WYOMING
Student Enrichment Pilot Project

Wyoming Department of Education

**Inspiring learning and
preparing students for tomorrow**

Wyoming Department of Education
STUDENT ENRICHMENT INSTRUCTION PILOT PROJECT

Joint Education Interim Committee Report
October 29, 2008

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Authority

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Fifty-Ninth Legislature of the State of Wyoming
2008 Budget Session
Section 11: Student Enrichment Instruction – Pilot Project

History

One of the major changes to the Wyoming Bridges Grant implemented during the 2008 legislative session was the separation of funding and administration of stand-alone independent enrichment programs (the creation of the Student Enrichment Pilot), funded in 2008 with $450,000 General Fund dollars.

The original intent of the Wyoming Bridges Grant was to help struggling students receive the additional instruction time needed to recover standards or recover credits. The original charge of Bridges was the intervention and remediation of at-risk students needing additional instruction time to master statewide content and performance standards. However, the concept of stand-alone independent enrichment programs has an intrinsic value and can be a vital component of student engagement and growth. It was recommended that enrichment should be funded through resources targeted specifically to enriched learning programs. Moreover, making this grant **competitive** would enable the funding of projects that closely adhere to the objectives specified by policymakers, ensure program integrity and encourage program quality.

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Actions

- Created grant application and project guidelines – April 2008.
    - Application included 5 forms.
        - Form 1 = Cover Page
        - Form 2 = Abstract
        - Form 3 = Enrichment linked to academic standards **and** evaluation
        - Form 4 = Program vision and goals **and** strategies/activities
        - Form 5 = Statement of assurances and agreements
    - **Purpose** – The Student Enrichment Pilot Project has been established to provide student enrichment instruction programs to Wyoming students. The intention of this pilot project is to help students meet or exceed state and local standards in core academic subjects by offering a range of high-quality opportunities for academic enrichment that support student learning and youth development principles as well as reinforce and complement regular academic programs.
    - **Enrichment Definition** – Learning opportunities and activities that engage students in developing essential skills, values and relationships as a vehicle for inspiring learning and encouraging academic and life success.
    - **All enrichment activities must be linked to academic standards** and should be creative, exciting, fun, engaging, relevant, active, different than the regular school-day, and full of learning. Enrichment programming should also hold student attention, awaken their imagination, and inspire them to want to learn more.
    - **Programming must take place during non-school hours** (before school, after school, weekends, school holidays or summer recess periods).
    - **Eligible Applicants** – Wyoming school districts demonstrating a high-quality plan for student enrichment instruction.
    - **Target Population** – Elementary, middle school or high school students. No specific group of students targeted to ensure that all students who may receive benefit from enrichment programming can participate.
    - **No minimum or maximum funding amount established**. Applicants instructed to request funds necessary (and reasonable) for implementing the programs.
    - **50 applications received requesting more than $2.5 million in funds.**
        - Smallest request = $3,120
        - Largest request = $217,530
- Notification to all applicants and distribution of award letters to funded programs – May 1.
    - **Awarded 9 grants totaling $435,000.**
        - Albany County School District #1
        - Campbell County School District #1
        - Converse County School District #2
        - Crook County School District #1
        - Johnson County School District #1
        - Laramie County School District #1
        - Sheridan County School District #1
        - Sheridan County School District #2
        - Uinta County School District #6

- o 2 programs = summer only.
- o 3 programs = school year only.
- o 4 programs = summer and school year.
- WEN Video technical assistance seminar for funded programs – May 27.
- Created site visit and monitoring tool.
  - o 3 of 9 programs visited in July 2008.
- Created and implemented progress reports.
  - o Progress reports due October 1, 2008, February 1, 2009 and June 15, 2009.
- Instituted mini-grants for professional development.
  - o $3,000 for a team (2 participants) to attend the Beyond School Hours National Conference in February 2009.
  - o 3 mini-grants awarded ($9,000).
- Provided materials (texts/manuals) for increasing quality.
  - o *Leading After-School Learning Communities: What Principals Should Know and Be Able To Do.*
  - o *A Guide to Developing Exemplary Practices in After-School Programs.*
  - o *Links to Learning: A Curriculum Planning Guide for After-School Programs.*
  - o *Beyond the Bell: A Toolkit for Creating Effective After-School Program* (includes staff workbooks).

Financial

- Programs reimbursed monthly.
- $278,000 spent to date with $172,000 remaining.

Results

- Applications outlined qualitative and quantitative data. All data will be submitted by **October 1, 2009.**
- Basic survey data collected from 1 program.
  - o Parent surveys - overall quality of program 3.9 (4 point scale).
  - o Teacher surveys - overall quality of programs 3.9 (4 point scale).
- Elementary, middle school and high school participants.
- 1 program provided academic credit for enrichment programming.
- 5 programs are new programs created with the implementation of the Student Enrichment Pilot Project funds.
- 4 programs use Student Enrichment funds to enhance or expand previously established programs.

Current Progress Report Information
- 988 students served from June-September.
- Standards addressed include: Career/Vocational, Fine & Performing Arts, Math, Science, Language Arts, Technology, Health, Physical Education, & Social Studies.

- Narrative quotes from progress reports:
  - *We wanted to express our appreciation for this funding. We were able to provide high-quality instruction this summer that is **making a difference** in the current school year, and undoubtedly will have a very positive impact on their lives.*
  - *The activities are at a level of interest that propels and even catapults the student into the activity.*
  - *Classes were designed to be engaging and fun so **learning was effortless** and a natural outcome of the process.*
  - *The Student Enrichment Pilot Project is deemed **highly successful** by our school district.*
  - *Parents love this program and are eager to see it continue.*
  - *Prior to receiving the Student Enrichment Pilot Project funds, we didn't have the money to offer these courses and parents were both upset and worried. Although some people say that kids have to make choices, it's a tough pill to swallow when it's the choice between the music programs that are so valued and the scholarships that are so necessary. **Please continue this wonderful program**.*
  - *Students, teachers and parents are **excited** about the program.*
  - *Students will have the opportunity to **apply the skills** that they learned in the classroom, but in a more student-directed atmosphere with the students responsible for the learning.*
  - *The enrichment programming was a **huge success and a wonderful experience** for all participants. Teachers rejuvenated their passion for the subjects as they were able to exercise their creativity within a standards based curriculum. Parents frequently expressed their gratitude for a program that inspired an interest in education in their children regardless of their individual learning level.*
  - *It will be difficult to sustain this program without the funding.*
  - *We want to help our students develop the heart, health and love of learning that will carry them through life.*

Recommendations

- Continue to support this program so that data can be collected over time to show impact on student learning and program success.
- Consider the provision of funding to support a position within the WDE to manage and advance this program.