

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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[Newline Submission Guidelines](#)

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

To stay informed of news and timely updates, subscribe to the EdTech listserv and continue to read *Newsline*. Deborah S. Sutton

DESE Budgets / Grant Programs

FY09 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs

Grant recipients are reminded that end-of-year Program Evaluation Narratives (PENs) are due June 30. Copies of the PEN forms are posted to the program websites.

FY10 Education Technology and Safe Schools Programs

<reminders>

The following briefly outlines proposed funding for school-year 2009-10. Since most of the grant programs will be supported with federal stimulus funding, which requires additional layers of approval, Instructional Technology is NOT be able to post the competitive grant awards at this time. Subscribe to the EdTech listserv and keep checking the program websites for up-to-date information.

State eMINTS-METS School Grants

Missouri House Bill 2, Section 2.155, proposes a \$1,000,000 appropriation (using Federal Budget Stabilization Funding) to DESE for the “enhancing Missouri’s Instructional Networked Teaching Strategies (eMINTS) Program.” Instructional Technology hopes to use these funds to award the eMINTS-METS grants as originally planned. However, funding decisions are on hold while the Governor’s Office, Instructional Technology, and eMINTS staffs finalize their FY10 budgets. Note that HB2 significantly cut the Department’s professional development grant funds which have been used in the past to support work of the eMINTS National Center – funding that has helped subsidize/offset program evaluation and participants’ professional development fees.

Federal Title II.D and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding

According to information distributed at a U.S. Department of Education (ED) Title II.D meeting in May, Missouri expects to receive \$3,975,373 in Title II.D funding and \$9,765,833 in ARRA-Title II.D funding. Both state grants are subject to a five percent withhold for state administration and an amount (yet to be determined) for the nonpublic school bypass contract. Remaining [flow-through] funds are distributed equally via Formula and Competitive grants as follows:

- Formula Grants: Districts can check their formula grant allocations (for Title II.D and ARRA-funded Title II.D) on the DESE Federal Financial Management website, and work with Federal Grants Management staff on how to apply for

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these funds via the ePeGS [consolidated] Federal Grants Application. See: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/financialmanagement/> and <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/grantmgmt/>.

- Competitive Grants: Instructional Technology administers the competitive grant programs. While the RFPs were disseminated in February and applications have already been submitted and evaluated, Instructional Technology is still waiting for approval to post tentative award listings. At this time, staff expect to be able to fund 24 grants in total, as detailed below:
 - 10 Title II.D grants: 8 eMINTS Continuation and 2 new eMINTS Model grants, and
 - 14 ARRA-Title II.D Grants: 8 new eMINTS Model grants and 6 new Other Model grants.

ARRA Basics

The Title II.D program is intended to help districts integrate technology in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development in ways that improve student academic achievement and help students become technologically literate by the end of the eighth grade. While these goals also apply to ARRA-funded Title II.D grants, ED has provided additional information regarding intended and appropriate uses of the stimulus funding. Following is an excerpt from the April 2009 document “*American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Using ARRA Funds to Drive School Reform and Improvement.*”

Education funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provide a unique opportunity to jump start school reform and improvement efforts while also saving and creating jobs and stimulating the economy. These one-time resources should be spent in ways most likely to lead to improved results for students, long-term gains in school and school system capacity, and increased productivity and effectiveness.

The first step is a careful examination of student achievement data to determine where to focus improvement efforts. To inform thoughtful planning, below are examples of potential uses of funds for early learning through high school. These examples are not intended to be a menu of options or a list of “silver bullets,” but rather a starting point for consideration in light of local goals, data, and context. Ultimately, if educators and community leaders focus on a small number of related and reinforcing strategies and apply these substantial one-time resources consistent with their overall plan for increasing student achievement, they are more likely to improve results than with a diffuse or scattershot approach.

All the examples below may be supported using funds made available through the SFSF program. To the extent consistent with program requirements, districts, and schools may also use Title I and *IDEA* Part B funds to support these or similar strategies and are encouraged to do so. The Department will supplement these examples over time with ideas about best practices from schools throughout the nation.

These initial examples are organized into five categories that reflect the priorities of *ARRA*:

- Adopting rigorous college- and career-ready standards and high-quality assessments;
- Establishing data systems and using data for improvement;
- Increasing teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of effective teachers;
- Turning around the lowest-performing schools; and
- Improving results for all students, including early learning, extended learning time, use of technology, preparation for college, and school modernization.

FY09 State Safe Schools Program

Missouri House Bill 22, Section 22.011, proposes a \$2,250,000 appropriation (using Federal Budget Stabilization Funding) to DESE for continued support of the Safe Schools grant program. Note that this amount is intended to only support continuation grants (existing projects). Once given the OK, Instructional Technology will contact applicants of their funding status.

MOREnet K-12 Technology Network Program (TNP)

Missouri House Bill 3, Section 3.220, proposes \$11,479,151 in General Revenue Funding and \$3,287,000 in Federal Budget Stabilization Funding for MOREnet operations. The intent is for the state funding to continue support of the state network, and for the federal stimulus funding to support one-time improvements to the network. While down from last year's \$12.3 million, MOREnet and DESE have agreed not to increase TNP membership fees for FY10. However, districts that have received bandwidth increases in the past year may be assessed higher fees (for the extra bandwidth).

