

I. Abstract of Project/Activity

School districts across the country are in crisis when it comes to finding qualified teachers. In the Dallas Ft. Worth Metroplex, large school districts begin each year with teaching positions unfilled. Job market outlooks indicate that the field of education will continue to be a high demand occupation for decades to come. CISD proposes to encourage student interest in the field of education and prepare future educators to meet the demands in this job market by implementing a **Ready, Set, Teach!** program at Coppell High School.

Ready, Set, Teach! (RST) is a field-based internship which provides students a background in child-development principles as well as effective teaching practices. The class will be offered to junior and senior level students with an interest in pursuing a career in the field of education. The RST instructor/coordinator is a certified in Family and Consumer Sciences with students receiving additional direction from field-site teachers at the elementary and middle-school campuses. RST can be taken for one or two years, with field experience beginning in the second 6-weeks.

In order to prepare the student-interns to educate in the 21st century, grant funds will be used to equip them with technology similar to that of CISD K-2 teachers. RST students will each be issued a Palm Pilot and share three laptop computers and projectors to utilize as instructional tools at field-sites. The RST classroom will be equipped with five computers as well as educational equipment and supplies to provide student-interns with the resources needed for research and lesson preparation. Essential educational software for Palm Pilots and computers will be provided. Total estimated cost of the **Ready, Set, Teach!** proposal is \$30,000.

II. Description of Proposal & Nature of Request

Ready, Set, Teach! (RST) is a field-based internship which provides opportunities for students to have exploratory as well as more in-depth study in an educational career. Instruction will address the principles and procedures for promoting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of young children and adolescents. The student-interns will learn and apply developmentally-appropriate practices in educational settings at elementary and middle school field-sites. Opportunities will be provided to explore careers in education and to develop specific knowledge, skills and behaviors foundational for the teaching profession.

Students in **Ready, Set, Teach!** work under the joint direction and supervision of both a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher and exemplary educators in direct instructional roles with elementary and/or middle school-aged students. RST students plan and direct individualized instruction and group activities, prepare instructional materials, assist with record keeping, and complete other responsibilities of classroom teachers. Placement rotations will be utilized to allow students to gain experiences in a full range of educational career roles, grade levels, subject areas, and ability groups, starting at the observation level and progressing through direct instruction.

Coppell ISD will offer **Ready, Set, Teach!** to address the shortage of qualified educators. For many years students have graduated from CHS with the intent to study Education in college. The objective of this program is to give students a foundation of the principles and practices of education as they prepare for their future. In the 2004-2005 school year almost 100 students participate in TAFE, Texas Association of Future Educators, without the benefit of classroom instruction. With the addition of **Ready, Set,**

Teach!, Coppell ISD will fill an educational void in our school. RST is projected to serve approximately 40 students in the 11th and 12th grade with two sections of a full-year course. The RST program has the potential to grow into a full schedule for the Family and Consumer teacher, but it will begin next year with a partial teaching unit funded by CISD.

In recognizing the changes in education, Coppell ISD plans to equip the student-interns with technology needed to prepare them to be technology-competent educators in the 21st century. CISD proposes to supply all RST students with technology similar to that of our K-2 teachers. Each student-intern will be issued a Palm Pilot with keyboard accessories available in the classroom. Three laptop computers and projectors will be available for the student-interns to share on a check-out basis to use as teaching tools at their field-sites. The RST classroom will be equipped with five network computers for research and lesson preparation. The computers, laptops, and Palm Pilots will have the essential educational software to plan and execute the lessons and activities to use at their field-sites. Educational equipment, project supplies, and teacher resource books will be purchased to provide the student-interns with the tools they need for the creation of lesson materials, bulletin boards, educational manipulatives or activities, presentations, etc. Without grant funding, the **Ready, Set, Teach!** program would still be offered to CHS students; however, the technology component would not be implemented and the educational resources would be severely limited based on availability of campus budget funds.

Ready, Set, Teach! will offer an option for up to two years of training for the 11th and 12th grade students. Students enrolled in RST will receive instruction through two

methods: classroom instruction and field experience. RST students will remain on the CHS campus the first six weeks of school. This time will be spent preparing for field-based internship through educational training including curriculum, classroom management, and technology integration. Beginning in the second six weeks, the student-interns report to the RST classroom two days a week to continue working on educational studies/preparation and report to their field-sites the other three days. Additionally, by offering Instructional Aide Certification, RST will provide student-interns an opportunity to improve their employment options while attending college.

III. Detailed Budget

Detailed Description of Items Needed for Ready, Set, Teach!	#	Cost	Extended Cost
PC Computers for RST Classroom	5	\$ 800	\$ 4,000
Laptop computers	3	\$ 1,550	\$ 4,650
MS Office Professional	8	\$ 50	\$ 400
Inspiration (software)	8	\$ 25	\$ 200
Scholastic Keys (software)	8	\$ 35	\$ 280
Color Inkjet Printer	1	\$ 900	\$ 900
Palm Tungston E	41	\$ 180	\$ 7,380
Wireless Keyboards	10	\$ 50	\$ 500
MS Office ToGo (software for Palm)	41	\$ 70	\$ 2,870
Inspiration ToGo (software for Palm)	41	\$ 20	\$ 820
Data Projectors	3	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,500
Educational equipment & supplies (ex. resource books, paper cutter, die cuts, hole punch, butcher paper rolls, construction paper, scissors, etc.)	1	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500

	\$ 30,000
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IV. Project Measurements and Evaluation

In the inaugural year, **Ready, Set, Teach!** (RST) is expected to serve approximately 40 students in the 11th and 12th grade with two sections of a full-year course. Although RST will only require a partial teaching unit to begin with, it is anticipated that the program will expand and could eventually require a full-time teacher. Staffing for this program is being funded through district personnel; no grant funds are being requested for staffing.

At first glance, the impact of educating only 40 students through the **Ready, Set, Teach!** program out the combined junior and senior class enrollment of approximately 1,500 students may seem negligible. However, the full impact of this program must be considered. When it is taken into account that the 40 student-interns will provide assistance and instruction for multiple elementary and middle school classes, then a much larger impact can be recognized.

To determine the dollar-per-student cost of this project, it must be considered that this grant will fund non-consumable technology hardware and software which will conservatively last three years. With that in mind, if enrollment figures are based at a low projection of 40 students per year, over a three year period the estimated cost per student is \$250.

The greatest measure of success will be in future years when former CHS graduates who began their education in **Ready, Set, Teach!** return to Coppell ISD as qualified educators. For more immediate feedback, the effectiveness of the **Ready, Set, Teach!** program as a whole and its component parts will be evaluated annually from the following perspectives:

- Effectiveness in achieving the course objectives as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS)
- Appropriateness of procedures for enlisting program participants (sites, learners, field-site personnel, high school students, parents/family members)
- Effectiveness of procedures and guidelines for program management and coordination
- Effectiveness of training and supervision of students participating in field experiences
- Program effectiveness from the perspective of district administrators, field-site administrators, field-site teachers and other personnel directly involved in program activities

In order to evaluate the above criteria, end of the year Program Evaluations will be completed by all the RST teacher/coordinator, student-interns, field-site teachers, and school administrators. The evaluation process as well as the Program Evaluation tool itself is provided by the Texas Education Agency in the **Ready, Set, Teach!** Coordinators Guide.