

Florida Department of Education

TAPS Number 07A308

Project Application

Please return to: Florida Department of Education Office of Grants Management Room 344 Turlington Building 325 West Gaines Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 Telephone: (850) 245-0496 Suncom: 205-0496	A) Program Name: <h3 style="margin: 0;">Boys and Girls Club Mentoring Services</h3>	DOE USE ONLY Date Received						
B) Name and Address of Eligible Applicant: The School District of Palm Beach County Department of Safe Schools 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd. Boca Raton, FL 33431		Project Number (DOE Assigned)						
C) Total Funds Requested: \$ 120,676 <hr style="width: 25%; margin-left: 0;"/> DOE USE ONLY Total Approved Project: \$	D) Applicant Contact Information <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; vertical-align: top;"> Contact Name: Alison Adler, School District of Palm Beach County Rozanne Sonneborn Boys & Girls </td> <td style="width: 40%; vertical-align: top;"> Mailing Address: 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, FL 33431 800 Northpoint Parkway, Suite 204 West Palm Beach, FL 33407 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Telephone Number: (561) 982-0900 Alison Adler (561) 683-3287 Rozanne Sonneborn </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> SunCom Number: </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Fax Number: (561) 982-0943 (561) 683-1618 </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> E-mail Address: aadler@palmbeach.k12.fl.us rsonneborn@bgcpcb.org </td> </tr> </table>		Contact Name: Alison Adler, School District of Palm Beach County Rozanne Sonneborn Boys & Girls	Mailing Address: 1790 NW Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton, FL 33431 800 Northpoint Parkway, Suite 204 West Palm Beach, FL 33407	Telephone Number: (561) 982-0900 Alison Adler (561) 683-3287 Rozanne Sonneborn	SunCom Number:	Fax Number: (561) 982-0943 (561) 683-1618	E-mail Address: aadler@palmbeach.k12.fl.us rsonneborn@bgcpcb.org
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CERTIFICATION I, <u>Arthur C. Johnson</u> , (<i>Please Type Name</i>) do hereby certify that all facts, figures, and representations made in this application are true, correct, and consistent with the statement of general assurances and specific programmatic assurances for this project. Furthermore, all applicable statutes, regulations, and procedures; administrative and programmatic requirements; and procedures for fiscal control and maintenance of records will be implemented to ensure proper accountability for the expenditure of funds on this project. All records necessary to substantiate these requirements will be available for review by appropriate state and federal staff. I further certify that all expenditures will be obligated on or after the effective date and prior to the termination date of the project. Disbursements will be reported only as appropriate to this project, and will not be used for matching funds on this or any special project, where prohibited. Further, I understand that it is the responsibility of the agency head to obtain from its governing body the authorization for the submission of this application.								
E) _____ Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools								

Boys and Girls Club Mentoring Services

Program Narrative

I. Need

District: Palm Beach County

The Computer Literacy Mentoring Program is provided at 13 Boys & Girls Club sites located in Delray Beach, West Palm Beach, Northwood, Boca Raton, Wellington, Belle Glade (7) and Riviera Beach. Through the technology centers at each of the clubs, the program is designed to engage and encourage at-risk children to achieve academic improvement by succeeding in school and becoming lifelong learners. The students who participate in this program attend the following Palm Beach County schools: Banyan Creek Elementary, Belle Glade Elementary, Benoist Farms Elementary, Bethune Elementary, Binks Forest Elementary, Calusa Elementary, Crosspointe Elementary, K.E./Cunningham/Canal Point, Eisenhower Elementary, Glade View Elementary, Gove Elementary, Imagine Elementary, J.C Mitchell Elementary, Lake Park Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Melaleuca Elementary, New Horizons Elementary, Northboro Elementary, Northmore Elementary, Orchard View Elementary, Panther Run Elementary, Pine Grove Elementary, Pioneer Park Elementary, Plumosa Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Rosenwald Elementary, S.D. Spady Elementary, Seminole Trails Elementary, Egret Lake Elementary, Village Academy, Washington Elementary, Wellington Elementary, West Riviera Elementary, Westgate Elementary, Westward Elementary, Wynnebrook Elementary, Bear Lakes Middle, Boca Raton Middle School, Carver Middle, Jaega Middle School, John F. Kennedy Middle, Lake Shore Middle, Roosevelt Middle, Wellington Landings Middle, Polo Park Middle School, Atlantic High, Boca Raton High School, Glades Central High, Pahokee Middle/Senior, Palm Beach Lakes High School, Palm Beach Central High School, John I. Leonard and Wellington High. All of the aforementioned schools are deemed Title I that are either in need of improvement or schools that failed to meet adequate yearly progress for at least two or more consecutive years. Many of the students attend schools that have not made AYP for three or more years and these youths are also eligible for supplemental educational services or school transfers.