District Technology Planning – Update on first approval cycle using ePeGS

Over 280 district technology plans were reviewed for state approval on May 7. Approximately 50 Missouri educators convened at 5 locations to review plans that had been submitted via the Department's new electronic Planning and electronic Grants System (ePeGS). Using the new systems resulted in 1) the ePeGS-generated plans having standardized formatting that focuses primarily on plans' objectives, strategies, and action steps, and 2) being much shorter in length than those previously submitted for approval. Readers stated that once they became accustomed to the format and how and where to find the information aligned to the scoring criteria, they thought the review process went very smoothly.

In terms of how the plans fared during the approval process, about 60 percent were approved during the May 7 reviews. The major reasons plans did not meet approval – and the issues planners are now working to address – include:

- Not adequately addressing all five technology focus areas (TFAs)
- Not having or having nonspecific or insufficient progress measures
- Not addressing the major goals of the NCLB Title II.D program, including 8th-grade student technology literacy,
- Not completing or insufficient evaluation explanation provided in the plan's additional elements.

Districts with approved plans received an approval letter in the postal mail. Districts with plans not yet approved received an email that detailed the additional information needed and included the district's score form with comments from the reader. Districts are asked to revise the information in the ePeGS system, and then resubmit a hard copy of their revised plan. The revised plan will then be reviewed, and if acceptable, the district will receive an approval letter through the mail. Revisions are due in the Instructional Technology office by 4:00 p.m. June 12, in order to make the federal deadline of June 30.

Census of Technology – Update on data entry cycle

The Census of Technology (COT), collected via the Department's April Core Data Collection cycle, provides valuable information that the Department uses in reporting progress on meeting goals and objectives of the state and federal ed-tech grant programs and state and national ed-tech plans. According to our records, 293 districts and 515 schools have edit checks and/or have not completed their data submissions – and should have received an email alert on May 28, 2009. Visit the Census website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>, to access an updated FAQ and the Core Data Manual instructions pertaining to the COT, for more information on how to answer the questions, enter the data, and submit the forms.

Some of the common edits are:

1. Placing checkmarks in the boxes, which need to be checked for corresponding numbers or checking the box for "None." See example:

Employees FTE Non-Employees Hours
 None None

2. Screen 31, Planning/Training section, Question 2 – The number of teachers for the building who did or did not participate in training needs to be entered in one and/or all of the boxes.
3. Screen 31, Hardware and Support section, Question 3 – The wired connection row and the wireless connection row need to be equal to the total number of internet connected computers.
4. Area Career Centers (ACC) are regionally-based facilities providing career and technical education. There are 58

regional facilities in Missouri. These facilities were previously known as Area Vocational Technical Schools (AVTS).

5. Instructional Rooms – A room designated as a classroom from PK-2 through high school. Rooms include special education and other special resource rooms, music, art, physical education, etc.
6. Each building needs to fill in Screen 31. If there are just two buildings, the high school and elementary building data need to be separated.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

President's budget would reduce ed-tech support in 2010-11

According to the budget proposal by the Obama administration, the Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) program would receive a nationwide appropriation of \$100 million, down from the current appropriation of \$269 million. Designed to support state, district, and school efforts to integrate technology effectively into teaching and learning to improve academic achievement, EETT has experienced a series of declining appropriations since the \$696 million approved in 2004. The Administration explains the proposed funding cut as a result of the one-time additional funding of \$650 million that will be distributed in 2009-10 via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Other programs subject to funding reductions include, among others, Title I Grants to local educational agencies, Even Start, Mentoring, Ready to Teach, Jarvis Gifted and Talented Education, and National Institute for Literacy. Some of the programs that would receive new or increased support include: School Improvement Grants, Title I Early Childhood Grants, Teacher Incentive Fund, Teach for America, Striving Readers (includes new Early Literacy Grants), Early Learning Childhood Fund, Early Reading First, Charter Schools Grants, High School Graduation Initiative, and School Leadership. Further information about the 2010 budget proposal can be found on the ED site at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget10/index.html>.

U.S. Senate bills to support 21st century skills, Internet safety education

A bill introduced in the U.S. Senate May 13 would support efforts to integrate key 21st-century skills into state curriculum standards. The 21st Skills Incentive Fund Act would “offer competitive grants from ED for states willing to invest in education reform.” Introduced by Senator John D. Rockefeller (WV) and co-sponsored by Senators Olympia Snow (ME) and John Kerry (MA), Senate Bill 1029 suggests several areas where states could expand their curricula to encompass 21st-century skills, such as global awareness; financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy; civic literacy; and health and wellness awareness. If passed, the bill would appropriate \$100 million a year to ED to award grants to states that have developed a comprehensive plan for implementing a statewide 21st-century skills initiative and able to supply matching funds for their initiatives. See: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.1029>:

