

## 2015 Core Grants Overview

### Grants to District-wide Programs

#### **Math Start Books:**

**\$1868**

The newly adopted elementary math curriculum, enVisionMATH, not only covers direct math curriculum, it also lays the groundwork for integrating math into reading and science via storytelling and illustration. This grant provides a 63 volume collection of MathStart books for each elementary school, to build students' skills in applying math principles.

#### **Boys & Girls Conferences:**

**\$2000**

A collaboration between Durango 9-R and the Women's Resource Center, these conferences (*Girls to Women, Women to Girls* and the boys' *Keys to Success*) present all 9-R 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with vital skills and knowledge to help them succeed in high school and beyond. The programs enjoy widespread support from the parents, schools, community and above all, the students themselves.

#### **Young AmeriTowne:**

**\$8300**

Offered in Denver for at least 20 years, Young AmeriTowne presents hands-on learning in economics, civics, enterprise, employment, financial literacy, and community relationships. Many Young AmeriTowne alumni are so impressed by the program that they return years later as volunteers when their children participate. All Durango 9-R 5<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in next May's Young AmeriTowne "On the Road," which is the culminating day in which the students apply the skills they've been learning in the classroom to a lively, "real world" experience of personal and civic engagement. DEF funding will partner with Alpine Bank, Bank of Colorado and other local financial institutions. See more at <http://yacenter.org/young-ameritowne/>

#### **Kids' Camp Training and Materials**

**\$6295**

Durango 9-R after-school programs focus on "creating a fun, hands-on, academically enriching program that cultivates curiosity and builds on what the children are learning during the school day." To better accomplish this, professional training is vital. This grant brings respected child care instructors from Children's Choice Child Care Services, Albuquerque, to train the key Durango 9-R Kids' Camp staff in managing behavior and incorporating educational standards into after-school programs. Durango Boys and Girls Club staff have been invited to participate in the training as well, and there is a potential \$1000 grant in the wings from Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado to cover some of the program's science materials.

## Grants to Community Organizations Serving Durango 9-R Students

**Know Your Dough (KYD) \$2000**

KYD incorporates materials from Junior Achievement and other respected financial literacy programs into 9-R aligned lessons for students in grades 4, 7 and 12. Not only do the lessons provide life-skills in responsible financial practices, they also prepare students for the personal finance portion of the state-mandated CAS assessments in these grades.

By being offered through the schools (rather than as private classes, the original KYD model) the program reaches all socio-economic levels and no students are excluded from learning these valuable lessons.

Along with a successful KYD program at DHS this year, KYD piloted the *Never Too Young: Personal Finances* program at Sunnyside Elementary. Heavy interest from principals is encouraging KYD to expand next year with 16 additional programs at Park, Riverview, Needham, and Miller (serving a total of 1200 students). This grant will support the KYD expansion. Incidentally, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade KYD helps prepare kids for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade AmeriTowne economics/civics program, too.

**TRIO Talent Search \$ 679**

TRIO Talent Search, on the FLC campus, identifies and prepares potential first generation college students. Beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students are mentored in academics, financial aid, college applications and expectations. TRIO hosts a summer college camp for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders, bringing them to FLC to experience dorm life, take classes, and engage in activities to build cohesion and mutual support in their group. This grant will fund materials for the students' classes.

### School-based Grants

**Reading Pens – Pilot Program \$ 600**

**Animas Valley Elementary**

Dyslexic students struggling to read materials often find the specific course vocabularies to be an impediment. With a reading pen, the student scans an unknown word and quickly hears it read aloud through earbuds. He or she can signal for it to be defined, save it to a computer, or simply continue to read with greater fluency. With this grant, Animas Valley reading interventionist Meaghan Anderson will pilot the use of 3 pens with her students, testing them for ease of use, durability and accuracy.

**Technology Upgrade \$3500**

**Animas Valley Elementary**

The A.V.E. computer lab suffers with old CRT monitors, which flicker, run hot and present poor screen resolution. This grant will replace the old monitors with 35 19" flat screens, to reduce the heat and electric load and present safer, more comfortable viewing for young eyes. Although normally DEF would refer this request to the district, right now the 9-R budget is dedicated to making vital technology infrastructure updates.

