectively to plan for and utilize these funds);

School Block Grants – Notes to the Principal

In 2007, a School Block Grant component was introduced to ensure the equitable distribution and maximum impact of foundation dollars. For the 2011-12 term, the SEEDS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that one block grant of up to \$2,500 per school will be awarded. School Block Grant funds may be requested to undertake more than one project on each campus but may NOT exceed a total of \$2,500 and should address the same, above-named criteria.

One additional block grant of \$500 will be awarded to the Daphne school that enrolls the largest percentage of teachers as Friends of SEEDS during this fall's annual membership campaign (i.e., the school that wins the Spirit of SEEDS Award – to be named at the 2011 Mamma Mia Cook-off on November 12.)

To underscore SEEDS' stated commitment to the development of 21st century learning skills, each School Block Grant proposal should also specify how these will be incorporated into the project. The project should 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 2011-12, the SEEDS Board of Directors has set aside up to \$10,000 for Competitive Classroom Grants (i.e., in addition to the \$2,500 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 SEEDS' Grant Distribution Committee and awarded **competitively** based on relevance to our designated criteria (see p 1).

Most proposals funded to date have not exceeded \$1000, and applicants are encouraged to limit their requests so that multiple awards may be made throughout the Daphne schools. All requests should include a detailed budget and project description.

In the event of teacher transfer, grants will remain at the project school. **All local/district level approval procedures must be completed in time for your proposal to be received by no later than November 1.** (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?

Brainstorm with your colleagues about ways in which a SEEDS grant could promote the development of 21st century skills in your school. Develop a relevant project concept that will impact a significant number of students and then work together to complete the application process.

Applications must be typed and **a signature is required from your school principal.**

A completed application contains –

- ✓ the original application form (i.e., the one with the original signatures)
- ✓ the project description
- ✓ **4 additional copies** of both of the above-listed items **(These must be provided by the grant applicant – i.e., 5 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.

Contact Denise D'Oliveira, SEEDS Executive Director, 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 Tuesday, November 1, 2011**. Grant recipients will be notified before the Thanksgiving holidays.