Senate Bill 1047, The School and Family Education about the Internet (SAFE Internet) ACT, sponsored by Senator Robert Menendez (NJ), would “create a grant program to support existing and new Internet safety programs that meet guidelines based on the cyber safety strategies found to be most effective.” The bill would fund research to determine best practices in Internet safety education and then create guidelines for grants. Using those guidelines, grants would be awarded to eligible recipients, including state educational agencies, nonprofit organizations, and school-nonprofit partnerships to develop Internet safety programs, train teachers and administrators, and educate parents and maintain media campaigns to promote cyber safety awareness. See: <http://menendez.senate.gov/newsroom/record.cfm?id=312958>.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES

Online K-12 National History Education Clearinghouse

<http://teachinghistory.org>

The ED-funded National History Education Clearinghouse (NHEC) serves as central place online for U.S. History Education. Launched in spring 2008, NHEC brings together exemplary K-12 American History resources developed by organizations nationwide, making it easier for educators to find and make use of these resources. NHEC has also partnered with the Center for history and New Media, History Education Group at Stanford University, American

Research, Publications, Resources, cont'd.

Historical Association and the National History Center, to create materials that detail innovative ways of teaching and learning history. The "Tools for Teachers" section, for example, highlights best K-12 practices for using digital tools.

"*Leadership for Web 2.0 in Education: Promise and Reality.*" In May, CoSN released a study that explored the use of Web 2.0 tools in schools and the attitudes of district administrators toward the technology. The study uncovered some interesting data related to districts' use of Web 2.0 participatory applications. While the majority (77%) of administrators surveyed agrees these tools have value for teaching and learning, such as helping to keep students interested and engaged in school, a majority (56%) reported that these tools were not integrated into district curriculum. Most districts prohibit use of chat rooms, message boards, interactive games, and social networking sites, often leaving "individual pioneering classrooms" as the only places where Web 2.0 applications will be found. For the full report, see: <http://www.cosn.org>.

Recently posted CoSN resources

[http://www.cosn.org/](http://www.cosn.org)

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) recently posted a number of publications, addressing such topics as Web 2.0 in education, making the case for broadband, future of textbooks, green computing, and technology and service needs of small districts. CoSN provides free access to executive summaries or monographs. Members have free electronic access to complete monographs (see MyCoSN), and non-members can order copies (see Resources) at reasonable prices.

E-RATE PROGRAM

Funding Year 2009. USAC will release FY2009 **Wave 6** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) **June 2**. This wave included commitments for approved Priority One (telecom services and Internet access) requests. To date, FY2009 commitments total over \$350 million.

Funding Year 2008. USAC will release FY2008 **Wave 54** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) **June 3**. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 88% and denials at/below 86%. To date, FY2008 commitments total \$2.3 billion.

Funding Year 2007. USAC released FY2007 **Wave 80** FCDLs **May 14**. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 81% and denials at/below 80%. To date, FY2007 commitments total \$2.5 billion.

USAC will continue to issue FCDLs for funding years 2009, 2008, and 2007 until funds are exhausted. On the day the FCDLs are mailed, you can check to see if you have a commitment by using USAC's [Automated Search of Commitments](#) tool.

COOPERATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS UPDATE**CSD Virtual Learning Center honored**

CSD's Virtual Learning Center Director, Ruth Litman-Block, traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the Computerworld Honors Program's 21st Annual Laureate Medal Ceremony and Gala Awards. Both took place June 1, 2009, at the historic Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium. The Virtual Learning Center's Case Study for "New Links to New Learning" (their videoconference program) was honored as a "Laureate" for 2009 by Computerworld Honors Program, (which is governed by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation). Polycom nominated New Links to New Learning to Computerworld for consideration.

According to its website, "established in 1988, The Computerworld Honors Program brings together the principals of the world's foremost information technology companies to recognize and document the achievements of the men, women, organizations and institutions around the world, whose visionary applications of information technology promote positive social, economic and educational change." The Computerworld Honors Program believes in honoring those who use information technology to benefit society. Their website states "once documentation has

Cooperating School Districts Update, cont'd.

been reviewed and accepted, the nominees become Program Laureates, and their Case Studies become part of the Program's Global Archives. The information becomes available to researchers, students and scholars through <http://www.cwhonors.org/>, and through digital records housed in national archives in over 100 universities, museums and research institutions throughout the world."

Congratulations, Ruth and the VLC!

CSD offers ACT Prep Course via video

For those of you who have been inquiring about Cooperating School Districts' ACT Prep course through The Princeton Review, here's your post! The registration deadline for this interactive h323 videoconference course is Monday, August 31. Late registration runs through September 7. Registration fee for registrations received by the end of business on August 31 is \$140. Late registration fees, for those received between September 1 through 7, are \$190 for the October ACT prep class.

The course consists of 20 hours of class time over videoconference with an instructor trained by The Princeton Review, three Saturday morning practice tests on site at the participating schools, and access to The Princeton Review website. Students take the class at schools/sites that have signed up to be participants. PLEASE NOTE, this is not an online course taken from home. All instructors have scored in the top percentiles of the test and demonstrated excellent test-taking abilities. Instructors explain concepts tested on the exams and teach proven test-taking techniques. All lessons are focused on beating the ACT- The Princeton Review spends millions of dollars studying the ACT, developing ACT materials and training teachers to teach the test.

