

At a Glance

The Instructional Technology (IT) department of the Dallas Independent School District managed the Title II, Part D, Enhancing Education Through Technology grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education for the 2006-2007 school year. The grant provided \$767,353 to the district to facilitate improvements in the use of technology as part of educational delivery strategies employed by the district.

Program Components

Beginning Teacher Institute (BTI). The Beginning Teacher Institute is limited to 20 first- or second-year teachers. In 2006-2007, nine teachers participated as the BTI focused on technology integration into the teaching process. The grant provided training and mentoring of BTI participants by teacher technologists. Teachers received a stipend of \$200 for attending all 15 sessions. The grant also provided a \$200 stipend to teachers who successfully completed a project involving introducing technology to students in a grade-appropriate and relevant way.

Services to Private Schools. In connection with No Child Left Behind, Dallas ISD provided services to area private schools. The Catholic Diocese of Dallas was the largest recipient. Dallas ISD funded a full-time counselor and a technologist to serve the Diocese. The Diocese used their funding to finance technology related Professional Development for faculty in 2006-2007.

DallasISD Online. This was a continuation of what was previously called the Blackboard Project, a subscription website content management service. Blackboard provided server space and a website shell for subscribers to use to post training, bulletin boards or other educationally oriented material. The subscriber was responsible for developing and maintaining the content of each web site. Subscribers purchased access for a specific number of individuals and for a specific amount of server memory space. Each individual user must be

licensed. There were 6,500 licensed subscribers in 2006-2007.

Read 180. This is a reading program for high school students where students rotate among teacher-led instruction, computer aided instruction, and independent work. The grant provided funding to maintain and support the READ 180 hardware and software. The support did not present a change in curriculum. In 2006-2007 some six schools did not deliver the program. The READ 180 program office reports no technical reasons for this lapse and attributes it to teacher fear of the technology.

Teacher Laptop Program (TLP). In 2006-2007, 593 laptop computers were distributed to teachers and media specialists who passed the TLP Level 1 Technology Proficiency assessment. The computers were HP / nx5000 or HP / nc6120 machines equipped with Star Office. In 2006-2007 the TLP also rolled out the Level II training program called TLP Level II Technology and Pedagogy ConNEXTion. To be eligible for the Level II training program a teacher had to have successfully completed the TLP Level I, and be in possession of either a Compaq EVO N800v or Dell Inspiron Laptop Computer. Some 44 teachers successfully completed this training.

New in 2006-2007 was the Teacher Laptop Integration Pilot Program (LIPP). This program awarded IBM/z61m laptops to TAG and social studies teachers that completed the "How to Master" course of instruction offered by Info Source. The focus of the program was to teach teachers how to more fully integrate technology into their daily classroom activities.

New Horizons. New Horizons provides computer training, specializing in Microsoft applications, nationwide. During 2006-2007, the grant funded 200 days of Type A training at New Horizons. Type A training includes desktop applications such as Microsoft Access, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The complete training catalog may be viewed at www.newhorizons.com.

Interactive Video Conferencing The Interactive Video Conferencing program was suspended throughout much of the 2005-2006 school year. Funding was restored for 2006-2007 and the program fielded 33 video conferencing carts. In all, 28 elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school were equipped with video conferencing capability during the year. Another two carts are available at the Instructional Technology department for check out as well. One-hundred and ten teachers completed basic training on the carts' operation in 2006-2007.

The Interactive Video Conferencing program expects to be able to expand the number of carts, cart managers and trained users in 2007-2008. The program helped develop a centrally located video conferencing classroom located in the Buckner Service Center where presentations and conferences are expected to be facilitated throughout the district.

Technology Outreach Program. This initiative provided donated, refurbished laptops to students for their personal use. More than 2,100 computers were distributed through this program. The program also donated over 3,000 refurbished computers to Dallas ISD classrooms. TOP also provided opportunities for training and mentoring of Dallas ISD students with interests in the technology field.

Atomic Learning. This is a subscription-based online training provider. Dallas ISD subscribed to training in hand-held technology for district teachers and students. In 2006-2007, seven 3rd and 4th grade bilingual teachers (153 students combined) were selected to participate in the program. Each teacher received a Teacher PDA, a classroom set of PDAs for student use, and a desktop computer and a projection device for the classroom. They also received content software for the PDAs.

TCEA Scholarships. The TCEA scholarship program funded 93 teacher technologists to attend the 27th Anniversary Convention & Exposition meeting held in Austin, Texas, February 5-9, 2007.

Summary

The Dallas ISD Instructional Technology department used grant monies to fund 10 technology programs needed in the district during the 2006-2007 school year. Grant

funding supported nine new teachers as they completed projects for the BTI. The grant funded a technologist and counselor for the Catholic Dioceses of Dallas.

Teachers participated in a comprehensive Internet-based interactive program designed to reinforce best practices in teaching, and to introduce and reinforce district expectations for teaching practice through the DallasISD Online website.

The Scholastic READ 180 program used grant funds to maintain the basic software used by teachers as one leg of a three-legged program. Although fully equipped, six schools did not deliver the full program in 2006-2007.

In 2006-2007, Dallas ISD issued 593 laptops to teachers and media specialists under the TLP. The grant funded continued training and support for these users. The grant also funded the purchase of laptops for teachers new to the district, and those not issued one the previous year. Training was also funded under the grant.

The Interactive Video Conferencing program fielded 33 video conferencing carts in 2006-2007. The program also funded training for 110 teacher operators.

The TOP program provided more than 2,100 donated computers to Dallas ISD students through the CAST component of the program. The CFC component distributed 3,000 computers to schools for classroom use.

The grant provided funding to support seven bilingual Dallas ISD teachers' and students' access to subscription-based short, on-demand training programs offered by Atomic Learning. The tutorials focused on the use of hand-held technology.

In 2006-2007, the grant provided funding for 93 teacher technologists to attend the 27th Anniversary Convention & Exposition meeting of the Texas Computer Education Association in Austin, Texas. Attendees were able to review and examine technology related offerings including hardware, software, packaged instructional programs, classroom teaching aids and other products.