

Promising Practices Grant Application

Improving Student Achievement: Students who will utilize this iPad can be described in two groups. The first group is described as the target population in my professional collaborative goal for the 2011-2012 school year and this school year as severely discrepant readers. These are students who fall into the average intelligence range and score more than two grade levels below in reading. These students (known in current research and educational language as Print Disabled), have not responded to traditional research based methods for reading instruction. This group make up slightly less than two percent of our total student population. The goal with this group of students is to improve their access to the general education curriculum by providing Accessible Instructional Materials. As part of my collaborative goal we are currently piloting the use of Bookshare, the text to speech service offered through the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standards, which is free to qualifying students and organizations. Manzanita currently has an organizational account with 4 students enrolled and myself as the primary contact. The service offered through Bookshare can be linked to an iPad to make the service more portable. This grant would allow us to link our Bookshare account to the iPad which would entail downloading the free software, Victor Reader, ReadOut Loud and Accapella.

The second group of students to benefit from the iPad is students who are functioning below grade level in all academic areas and spend a significant amount of their day in the Resource Room. This group will use the iPad as a motivational and educational tool. The free Apps that would be loaded onto the device for this group have already been site tested by the Resource Room special education teacher at Fort Vannoy Elementary, who has been using an iPad with her students through a grant for one year now. I have had the opportunity to review several which would be appropriate to implement with these students: Coin Math, Telling Time, Sight Words, Phonics Genius, Futaba (a reading game), Splash Math (grade leveled), and Kinder Town.

Assessment of progress for the severely discrepant reader group is built into our Collaborative Goal project for this school year and would be added as another Accessible Instructional Material that we are piloting with the target population. We have formed an Assistive Technology Team this year and are completing the project over the next two school years with the help of the Oregon Technology Access Program in Roseburg.

Assessment of progress for the second group of students is subjective; I would not be setting up a formal assessment other than including the iPad into already existing positive behavior supports. Given the results that other teachers have shared who are implementing iPads into

regular Resource Room settings or multi-handicapped settings, I would fully expect that the goal of improving motivation and improving some educational fluency skills to be reasonable.

The research which supports the anticipated positive results of providing Accessible Instructional Materials to students with Print Disabilities is best viewed on the CAST Center for Universal Design for Learning main website at the http://aim.cast.org/experience/decision-making_tools/aim_navigator which also provides a tool for assisting IEP and 504 teams in completing needs assessment for the use of AIM.

The Three Rivers School District has not been approached specifically for the purpose of asking for an iPad for my classroom.

The district is fully supporting our Assistive Technology team as part of my collaborative goal for this school year. This team consists of me, a Title I teacher, another ERC teacher and the administrator of Manzanita Elementary. The goal of this team is to develop procedures for the implementation of AIM in the district while continuing with best practices for the current use of AIM with our target population at Manzanita and Fort Vannoy Elementary schools. This AT team is being funded through the district's Title I federal dollars.

Budget: Please see the attached Apple Inc. Price Quote which was given to our district's technology specialist on 1/30/13. This price includes shipping. The 16 G will be plenty to run the programs and Apps described above for the two groups of students in our population at Manzanita ERC.