The course runs after school from 3:30 – 5:30 PM Central on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Sept. 22, Thursday, Sept. 24
- Tuesday, Sept. 29, Thursday, Oct. 1
- Tuesday, Oct. 6, Thursday, Oct. 8
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, Thursday, Oct. 15
- Tuesday, Oct. 20, Thursday, Oct. 22

The practice tests run Saturday morning from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Central on Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17
Questions about this class? Contact Rebecca Morrison at rmorrison@csd.org.

Call for Presenters

The Midwest Education Technology Conference (METC) is taking proposal submissions for the 2010 conference until August 20, 2009. For more information, visit: <http://metcconference.org>.

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

2009 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference: "Reaching the Digital Age Learner"

- **Dates:** October 18-20, 2009
- **Location:** Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
- **Conference Information:** <http://www.more.net/conferences/mitc/index.html>

Today's educators face many challenges when it comes to instructional technology. MOREnet strives to listen to our members' challenges and deliver a conference that will answer their questions and stimulate innovation. That is why for the 2009 conference theme we have chosen "Reaching the Digital Age Learner." From planning and budgeting to implementation and support, MITC attendees are looking for answers and ideas to help them adopt and improve the use of technology in their classrooms in the hopes of reaching and bringing out the potential of every student.

The conference will address the latest in 21st Century education technology topics such as:

- Internet safety
- Digital Storytelling – hands-on sessions will be available (limited seating)
- Online Tools

MOREnet Update, cont'd.

- 21st Century Classroom/Learner
- Distance Learning
- Professional Development
- Learning objects
- Online resources/curriculum
- Online Learning
- Digital Fluency
- Assessment
- and the latest in educational technology

Join your colleagues for an exciting three days as we explore the tools and concepts that are changing the way we teach and learn.

Call for Conference Presentations

Pre-conference and conference breakout sessions are being accepted. Presentation proposals should fit a session type with appropriate tags as indicated in the submission instructions. You must submit proposals online by May 15, 2009. If you have additional questions, please contact MOREnet at conferences@more.net or (573) 882-0289. Presenters will be notified by late May if their proposals have been accepted.

MOREnet Online Resource Change

As of July 1, 2009, EBSCO Contract Switching to Gale. The Missouri State Library and MOREnet are excited to announce that Gale, Cengage Learning™, has been awarded the contract for the general periodical, health, business and K-12 online resource databases. Similar resources, currently provided to MOREnet members by EBSCO, are available through June 30, 2009.

A statewide panel of librarians met and evaluated the content and functionality of the vendor respondents to the online resources Request for Proposal (RFP). Gale Cengage Learning received the highest overall ranking, based on the requirements of the RFP. The cost savings gained through this procurement process will allow the Missouri State Library and MOREnet to continue to provide the fullest range of resources that funding allows.

MOREnet is working closely with Gale to ensure the transition to the new resources is as smooth as possible. User training, a list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) and promotional materials are being developed that will assist you with a successful transition. In addition, Gale has made a transition site available to all MOREnet members so you may become familiar with the content and their new interface. The URL for this transition site is <http://galesupport.com/morenet> and is available through June 30, 2009.

Please refer to the [FAQ](#) for additional information or contact MOREnet Technical Support at (800) 509-6673 with questions. MOREnet will continue to add information to the FAQ and to the KnowledgeBase at <http://help.more.net>.

NOTE: This change does not affect the other online resources currently available to all MOREnet members, including the Gale Discovering Collection, NewsBank and LearningExpress Library. A list of the online resources currently available to you as part of your MOREnet membership is at <http://www.more.net/online>.

Access to the Gale and NewsBank online resources are provided to MOREnet members through funding by the Missouri General Assembly. This appropriation is made to the Office of the Secretary of State and is administered by the Missouri State Library.

Additional Information on some of the Gale Online Resources

- **General OneFile** Find magazines, newspapers, multimedia through over 7,000 full-text periodical titles and numerous reference sets like Encyclopedia of World Biography and Gale Encyclopedia of Science.
- **InfoTrac Collections** Focused collections on numerous subjects to make it easier for patrons and students to find appropriate content. Collections include "Culinary Arts," "Diversity Studies," "Educator's Reference," "Environmental Studies and Policy," "Fine Arts and Music," "Gardening, Landscape and Horticulture," "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Issues," "General Science," "Home Improvement," "War & Terrorism" and many more!

MOREnet Update, cont'd.

- **Student Edition (InfoTrac) & Junior Edition (InfoTrac)** Full text journal and reference content geared for the middle school and secondary school students.
- **Kids InfoBits** Aimed for elementary students it contains full-text age-appropriate magazine and reference content.
- **Custom Newspapers (InfoTrac)** More than 1,000 titles including New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, The Times (London) and St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Also contains selective full-text coverage of the Columbia Daily Tribune, Joplin Globe, Kansas City Star, Sedalia Democrat and St. Joseph News-Press.
- **Academic OneFile** More than 5,000 full text titles and 7,300 peer-reviewed journals. Focus on content in major indices like BIOSIS, CINAHL, ERIC, MEDLINE and PsycINFO.