In addition to attending Title I schools, the majority of our members served by this program live in disadvantaged circumstances. Our membership profile reveals the following about the youths served in this program:

- 50% are from single parent households.
- 54% are boys and 46% are girls.
- 52% live in a household earning less than \$20,000 annually.
- 87% percent are minorities.
- The majority served does not own computers and are not involved with other youth development organizations.

These statistics increase significantly in the areas of historically poor performing schools such as Riviera Beach and Belle Glade, when factoring in the economic and educational levels of the population. The membership profiles of the youth served by the Computer Literacy Mentoring project in the Glades illustrates:

- 95% are minorities

- 53% are boys; 47% are girls.
- 97% are on the free/reduced lunch program.
- 67% live in single parent households
- 59% typically do not graduate from high school; 31% have less than a 9th grade education.
- The median household income is \$17,033; the per capita income of the Club's target market is \$8,243.

As it is evident the target population is from low performing schools and many are eligible for supplemental educational services, it is the intention of the Computer Mentoring Program to augment the school district curriculum. In an effort to improve the academic achievement of students, the youth participating in our Computer Mentoring Program have the opportunity to participate in homework help and tutoring at each of our 13 sites. Club professionals, volunteers or even older Club members assist participants in the program. This enables Club members to develop the daily habit of reinforcing skills taught in the classroom, completing homework and preparing for class in a safe, quiet allocated space with staff and volunteer assistance. As students are now prepared for class, learning can progress and student performance is improved.

II. Project Design

Goals

The goals of the program are as follows:

Goal 1: To provide children with the opportunity to improve academically in math and reading through group and individualized academic assistance.

- Measurement tools include report card grades in math and reading.
- 35 % of the members will improve at least one letter grade in reading or math.

Goal 2: To improve the behavior of students in schools, particularly in regard to their attitudes toward education.

- Measurement tools will include attendance and frequency records, school discipline referrals (detention and suspension) and Club performance records.

Goal 3: To improve the typing speed of 75% of our members.

- Measurement tools will include pre and post tests on the youths' Adjusted Words Per Minute score.
- A minimum of 50% of the youths who attend 50% of the time will improve their post-test scores by 50%.

Mentoring/Instructional Activities

Youth participating in the Computer Literacy Mentoring program are provided daily homework help and instructed on computer math, reading, grammar and typing programs. One of the computer programs utilized is C to A, which inspires members to bring up their grades at least by one letter. The program increases reading skills through its various software components such as Reading Blaster, Vocabulary and Spelling Blaster. Other software programs used are: Math Blaster, Mavis Beacon Typing for Teenagers, Sponge Bob Squarepants (typing for elementary age students), Skill Tech I & II, teaches youths the basics of computers, Music Tech, Design Tech, Learning Today and various others. Through these computer programs youths participating in the program can be expected to acquire the following benefits:

- Individualized, structured learning experiences;
- Improved attitude toward learning in the school and Club;
- Self-paced and self-directed learning;
- Practical application of skills taught in the classroom;
- Remedial support as needed;
- Improved self-esteem;
- Improved grades in school; and
- Improved behavior.

Professional Development Activities

Training for both the staff and volunteers/mentors will be ongoing and include computer and software training, learning strategies, social competency, youth development strategies, core program area training and effective guidance and discipline in a club setting. All training will emphasize the need to make learning activities fun, welcoming and participatory in nature.

Support For New and Existing Mentors

Support for new and existing staff, volunteers and mentors will be ongoing and include monthly meetings to discuss effectiveness of programs. In addition to classroom instruction on new and existing programs for staff and volunteers, online and manuscript training will be available. The Director of Technology who will make at least one visit to each club site twice monthly will also encourage continuing education. This will provide new and existing staff and mentors to submit new program ideas and ask for assistance on current issues.

III. Project Management

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County's Director of Computer Education Dennis Young manages the Computer Literacy Mentoring project. Young joined the organization in 2004, but worked with computer technology for the past 20 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science from Florida State University. Currently he is in charge of 8 employees who facilitate this project countywide. Young supervises all aspects of the Computer Literacy Mentoring program, including:

- Leading the staff team in developing computer learning opportunities;
- Establishing and maintaining liaison with schools to coordinate activities;
- Recruiting, orientation and training of employees;

- Recruiting Club member participants;
- Purchasing of equipment and supplies;
- Establishing parent support and activities to encourage involvement;

In addition to the Director of Computer Education staffing includes seven part-time tech assistants who are paid by the Department of Education and an additional four others paid through other funding. These tech assistants are paraprofessionals and many are attending local universities seeking their four-year degrees. The program also employs homework help assistants along with many other core area program professionals and non-paid teen and youth member mentors who assist staff and provide guidance to young members.