**Language Nut Spanish Curriculum License \$ 495**

**Animas Valley Elementary**

Language Nut provides an interactive language curriculum that students use in the classroom and can follow up with independent practice. This license is for all grades. <http://www.languagenut.com/us/>

**Project Foundry Software**                      **Durango Big Picture High School**                      **\$4995**

Project Foundry (<http://www.projectfoundry.org/>) is a “streamlined, collaborative workflow, portfolio and reporting system” for project-based learning models such as Big Picture. Students and teachers use it to establish goals and timelines, link projects to standards, engage in collaborate efforts, and track and measure progress. It also provides a vehicle for students to house online portfolios of work, to be viewed by the full school community or by selected viewers, such as prospective internship employers or college admissions committees. The program provides an all-important platform for accountability and—some might say equally valuable—bragging rights to the finished projects. All 82 students will use this program. The grant covers the start-up costs; Big Picture has other funding for ongoing licensing.

**Yearbook Staff Cameras**                      **Durango High School**                      **\$2100**

The DHS yearbook cameras have now aged-out beyond repair. This request calls for purchasing 4 digital SLR cameras and related equipment so that yearbook staff can be taking timely photos, rather than fighting with broken equipment. Yearbook advisor Rachel Colman reports that she is using most of her discretionary yearbook budget for repairs to the computers, to extend their life spans, and so needs our help with the cameras. (Those art department cameras we funded two years ago are now in such constant use that sharing would prevent timely capture of photos for the yearbook.)

**Literature Explorations**                      **Escalante Middle School**                      **\$1960**

Teacher Marie Fletcher will use classic works, *The Narrative of Fredrick Douglass* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, to spark discussion, explore narrative themes and techniques, expand vocabulary and bring other worlds to life for her students. This grant provides 130 copies of each book, plus teacher materials. The books will belong to Escalante for future use.

**Field Trip Transportation**                      **Florida Mesa**                      **\$2400**

Students at 9-R outlying schools routinely miss out on the enrichments that field trips bring. Teacher Christina McMunn has put together a list of 19 excellent more or less local field trips for K-5 students and wrapped them into this grant. Ask me for the full list, if you’d like to read it—or reserve a space for yourself on one of the trips.

**Kagan Writing Training**                      **Florida Mesa**                      **\$ 798**

Non-fiction, narrative writing has been identified as a priority in Durango 9-R. The Kagan strategies to improve writing are highly respected. This grant pays registration fees only for two teachers, who will share the training with others in their school. Funding is conditional upon the teachers’ ability to cover their travel expenses. The grant will be implemented in 2016.

**Orton Gillingham Training**                      **Florida Mesa**                      **\$2925**

READ Act funding, which includes professional development for teachers to master the teaching of phonics and phonemic systems does not go beyond 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This grant will give 3 teachers the opportunity for immersion training in the Orton Gillingham method, which is useful for teaching children with dyslexia as well as for identifying and remediating gaps in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders grasp of basic reading skills.