MODLA Update**2009 Missouri Distance Learning Association Conference**

Missouri Distance Learning Association (MoDLA) Presents: "Gearing Up for the Next Decade"

Dates: July 9-10, 2009

Location: Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO (<http://www.tan-tar-a.com>)

Registration Fee: \$175

Online registration is open at: <http://muconf.missouri.edu/MODLA>

Topics Include (but not limited to):

- Missouri Distance Learning Content Providers,
- Videoconferencing (ITV),
- Instructional Design in Distance Learning,
- Budgeting,
- Getting Started with Online Learning,
- Collaborative Learning,
- Continuing Education,
- Web 2.0, Social Networking,
- Distance Learning Best practices, and
- Distance Learning Technologies.

Who Should Attend?

Teachers, Administrators, Technology & Distance Learning Coordinators, Video Technicians, CIO's, Instructional Designers and Professional Development Coordinators.

Distance Learning Exhibits and Vendors: See the latest in distance learning technology in the exhibitors' area.

Additional Information: For the latest updates on the conference schedule and information about joining the Missouri Distance Learning Association visit <http://www.modla.org/>.

Don't miss the many opportunities to hear Missouri distance learning experts share their knowledge and expertise at Missouri's premier distance learning event! Register now for the 2009 Missouri Distance Learning Association conference.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2009
July 9 – 10

2009 MoDLA Annual Conference: "Gearing Up for the Next Decade"
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center Osage Beach, MO
<http://www.modla.org/>

Upcoming Conferences, cont'd.

August 1 – 4 **National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) 2009 National Conference, Bridging Literacies: Critical Connections in a Digital World.** The Westin Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, MI
<http://www.NAMLE.net/conference>

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date 2009	Grant Program
variety	Dollar General has a variety of grants to assist schools. http://www.dollargeneral.com/servingothers/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx
July 8, 2009	NAESP/MetLife Foundation: Sharing the Dream Grants http://www.naesp.org/resources/1/Pdfs/09SharingtheDreamApp.pdf
February, May, August, November	Build-A-Bear Workshop Giving Programs http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants
Ongoing	Coca-Cola Foundation Education Grants http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	ING Foundation Educational Grants http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/CorporateCitizenship/index.htm
Ongoing	Kinder Morgan Foundation Education Grants http://www.kindermorgan.com/community/km_foundation.cfm
Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	Motorola Community Grants http://www.symbol.com/category.php?category=736
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving
June 1, October 15, February 1	NEA Foundation Green Grants This year the program emphasizes "green" projects that involve students learning about and engaging in environmental preservation and protection. www.neafoundation.org/grants .
Ongoing	NEA Foundation Student Achievement Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/StudentAchievement_Guidelines.htm
Ongoing	NEA Learning & Leadership Grants http://www.neafoundation.org/grants/NEA-Grants_bro-web.pdf
Ongoing	Pay It Forward Mini-Grants for Service-Oriented Projects for Youths http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org/get_involved.html
Ongoing	RGK Foundation Education Grants http://www.rgkfoundation.org/public/grants

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

- Ongoing **Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants**
http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
- June 1 **Save Our History Grant** from The History Channel Inspire the youth in your community to become the preservationists of tomorrow. Museums, historic sites, historical societies, preservation organizations, libraries, and archives are invited to partner with a local school or youth group and apply for funding to help preserve the history of their communities. <http://www.history.com/content/saveourhistory/grant-program>
- Ongoing **State Farm Companies Foundation Education Grants**
<http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm>
- Ongoing **Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants**
<http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp>

For information about grants, funding, foundations and grant writing, check out the following sites:

An independent nonprofit information clearinghouse on grants available throughout the United States, **The Foundation Center** offers publications, including directories of foundation and corporate grantmakers, research advice, custom research, and database searching. The website includes online training in grantseeking, proposal writing, and funding research, as well as, an online librarian.
<http://www.fdncenter.org>

AT&T Aspire <http://www.att.com/gen/corporate-citizenship?pid=7736>

Converge online: Grant Secrets – <http://www.convergemag.com/>

Edutopia has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit
<http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/grant.php>.

Electronic Learning, from Instructor Magazine, focuses on the use of technology in the classroom. The EL website will soon be expanded to include grant information.
<http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/products/instructor.htm>

For an extensive list of grants, check the **Grants Directory from Technology and Learning**
<http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.

Fundraising for Educators Web Resources (A site intended as a starting point for elementary and secondary school administrators and teachers who are interested in learning more about foundations, fundraising, proposal writing, etc.) <http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/4edfrais.htm>

Fundsnet Online Services: http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcats_id=6
 * Computers & technology – http://www.fundsnetervices.com/searchresult.php?sbcats_id=4

Grant writing and funding resources are available at
<http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.

Grantsandfunding.com offers a complete listing of all Thompson Publishing Group publications that focus on grant and funding issues. Thompson Publishing Group publication subscribers have access to a special section that provides resources such as grant deadlines, highlights of funding issues, and links to related websites. <http://www.grantsandfunding.com>

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

Grantwrangler.com: online listing service of grants and awards for teachers and students. New mygrantwrangler.com is a social-networking site for both grant seekers and grant givers to share insights and experiences – <http://www.grantwrangler.com/index.html>.

