

WHITTELL HIGH SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT GRANT APPLICATION

March 11, 2008

EXHIBIT J Education

Document consists of 17 pages.

X Entire document provided.

Due to size limitations, pages __ provided. A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Meeting Date 032708

SCHOOL VISION

In partnership with the parents and community, George Whittell High School will provide a variety of challenging experiences, both academic and extracurricular, which will prepare students to be life-long learners who are productive and responsible citizens.

GOALS

- Increase the level of rigor throughout the curriculum by requiring high-level thinking and active use of knowledge by students.
- Increase student achievement levels in mathematics to correspond with achievement levels in other content areas.
- Create a school-wide “Culture of Excellence” that includes academics and conduct.

CHALLENGES

- Small, rural school in non-rural district
 - Limited master schedule
 - AP classes
 - Classes for struggling students
 - Electives
 - Limited electives result in need to increase opportunities to make learning relevant
- Resident students electing to attend other schools
 - Independent study
 - Larger course offerings
 - Athletic opportunities

CHALLENGES (Cont'd)

- Limited use of technology as instructional tool
- Limited vocational education offerings
- Loss of instructional time due to athletic travel
- Recruitment and retention of staff due to housing and gasoline costs
- Small community that incorporates two states

CURRENT ACTIONS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

- Addition of zero & 7th period to daily schedule
- Modified schedule on heavy sports activity days
- WNC courses on campus
- Increased AP class offerings

WHY EMPOWERMENT?

- To address the needs of a small rural school and to rebuild school enrollment, waivers to some district policies will be requested
- Possible future funding

PREPARATION FOR GRANT WRITING

- School visitations
 - Three successful schools of similar size
 - Use of technology
 - 7th – 12th grade span
- Educational articles and research
- Staff, student, parent/community meetings and surveys
- Work with Roy Casey and WNRTP

GRANT APPLICATION

- Due to State by April 15, 2008
- Template format as required

- Introduction
- Governance Plan
- Budget Plan
- Academic Plan
- Staffing Plan
- Incentive Plan
- School Calendar
- Parent Involvement
- Waivers

GOVERNANCE

- Current SAC is active decision-making body and would work effectively as School Design Team (SDT)
- Waiver
 - SAC to assume duties as School Design Team (SDT), including two student members

ACADEMIC PLAN

Empowerment Grant to support School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Spring 2007 – extensive revisions to SIP
- Multi-year, comprehensive plan
- Majority of action steps do not require waivers
- Some waivers required due to previously identified challenges

ACADEMIC PLAN

CHALLENGE

- Limited master schedule

WAIVERS

- Increase flexibility to pursue dual credit classes
- Increase supervised interactive distance learning opportunities
- Increase off-campus enhanced learning activities for students to compensate for limited elective offerings (transportation required for field trips)

ACADEMIC PLAN (Cont'd)

CHALLENGE

- Increase student achievement in mathematics

WAIVERS

- Offer traditional mathematics sequence of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II
 - Align with community colleges and distance-learning courses
 - Address needs of struggling students (No Integrated A, B, C, D series at Whittell due to small size)

ACADEMIC PLAN (Cont'd)

CHALLENGE

- Students electing to attend other schools

WAIVERS

- Independent Study Program (with contract)
- On space-available basis, accept students from neighboring districts, including CA (charge out-of state students)

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- Two identified scheduling challenges:
 - Limited master schedule due to school size
 - Loss of instructional time due to athletic travel
- Scheduling issues addressed without waivers

USE OF POSSIBLE FUTURE FUNDING

- Technology
 - Increase course offerings
 - Technology as an instructional tool
 - Career path
- Technology support
 - Equipment for students, staff and classrooms
 - Design, implementation and maintenance of infrastructure
 - Professional development
 - Software licenses

FUTURE FUNDING POSSIBILITIES (Cont'd)

- Mini-courses
 - Enrichment
 - Remediation
- Teacher collaboration time
- Incentive pay, if pursued following investigation

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS