



Investing in Academic Excellence

**School Grants Application
Fall 2008**

Project Title: Multi Cultural Reading

School: Lewiston High School/Lewiston Middle School

Name(s) of Applicant(s): Pamela Erickson, Kim Guay, Lori Bowen, Nora Krevans, Patty MacKinnon, Caroline Sample, Roma Major.

The Lewiston Education Fund is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization created to fund projects and programs that expand educational opportunities, foster creativity and enhance academic excellence in Lewiston's public schools.

Fall 2008 Grant Application Due Date: December 17, 2008

Please submit application by 4:00 pm to
Lewiston Education Fund
Dingley Building
36 Oak St.
Lewiston, ME 04250

For Reviewer Use Only

Date Reviewed 6/18/08

Final Outcome: awarded : \$2500



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Grant Application Guidelines/Instructions

Please review these guidelines thoroughly, before completing your application:

The Lewiston Education Fund considers funding projects that help meet three primary objectives.

- 1) Expand educational opportunities
- 2) Foster creativity
- 3) Enhance academic excellence

Each year the Lewiston Education Fund awards up to five (5) \$1,000 and (2) \$2500 grants for innovative projects in K-Adult education. Applications are accepted in the Fall and the Spring of each school year. Funds are distributed at the discretion of the Lewiston Education Fund Board based on the following criteria.

Pre-requisites for submitting a grant request:

- A) The project(s) must impact academic learning. The Lewiston Education fund is in place, in part, to stimulate creative infusion of Maine Learning Results standards into the learning activities of all types. Please review the Maine Learning Results for criteria related to your idea. Also, we have posted three examples of projects that have been funded in the past. Your idea may be much different from these, but please review them for inspiration and guidance as you prepare your own application.
- B) Lewiston Public school teachers must have an active role in the project.
- C) The project goals need to result in lasting changes that are self-sustainable past the grant period.
- D) Funds cannot be used to replace existing expenditures.
- E) If your project requires funding beyond what is available from the Lewiston Education Fund, please include additional funding sources, matching funds, or in-kind support that will be available to make your project a success.
- F) Please answer all proposal questions concisely. Three – five sentences is best. If the grant committee has further questions, we will contact you.
- G) Please complete the attached budget template.
- H) Applications are due December 17, 2008. Awards will be announced in January of 2009. Funds will become immediately available to grantees.
- I) For more information about this grant proposal, please contact Marty Hiat, Executive Director, Lewiston Education Fund. mhiat@lewistonpublicschools.org, 795-4100, ex. 249.
- J) For more information about the Lewiston Education Fund, please visit our website.



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Grant Application Questions

Describe Your Project

- 1) What is the name of your project? Multicultural Reading
- 2) What is your target population? Grade 7-12 ELL students
- 3) As if speaking to a friend or colleague, please describe your project in 250 words or less.

We hope to purchase a variety of folk tales from the naïve countries of our students. These books will be written in English and the first language of the student. Additionally, we will purchase sets of Readers' Theater texts that will provide simple stories students can read to build reading fluency and engagement in reading.

Classroom sets of these books will be integrated into our language arts program and used to build reading fluency, teach the components of narrative process and build engagement in reading and writing. Examples of the texts are attached. Specific purchases will be made based on our current population. Our goal is to have at least one title that relates to the cultural heritage of each student.

- 4) How did you identify this project as a priority and/or need for the community. (if applicable, please identify research and/or literature examples that support your idea).

Currently we have 140 ELL students at Lewiston Middle School and Lewiston High School who read at less than a fourth grade level. Most have less than 4 years of formal schooling. These students are making progress but we need more ways to engage them in reading and writing. All of our instruction is in English. Most of our students are not literate in their first language but seeing and hearing their first language as they see and hear English is a valuable learning tool. ("Bilingual folk stories in the ESL Classroom" Mike Baynham, English Language Teaching, Oxford Press 1986).

This project grew from 2007-2008 work at Lewiston Middle School. AS part of a folk tales unit, students read folk tales written in English and Somali produces by the Minnesota Humanities Council. The interest and engagement of students was dramatic. Additionally, the students were involved in "Readers' Theater." They read simple texts that were written in play format. Their willingness to read, reread and practice exact pronunciation and inflection built their reading skills. We hope to purchase classroom sets of appropriate texts that can be used in our 14 sections of language arts classes, thus supporting our existing curriculum.



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5) Which of the three objectives of the Lewiston Education Fund does your project address?
(please circle one or more)

- a. Expand Educational Opportunities XXX
- b. Foster Creativity XXX
- c. Enhance academic excellence XXX

6) Please describe how the project meets local curriculum and impacts academic learning. (Reference Maine Learning Result outcomes and/or specific curriculum criteria where applicable – even if they are outside of your own discipline).