Helpforschools.com (sponsored by the U.S. Dept. of Education and Mid-continent Comprehensive Center) – “grants knowledgebase”–
<http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/login.shtml?redirect=http://www.helpforschools.com/grants/>

In each issue of **The Education World Grants Newsletter** <http://www.educationworld.com/maillist.shtml>, Don Peek from The School Funding Center <http://www.schoolfundingcenter.com> recommends a Web resource, book, software program, or another useful tool of interest to the grants community. This resource is a Web page from Teacher Tap which is a part of Eduscapes. <http://www.eduscapes.com/tap/topic94.htm>

International Technology Education Association (ITEA) <http://www.iteaconnect.org>

ISTE: Educator Resources: Funding – <http://www.iste.org/>

Mazda <http://www.mazdafoundation.org/index.html>

MultiMedia Schools, a print magazine published five times a year, addresses multiple technologies used in K-12 schools today. Selected full-text content is now available online. Includes a NewsWatch section, which posts technology-related funding news and links. <http://www.infoday.com/MMSchools>

National Science Foundation (NSF) <http://www.nsf.gov>

NEC Foundation of America <http://www.necfoundation.org>

Non-profit guides: “grant writing tools for non-profit organizations” <http://www.npguides.org/links.htm>

Northwest Education Technology Consortium (NETC): “Grants and funding”
<http://www.netc.org/grants/index.html>

Public Education Network posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.

SchoolGrants is a collection of resources and tips to help K-12 educators apply for and obtain special grants for a variety of projects. The site offers various fundraising ideas, sample proposals, grant writing tips, and scholarship information. <http://www.schoolgrants.org>

Sign up for the free **GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap** for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.

Sun Microsystems Foundation Open Gateway Grants Program
http://www.sun.com/aboutsun/comm_invest/ogp/index.html
Technogrants.com – <http://www.technogrants.com/>

Top Grants You Might Not Know About. <http://www.hotchalk.com/mydesk/index.php/back-to-school-tips/363-top-ten-grants>

The Grant Guru <http://www.techlearning.com/article/15512> Gary Carnow is starting a new grant writing series. First up, Building Our Grantseeker’s Toolkit.

The **Grants.gov** site allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies, and encompasses over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. It streamlines the process of awarding over \$350

Grant Funding Opportunities, cont'd.

billion annually to state and local governments, academia, not-for-profits, and other organizations.

<http://grants.gov>

THE Journal: Funding: <http://www.thejournal.com/the/topics/funding/>

The School Funding Center is a subscription based database for federal, state, and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter's Successful School Grants, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country.

[http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)

The **online version of eSchool News** monthly magazine contains a grants section with regularly updated grant, scholarship, professional development, and other funding opportunities for both educators and students. <http://www.eschoolnews.com/funding>

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Toyota USA Foundation

http://www.toyota.com/about/our_commitment/philanthropy/education/toyota_usa/

U.S. Department of Education Funding Opportunities <http://www.ed.gov/fund/landing.jhtml>

The George Lucas Educational Foundation <http://www.edutopia.org/> is a nonprofit operating foundation and is not a grant-making organization. However, in order to realize the potential of 21st-century education, they are fully aware that our community needs to secure grants and be aware of other exciting opportunities in education, such as the following:

- **The EduComm Institute's EduComm 2009** Registration for this technology conference for higher education in Florida June 16-18 is \$545 before June 5 <http://educommconference.com/>
- **State Farm's Project Ignition** Submission deadline is June 30; awards \$2,000 to top 25 applications <http://www.sfprojectignition.com/>
- **DreamBox Learning** (through June 30; free classroom subscription for K-2 math lessons) <http://www.dreambox.com/teachers>
- **Carnegie Hall's Honor!** (a timeline of African American history through music) <http://www.carnegiehall.org/honor/history/index.aspx>
- **Progressive Automotive's Fuel Our Future Now** offers free plans for grades K-12 on alternative fuel types, general science, and engineering <http://www.fuelourfuturenow.com/>
- **Lutron Electronics's Greenovation Bright Green Dream School Sustainability Challenge** runs through September 25; awards up to \$15,000 toward a sustainable classroom upgrade <http://www.greenovationnation.com/dream/>
- **Peace One Day Education** offers free classroom tools for Peace Day in September http://education.peaceoneday.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=71&Itemid=73&lang=en

Visit The George Lucas Educational Foundation Grant Information List <http://www.edutopia.org/grant-information> for other opportunities.

VIDEOCONFERENCES / COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

RoundTrips <http://www.roundtrips.org>.

Contact RoundTrips at roundtrips@clayton.k12.mo.us, or (314) 773-6934.

New Links to New Learning from Cooperating School Districts

<http://www2.csd.org/newlinks/index.html>

Contact Rebecca Morrison at rmorrison@csd.org or (314) 692-1274, or read the New Links blog at

<http://www.csdtechpd.wordpress.com>

Videoconferences / Collaborative Projects, cont'd.

