

## **Jared Polis Foundation: The Technology Mini-Grant Application**

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Teacher Name: XXX

Teacher's email address: XXX

School Name: Colorado Public School

School Address, City, State, Zip:

Grade/subject taught: Special Education K-12

### **1) Describe the technology related purchase you will make if awarded this grant:**

If awarded this grant, I will purchase a Smarttech SMARTboard, which will allow me to provide more differentiated and engaging instruction in reading, language and math for my special education students at XXX School.

### **2) Describe how this grant will enhance your lessons, and how many students will be impacted by this technology?**

Currently, I support between 20 and 25 special education students in grades 1, 3 and 5 in reading, language and math. While I have not had access to a SMART Board in my classroom here in XXX, I did use this technology in XXX County, during my licensure program to expand lessons to include more visual, aural, and kinesthetic style instruction and learning. All students in XXX County who used this effective technology showed greater academic gains in a timelier manner. Here at XXX, I would like to incorporate a SMART Board in my room to do three things to enhance instruction and learning in my classroom.

First, I would like to gain experience with existing tools to improve student engagement in my current curricula. For example, our alternative core reading producer has now released a set of SMART Board tools that extend student learning by extending student engagement in *Language! 3*, which is the reading curriculum for fourth and fifth grade special education students (and on through middle and high school as well).

Second, just as teachers in regular education classes do, special education teachers develop student goals and objectives based on student needs in relation to the five components of reading instruction (phonemic awareness, phonics/word decoding, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension), spelling, grammar, and sentence and paragraph writing, and number sense, computation fluency, and problem solving in math. Therefore, I would like to develop a library of SMART Board tools that can be applied specifically to these elements of core instruction in special education. For example, Utah State University has a substantial library of visual SMART Board tools that support the development of number sense. I would like to incorporate them into my math lessons in this area so that students can not only see but can also touch, hear, and manipulate numbers.

Last, I would like to use the SMART Board to bring more of the outside world into my instruction. Most of my students have very little understanding of the world outside their own families – they don't know what "state" means, they have never seen an ocean or a whale (both significant parts of recent stories in the students' text), they have little sense of what a government is or does, or what foods people in China eat, or even that reading or writing or math are activities that can be good and fun. Because the SMART Board (along with my PC) can provide a rich visual and aural display, I can use it to broaden and enrich their world by bringing content in my lessons to life. This will support their specific academic goals because context is critical for comprehension.

**3) What is the approximate cost of the technology purchase? (Please provide web address for the vendor that is selling the product/service or attach a document that outlines the intended purchase.)**

\*The following prices are based on XXX County School District quoted prices:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Price</b>
Smart Technologies Board 640 Interactive Whiteboard	\$699.00
Floor Stand for SB640	\$300.00
Smart Technologies Smart Slate	\$255.00
Shipping for above items	\$67.85
Total	\$1321.85

**4) Do you have access to other funds if the cost of the product/service exceeds the grant award, and if so provide specific details? (We are able to award a maximum of \$1,500.)**

If awarded this grant, the staff and/or administrators at XXX have graciously agreed to make up any difference between the award granted and the actual cost.

**5) Do you have existing technology in the classroom? If yes, please describe the technology (computers, digital cameras, interactive whiteboards, etc.), how it is used, and the number of students who use it (especially if the technology is shared with another teacher/classroom.)**

Currently, I have a limited availability of technology in my classroom. I use a laptop to support fluency development that includes access to a wireless network. I also have a document camera that I use to support instruction, by providing additional context for my students.

**6) Will the technology you are requesting be shared with other teachers?**

The technology requested will be used primarily by me in a resource room setting, but it will also be shared with our special education team including our second special education teacher, child advocate, our speech-language pathologist, other itinerant support staff (e.g., hearing and physical specialists) and our para-professional at XXX. As important, applications found or developed that support more and better learning for special education students will be shared with all teachers in the school (and across the district) so that they can tune their instruction for the specific needs of all special education students in grades K-5. Currently, this includes approximately 65 students in grades K – 5 at XXX.

**7) How will the technology interface with or enhance existing technology? (If you do not currently use technology in the classroom, please describe your technology plan and how this purchase will help you reach your technology goals.**

The XXX mission is to inspire, educate and empower every student to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This technology grant would assist our District in reaching this goal.

A SMART Board will interface with our learning curriculum through reading tools provided by our content vendors and SMART Board users across the country, in math instruction with tools provided by organizations such as Utah State and in language, as I discover them. Additionally, I want to create an assessment system that allows me to capture student data through a common user interface and a common database management tool. This would allow me to more easily collect, analyze, and act upon each student's individual data, as well as all students' collected data.

**8) If you have existing technology, did you receive training? If yes, please describe the training?**

I spent more than 25 years as a systems engineer and project manager at several well-known technology companies including Sperry, Wyse, Logitech and Microsoft. I am familiar with Unix, Windows, MacOSX, several database tools and Internet technology as applied to learning (I developed the first online training system at Microsoft, and also did my Masters Degree online). Finally, I expect to start the University of Colorado Denver e-learning program in the spring or fall of 2011.

**9) Will the technology you are requesting require training? If yes, please describe the training and how you will obtain it.**

I have already had four training classes on using the SMART Board technology. Additionally, XXX has a technology program entitled, Global Learners, which teaches a select group of teachers how to use technology, such as SMART Boards, creating class websites, blogging and using digital cameras. If needed, I can approach Global Learners at XXX for additional support.

***Note: All awarded technology will be the property of the designated school if or when the teacher grantee leaves the school to pursue other employment***

***Note (2): We will include a final reporting requirement for each grantee to complete within six months after receiving the grant; report instructions will be included with the grant award.***