This project addresses reading and writing, the narrative process and building reading fluency.

7) Please describe how this project addresses or builds upon long-term community improvement or system change.

Use of culturally relevant materials will enhance the engagement and interest of our ELLs and their families. Interesting, age appropriate materials that can be used in the ELL classroom will increase the students' willingness to risk practicing their English out loud.

8) Please list three to five short term project goals related to questions 6 & 7.

- a. to build reading fluency among ELL readers in middle/high School
- b. to specifically address the needs of ELL students to express themselves through stories that relate to their own history.
- c. To teach the components of the narrative process through direct engagement with story
- d. to build engagement with the reading and writing process for all students

9) Please list three to five long term project goals related to questions 6 & 7.

- a. ELL students from non-literate backgrounds will acquire life-long reading ability
- b. Students from all backgrounds will acquire a greater understanding of each other through both the similarities and differences exposed through folk-tales from different cultures.
- c. Students will learn how to write and tell their own stories – creating a life-long ability to reflect on their own experiences and express themselves clearly in english.

10) For each project goal, please list 1-3 measures of accountability (tangible indicators that the project has been successful).



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- 1) Primary success of this project will be measured by the percentage of students who improve their reading and writing skills over the course of the school year. A success rate in the 85% will be acceptable, with a 95% - 98% individual improvement rate preferred.
- 2) Progress will be monitored quarterly as part of an ongoing, multi-faceted language arts program.
- 3) Student and family comments will be used to document engagement.
- 4) Cross-cultural acceptance and understanding will be measured by student comments.
- 11) Please describe how your project will be sustainable, beyond the grant term.

This is a one time expense to augment and enhance a curriculum that is already in place. Replacement copies and additional titles can be budgeted annually from the operating budget.

- 12) If your project research-based, please site one example of your research.

There is no direct research associated with this project

Partnerships/Collaborations

- 1) Please list any collaborative partners within the Lewiston School Department.
(All teachers and/or staff involved)

The listed teachers will carry out the project. They meet bi-monthly to discuss and review curriculum goals and student progress. Pamela Ericson, Grade 7 ELL language Arts teacher, will serve as the contact person. Sue Martin, ELL Director, has been actively involved in the development of this project and will assist with the evaluation data.

- 2) Please list any collaborative partners from the Lewiston Community at large.
(This is strongly encouraged, although not required: i.e. Bates, USM-LA, Chamber of Commerce, others).
This year, Bates College students and faculty were involved in the Readers' Theater at Lewiston Middle School. Lewiston Adult Learning Center uses the Minnesota Humanities Council materials as well.



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Budget

- 1) What is the total budgeted cost of your project? _____ \$2530 _____
 - 2) What in the total number of hours this project will take to complete? _____ NA _____
 - 3) What is the total amount of Funding you are requesting from the Lewiston Education Fund?
_____ \$2530 _____
 - 4) If necessary, what additional sources of funding for this project have you identified?
Please circle all levels of additional funding you have obtained.
 - a. In-Kind
 - b. Your school Budget (through your Principal)
 - c. Lewiston School Department (through Superintendent Levesque)
 - d. Lewiston School Department Grant Funds (through Janice Plourde)
 - e. Outside Grant Opportunities (through your own research).
- 13) Please complete attached budget form.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare this application. Please review the successful projects we have posted online, as well as the example of a completed proposal we have posted for your reference. We appreciate the time and commitment you have made to the needs of Lewiston School students and hope that the process of this application, in and of itself has value to you as an educator. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Marty Hiat, Executive Director, Lewiston Education Fund.

mhiat@lewistonpublicschools.org, 795-4100, ex. 249.

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Total Additional Project Funding _____

Total Project Cost (Sum of section A, B, C) _____ \$2530 _____

Total Request from Lewiston Education Fund _____ \$2350 _____

Total Additional Project Funding (Section D) _____

- If project costs are not fully covered by requested funds and additional funds, please describe how the project will be completed:

Texts will be purchased according to funding available. Please see attached list of sample titles.

- Additional budget comments:

Production of bilingual texts in less common languages is very expensive. Once produced, there is a limited profit margin for the publisher. The Minnesota Humanities Council has produced 4 titles and is adding two per year. Publishers are now adding CD's read in the native language, pushing the price of a single paperback text to \$20. Readers' Theater in content appropriate for teenagers with limited reading skills is difficult to find as well. Thus the cost of these books makes it impossible for us to include them in the local budget.