The Fairfax Network <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/>, an award-winning producer of distance learning programming creates programming for educators to use in the classroom, and for public television stations and cable systems. The lineup includes quality K-12 enrichment, parenting, and staff development programs. Many of the shows come with additional resource information, teacher guides, and classroom activities created to fit seamlessly into the curriculum. Fairfax Network programs are free to schools, school systems, cable companies, and public television programmers.

Collaborations Around the Planet (CAPspace) is a social networking tool for educational videoconferencing built into the new Read Around the Planet registration system.
<http://projects.twice.cc/index.php>

Global Nomads Group creates education programs and media about global issues for youth using interactive technologies in the classroom, such as live videoconferencing and multi-media videos.
<http://www.gng.org/home.html>

Resources for Online Field Trips

- **The Virtual Smithsonian:** Includes online tours of exhibits in the museums of natural history, American history, and art in Washington. http://2k.si.edu/2k/node_rotunda/indexe.htm
- **Jet Propulsion Lab at NASA:** Allows participants to choose a virtual character and take a trip through an animated museum, mission control, and a robotics lab.
<http://virtualfieldtrip.jpl.nasa.gov/smmk/top/gates>
- **National Geographic Expeditions Online:** Features a database of lesson plans, online activities, and maps tied to the national geography standards. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/>
- **Ball State University Electronic Field Trips:** Offers live and archived video tours of a variety of topics and destinations, including the Florida Everglades, gray whale migrations from Southern California to Mexico, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Includes low-cost Web resources for each lesson. <http://www.bsu.edu/eft/home/31digest.php>
- **Colonial Williamsburg:** Programs for grades 4-8 with live broadcasts on public-television stations and archived video presentations on the Web highlighting people, places, and events throughout history. <http://www.history.org/trips/>

FROM THE MAILBAG

Fuel Our Future The US Department of Energy (<http://www.energy.gov>), along with Discovery Education (<http://www.discoveryeducation.com>) and the X Prize Foundation (<http://www.xprize.org>), has created a new online knowledge center called Fuel Our Future Now (<http://www.fuelourfuturenow.com>). The center is designed to teach K-12 students the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills necessary for creating energy-efficient vehicles.

Lesson plans on the website complement STEM curriculum, and feature content in areas such as advanced vehicle technologies, energy efficiency, climate change, and alternative fuels. The website also offers videos, virtual labs, and other interactive tools for K-12 classrooms.

The project was inspired by insurance company Progressive's Automotive X Prize (<http://www.progressiveautoxprize.org>), a \$10 million contest that calls on teams to design and build new types of super-fuel-efficient cars to stimulate breakthroughs in automotive technology.

It's Your Call, Web Wise Kids has partnered with the philanthropic division of the Entertainment Software Association, the ESA Foundation, <http://www.theesa.com/foundation>, virtual technology provider Will Interactive <http://www.willinteractive.com>, and communications company Verizon <http://www22.verizon.com/> to create ***It's Your Call***, a new web-based game that's part of an online-safety education program aimed at giving middle school students the tools to make appropriate decisions about cell phone use.

From the Mailbag, cont'd.

It's Your Call is based on true stories, and allows teens to practice playing out difficult real-life scenarios in a safe, virtual environment. The game turns students into live-action characters in interactive movies, during which they are asked to make decisions involving cell phone use and view the consequences of their actions.

Throughout the game, students receive guidance on proper cell phone behavior and advice on how to use the devices to enhance personal safety. Among the issues players confront are academic cheating, sexting, and cyberbullying. Web Wise Kids also offers tips to educators on ways to use It's Your Call to enhance school curriculum, as well as providing cell phone safety tips for parents and teens, and teacher resources.

Triangle Coalition <http://www.trianglecoalition.org/resources.htm> is a site dedicated to promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. The resources page notes a number of grant opportunities.

National Association Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) conference The NAMLE conference is your opportunity to network with fellow Media literacy educators and learn how you can help your state offer a 21st century curriculum. A bill introduced in the U.S. Senate on May 13 makes this year's conference more important than ever. Senate bill #1029 provides matching federal funds to states offering students curriculum options that integrate key 21st-century skills-- including INFORMATION LITERACY AND MEDIA LITERACY.

BRIDGING LITERACIES: CRITICAL CONNECTIONS IN A DIGITAL WORLD takes place August 1-4 in Detroit and you won't want to miss the many exciting sessions presented by leaders in media literacy education in the U.S. and in countries around the world. The Early Bird rate is in effect through July 10 and there are still good air fare deals to be had. For complete information on sessions, special events such as Motown Monday Night, and registration, go to <http://www.namele.net>.