<b>Science Club Support</b>	<b>Florida Mesa</b>	<b>\$1725</b>
Consumable materials are needed for the new, structured, hands-on Florida Mesa Science Club. FME has a significant population of students on free/reduced lunch, so asking families for money to participate in this after-school enrichment would likely bar a number of students. This grant provides all the materials for the hands-on science explorations, for up to 20 students meeting for 1 hour weekly, September-November, and February-April, and removes the need to charge fees.		
<b>Vocabulary Cards</b>	<b>Fort Lewis Mesa</b>	<b>\$1250</b>
Ongoing success using these consumable materials brings the request back to us year after year. This will be the final year for funding them; the committee considers their value to be sufficiently proven that they should be included in the regular school budget in future.		
<b>Native American Writing Workshop and Author/Artist Visit</b>		<b>\$2682</b>
This grant funds a visit from noted Navajo author/artist Shonto Begay to bring his stories and experiences to students at 2 elementary schools, and present an artist’s workshop at one elementary school and a writing workshop for the DHS Native American Club. 9-R has more than 400 Native American students, or 10% of enrollment. The grant is conditioned on Mr. Begay’s talks being offered to all children in the 2 schools selected. We will also encourage the district to bring students from other schools to the talks. <a href="http://www.medicinemangallery.com/bio/shontobegay.lasso">http://www.medicinemangallery.com/bio/shontobegay.lasso</a>		
<b>Multimedia IB Curriculum Support</b>	<b>Needham</b>	<b>\$5258</b>
The International Baccalaureate program uses written material extensively. This grant enhances the Needham IB library with a wide range of materials available through online licenses and in print; book and magazine selections were made with input from everyone on the Needham faculty. The materials will be available to the whole school.		
<b>Decodable Readers</b>	<b>Needham</b>	<b>\$ 464</b>
These chapter books provide help in specific areas to help fill the gaps in students’ reading skills. They will become a part of Needham’s teacher resources to bring students up to grade level.		
<b>Reading A-Z and Raz Kids licenses</b>	<b>Needham</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>
Successfully used by Riverview teachers, these reading enrichment materials make their debut at Needham.		
<b>Lucy Calkins Kindergarten Reading Units</b>	<b>Needham</b>	<b>\$ 544</b>
Teacher Sarah Strouthopolous has successfully used Lucy Calkins units of study ( <a href="http://www.unitsofstudy.com/default.asp">http://www.unitsofstudy.com/default.asp</a> ) for her older students for several years. She is transitioning to teaching kindergarten next year, and this grant will purchase age-appropriate materials for the smaller students.		

**Park Powers Up** **Park** **\$8350**

A collaborative effort, “Park Powers Up” will bring educators from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and local businesses involved with science together with Park Elementary teachers to develop inquiry based units as part of a comprehensive program to “deepen and enrich students’ relationships to the scientific world.” The program will reach 450 students and 22 core academic teachers. Each inquiry unit will culminate in a field trip for students to wrap up their studies with first-hand experiments and demonstrations not feasible in traditional classroom settings. Funding of the total \$17,100 costs will be shared between DEF, Conoco Phillips, and Park Elementary Professional Development funds.

**Innovative Programming** **Riverview** **\$1177**

Materials and equipment to expand the Riverview Science Lab offerings to students.

**Social Studies Supplemental Resources** **Sunnyside** **\$1000**

To bring the Sunnyside resources into alignment with current social studies strategies, this grant cover purchasing print and online book licenses for books that address (in various ways) biographies of influential Americans, civics, economics, and history.

**Lego Story Starters** **Sunnyside** **\$1091**

Jump starting creativity with beloved materials is the idea behind this grant. Working in small groups, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade children use Lego parts (people, pieces, etc.) in a structured framework to create stories, which are then transferred from oral expression to written, with software that allows the children to edit, expand, and correct their own work. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upfB8-2YaCc>

**Dash and Dot Coding Robots** **Sunnyside** **\$1273**

Introducing binary math and fundamental machine language becomes fun and understandable with this grant. <https://www.makewonder.com/>

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Writing Fluency\*** **Sunnyside** **\$4992**

Over the past 2 years, using her personal iPhone and the Siri application, Sunnyside interventionist Melissa Vance pioneered a program for her challenged readers and ELL students that combines developing research and synthesis skills with verbal and written fluency. First, the students—even the first graders—research a given topic. After direct lessons in building topic sentences, transitions, and conclusions, the students dictate their reports to Siri. They then can read and correct their report on screen, have Siri read it back to proof it, and then upload it to the room’s SMART board, where all the students can work together to revise and edit the work, using spell check, thesaurus, and editing functions. Melissa has seen remarkable progress with this system.

Following Melissa’s retirement this spring, the program was added to second-grade teacher Lori Smith’s classroom. In addition to continuing this program, Lori will turn her classroom into a “teaching lab” for other 9-R teachers to observe the process and results firsthand. This grant includes funds for substitute teachers, to free teachers from other schools to see the program.

---

\*  **Bank of Colorado** Winner: Bank of Colorado Award for Innovation