Methodology for Selecting and Allocating Funds

The Club employs generally accepted accounting practices and is audited each year by an independent auditing firm. All development costs including the costs of marketing, and personnel such as the president/CEO, vice president of development, director of development and chief financial officer are charged to the administration. The remaining administrative costs are allocated to the clubs based on budgetary percentage on an annual basis. Operating/payroll expenses related to administration are allocated to the. Costs associated with the clubs will be allocated based on operating expense or payroll expense percentage.

Internal and External Partners

In addition to parents and our collaboration with district principals and teachers our partners include: Front Porch; CompUSA; Office Depot; Apple; CDW; Boys & Girls Clubs of America; Mary Alice Fortin, Learning Today and the Picower Foundation. Tech Soup Stock supplies the program with software at well below market prices. Digital Foto provides the program with discounted photography equipment. Angels' Helping Hands provides the program with refurbished computers. These partners supply the program with funding; computers at low or no cost; software at educational discount prices; technical support assistance and on-going free technical training for staff.

Mentor Reporting Plan

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County will cooperate with all State and district mandates for program records and outcome measurements. The measurement tools will include attendance records for the school and Club programs, classroom and Club behavior reports, as well as report card grades and pre and post test in various computer programs.

Timeline

Project dates are set for August 21 through May 31. All the aforementioned programs are offered year-round and are ultimately used to improve the academic achievement of students, especially those with poor reading skills. The timeline for the project's completion is as follows:

Target Date	Activity	Responsibility
August 16-18, 2006	Tech staff training	Director of Computer Education
August 21-25, 2006	Computer lab orientation for members, begin Music Tech and Photo Tech programs. Music and photo programs are ongoing throughout the year.	Computer Instructors
August 28, 2006	Begin C to A Program – program is ongoing throughout the school year Pretest for Typing given	Director of Computer Education
September 4, 2006	Begin National Photo Program and Skill Tech program – basic computer program class. Programs are ongoing and run throughout the school year.	Computer Instructors
September 8, 2006	Staff training and meeting	Director Computer Education
October 2006	C to A, Photo programs, music program, Skill Tech and typing programs continue.	Computer Instructors
November 2006	Baseline grades established as report cards for elementary and middle schools are distributed by November 21.	Computer Instructors
November 2006	C to A, Photo programs, Skill tech, music program and typing programs continue.	Director of Computer Education
December 8, 2006	Staff Meeting and training	Director of Computer Education
December 2006	C to A, Photo programs, music program, Skill Tech and typing programs continue.	Computer Instructors
January 12, 2007	Staff meeting and training	Director of Computer Education
January 2007	Begin Design Tech Program, which teaches youth how to create professional quality printed materials and animation. All other computer programs continue	Computer Instructors
January 2007	Submit midterm report to DOE	Director Computer Education
February 9, 2007	Staff meeting and training	Director of Computer Education
February 2007	All technology programs continue.	Director of Computer Education
March 9, 2007	Staff meeting and training.	Director of Computer Education
March 2007	All technology programs continue.	Computer Instructors
April 2007	All technology programs continue	Computer Instructors
April 13, 2007	Staff training and meeting.	Computer Instructors
May 7, 2007	Begin posttests on programs.	Director of Computer Education

May 2007	All programs continue. Through end of May. Collection of data including increases in test score, grades and attendance collected.	Director of Computer Education
July 2007	Final report given to DOE	Director of Computer Education

Support for Reading/Strategic Imperatives

Through this program and others the Just Read, Florida! Initiative and Strategic Imperative #3 to improve student rates of learning will be addressed. The ultimate goal is for every student to attain proficiency on grade level in reading, writing and mathematics.

Statement of Work/Dissemination and Marketing Plan:

The marketing plan includes distribution of flyers, speaking with community leaders and various organizations about our mission and services. From this dissemination of information we expect our program to increase in participants. In addition, with parental involvement and our collaborations with schools, we expect to improve participants' academic achievements.

Through the Computer Literacy Mentoring program, parents are encouraged to support their children in school and at the Club where they acquire information to create a positive home environment that supports education. Furthermore, the Clubs collaborations with schools enables our organization to work side by side with the district to develop individualized plans for members to acquire competency in challenging subjects, especially math and reading.

Evaluation Plan

Increases in reading, mathematics and computer literacy will be evaluated through the comparison of first and final report card grades. It is expected that 35% of the youths attending the program will increase their grades in reading and math and 75% of the youths will increase their typing speed. The report card grades will be shared with the district.