NEWEST eTHEMES

Global Collaborations These sites are about virtual global collaborations. There are many projects that aim to build cross-cultural and collaboration skills. Includes online pen pals, projects, and communities where students and teachers can get information, share ideas, and find partners for online classroom collaborations. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Videoconferencing and Skype. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002464.shtml>

Literature Themes: Around the World These sites have lesson plans and literature that can be used to teach about other cultures. There are children's books, fairy tales, and folktales that are set in and about various places in the world. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002471.shtml>

Technology: Photo Story These sites have information about Photo Story 3 and digital storytelling. Learn how to create digital stories by Photo Story 3. Includes tutorials, sample videos, and ideas for classroom projects. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on storytelling. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002463.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Animals: Monarch Butterflies These sites focus on monarch butterflies and their life cycle. Learn about their habitat, needs, and characteristics, and more. Includes a video clip, printouts, and photographs. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Butterflies and Monarch Migration, Missouri Butterflies, and Life Cycles for K-2 Grades. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002282.shtml>

Author Study: Homer Hickam These websites are about author Homer Hickam and his books. Includes biographical information, interviews, lesson plans, activity ideas, and study guides. Many of the websites and lesson plans are related to the "Rocket Boy" and "October Sky." There is a link to eThemes resources on Science: Rockets. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002219.shtml>

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

Author Study: Steve Jenkins These websites are about the author Steve Jenkins. Included are biographies, interviews with the author, and bibliographies. View a video clip of Jenkins show teaching books.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002317.shtml>

Author Study: Walter Dean Myers These websites are about author Walter Dean Myers. Included are biographies, interviews with the author, and bibliographies. There are discussion guides for some of his books. There is a link to eThemes Resources on "Street Love" by Walter Dean Myers.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002081.shtml>

Digital Yearbooks These websites are about digital yearbooks. Learn about different software available and how to create a digital yearbook. Included are several types of photography tips and communication skills.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002324.shtml>

Literature: "The Crayon Box That Talked" by Shane DeRolf These sites are about the book "The Crayon Box That Talked." There is information about the author, lesson plans, classroom activities, and discussion questions.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002108.shtml>

Literature: Recommended Non-American Reading for Teenage Students This resource is a compilation of recommended non-American reading booklist websites for young adults from around the world, not including books from North America. The lists were compiled by teachers, librarians, and writing associations. Some of the lists are divided by grade level, readability, or genre. There are also links to eThemes resources on Recommended Non-American Short Stories for Teenage Students and Recommended Reading for Teenage Students.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002003.shtml>

Math: Telling Time These sites help students read digital and analog clocks. There are several online games and printable pages for students to practice telling time. Includes links to eThemes Resources on elapsed time and time zones.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000224.shtml>

Missouri Regions: St. Louis Learn more about Missouri's St. Louis Region. These sites include information on museums, state parks, historic sites, and other places of interest in the St. Louis area. Watch a video of the first Missouri State Capitol. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on the city of St. Louis and European and African settlers.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000714.shtml>

Missouri: City of St. Louis Discover what the city of St. Louis has to offer. Explore various sites of interest, including the St. Louis Art Museum, the Zoo, the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, the Arch, and the Muny and Fox theaters. Also learn about the history of the area and the immigrants who first moved there. Watch a Missouri Heritage video on the city's growth. There are links to eThemes Resources on the St. Louis region and the St. Louis World's Fair.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000720.shtml>

Missouri: Ice Age Animals These websites contain information about the large mammals found in Missouri during the last Ice Age, with particular attention to mastodons. Learn how these animals lived, what they ate, and why they likely died out. Includes information about the important historic sites of Kimmswick Bone Bed in Mastodon State Historic Site, and Riverbluff Cave in Greene County. There is also a link to an eThemes resource on mammoths.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002241.shtml>

Ohio: Natural Resources These sites provide information related to Ohio natural resources. Students can learn about Ohio animals, plants, water resources, forestry, coal mining, and much more. There are also games, lesson plans, and class activities.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002060.shtml>

Plants: What do Plants Need to Live? These sites focus on things plants need to live. There are video clips, animations, experiments, and lesson plans to understand what plants need to live and grow. There are links to eThemes Resources on Plants:

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002169.shtml>

Quilts: Underground Railroad These sites are about the Underground Railroad and the secret codes it used. Here you can find background information, a glossary of code terms, maps, and interactive features. Students can design

Updated eTHEMES, cont'd.

their own quilt blocks and learn about African American quilting traditions. Included is an eThemes resource on the Underground Railroad. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002187.shtml>

Reading Skills: Inference for Elementary School Students These websites can help elementary students learn how to infer while reading. There are activities, graphic organizers, and short lessons on inference. Includes a link on inference for middle school students. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001680.shtml>

Reading Skills: Inference for Middle School Students These websites are about using inference while reading. Find out why inference skills are important and how to infer while reading. Includes lessons, activities, and graphic organizers. There is a link to an eTheme on inference skills for elementary school students. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001681.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Shared Writing These sites provide teaching resources for teachers on implementing a shared writing approach as well as model writing in the classroom. There is information on techniques, lesson plans, and student work samples. There is also a link to eThemes resources on Writing: 6 + 1 Writing Traits. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002274.shtml>

Weather: Clouds and Cycles These sites have general and detailed information on various weather cycles and clouds. Includes lesson plans and hand-on activities. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Water Cycle: Hands-On Experiments, Water Cycle: Explanations and Illustrations, and Thunderstorms and Lightning. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000258.shtml>