

WILLOWS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

Date: 08/26/10

Request For Placement on Board Agenda:

**AGENDA TOPIC: Enhancing Education Through Technology
Formula Grant under the American Recovery &
Reinvestment Act (EETT - AARA)**

**PRESENTER: Betty Skala, Director Business Services
& Bob Lillie Director of Technology Services**

Background Information:

Recently we were funded and entered into an agreement with California Department of Education, for AARA EETT Formula grant in the amount of \$10,496. This funding comes from the U.S. Department of Education, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title II, Part D and is available for one time only purposes through September 30, 2011.

The overall goal for the EETT program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in schools, to ensure that every student is technologically literate by the end of eighth grade and encourage the effective integration of technology with teacher training and curriculum development.

25% of the funding must be used for professional development in the area of technology. Our plan is to train staff to utilize existing technological systems currently available within our district to better serve communications and academic achievement. This will enable teachers to use internet and other technologies to communicate with parents, teachers, principals and administrators.

The balance of the funding will go to further enhance our delivery system via one time expenditures of hardware that will support our current Technology Plan.

Recommendations:

Approve our acceptance of grant requirements and funding to be used to enhance our technology needs as allowed by this funding source.



WUSD 2010-11 EETT (ARA) Grant Expenditure Plan

Bob Lillie, Director of Technology Services

August, 2010

Funds dispersed thru EETT¹ grants, whether formula, competitive or this ARA version, are to be aligned with the goals and objectives of our District Technology Plan. [A link to our plan can be found on this webpage: <http://www.willowsunified.org/Departments/Technology-Services/index.html>]

An additional requirement of EETT grants is that 25 % of the money must be used towards Professional Development to help further those same goals.

Our plan at this time is to focus on our Technology Plan's Goal #5: Improve Communication Among Home, School, and Community. This goal plays an integral part in the success of the other goals as well. Our district has been in a time of transition. At the start of this school year we have a new Superintendent, a new principal at Willows High School, and we all will be adjusting to a significant decline in enrollment. These issues, coupled with the normal needs of schools to communicate - internally with students, faculty, staff, and externally with parents, other educational agencies and the community at large - emphasize the fact that during this time especially we need to be even more purposeful in our communication with all parties so they are aware of the changes happening in our schools and the role that they have in them.

So our theme this year for Professional Development workshops offered by the Technology Services Department will be, "*Using Technology Tools to Communicate More Effectively and Efficiently*". In retrospect, this theme actually started earlier in the summer when I presented a hands-on workshop regarding our Web site content management software to create a classroom webpage. This will be offered again. Other topics in development include how to use Microsoft Outlook and related technologies to share information with other teachers, how to use our Alert Now software to send calls home.

The remaining funds of the grant will be used to purchase computer hardware to support the same emphasis as the professional development. At this moment, I feel that one of the most pending needs of the district's server hardware is server storage. The district's use of virtualized servers alone is one area in critical need of storage. These servers are what host many of the applications that we will use to increase our effectiveness and efficiency in communication. As teachers, administrators and students do more and more with computers the need for centralized storage for other servers increases as well.

¹ Enhancing Education Through Technology