**11/2/2013**

**Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED)**

**Technology Grant Committee/Melissa Korzuch, Executive Director**

**4196 Merchant’s Plaza, Suite #803**

**Lake Ridge, VA 22192**

**Dear Ms. Melissa Korzuch,**

**Lester Elementary School is pleased to present this proposal for your review. We hope to partner with you to provide our students with adequate technology to enhance their learning and provide the best education possible for our students. Our school is in a rural community with high poverty levels. We currently have 163 students enrolled with 67% receiving free or reduced lunch. The last two years our school has barely made AYP. Students are behind average in reading and math scoring consistently low compared to other schools in the state.**

**My goal is to increase student achievement with the use of technology. I would like to purchase 8 iPads and appropriate apps to increase student’s achievement. Research shows students drastically increase their test scores when technology is used appropriately in the classroom. I have researched schools in the county that have piloted iPad technology in the classroom over the last year their test scores have drastically improved.**

**Our proposal requests $5000 dollars to purchase Apple iPads and educational apps. This will help us introduce iPads in our 5th grade classroom in learning groups. Next year we would like to purchase iPads for 3rd and 4th grade. Thank you for looking over our proposal and we look forward to hearing from you. If you have and questions please fill free to contact us at 304-934-5885.**

**Thank You,**

**Teena M. Lilly**

1970 Lester Hwy Rt. 54   
Lester, WV 25865

**Grant title: FRED (Foundation for Rural Education and Development) Technology Grant**

**URL (Grant):** <http://www.fred.org/tech.html>

**School District: Raleigh County Schools**

**School: Lester Elementary**

**Superintendent: Jim Brown**

**Mailing Address:** 1970 Lester Hwy Rt. 54   
 Lester, WV 25865

**E-mail Address: tmlilly@access.k12.wv.us**

**Phone number: 304-228-7093**

**Partner: Raleigh County Schools**

The purpose of this grant is to give us the ability to better educate our students. In my fifth grade classroom we have two outdated Dell computers that rarely work properly. I currently have 20 students and know way to advance them into the 21st century technology. Technology is the key to student success in the classroom. In the world we live in technology defines everything we do and use in life. I have established three goals for my students that I would like to achieve through purchasing new technology in the classroom. Students are digital age learners that require more that textbooks and teacher centered classrooms we need more to ensure our students are getting the best education possible.

Goals:

1. Improve student achievement and exceed AYP through integrating technology in the classroom.
2. Improve student’s motivation in the classroom towards learning and achievement.
3. Prepare students for the technology based world we live in, and ensure their success throughout their education by becoming model students in the county.

Based on our standardized test scores are students are desperately lacking in reading and math. We barely met the state requirements we still need a lot of improvement. Our teachers are hard working and are constantly meeting in PLC groups to discuss testing data and determine what adjustments we need to make to improve student achievement. Raleigh County provides educational coaches for each school this provides us with extra help in determining what can be improved and how to improve it. Each month students who are in tier I,II, and III each take a Dibels or Starr examine with one of our school Interventionist these test score show how students are improving and what skills need to be worked on. This also allows us to change groups based on how they are achieving.

Lester Elementary is a small school with around 163 students with 25 staff members. The community is a rural community with mainly poverty level households. Most students have limited access to technology outside of school. The technology purchased with this grant would be used in the 5th grade multi-subject classroom. We currently have twenty-two students enrolled in fifth grade. I have found that students learn well in small learning centered lesson where students move around from learning center to the next. This allows me to focus on one small group at a time working on key concepts. I believe using IPads in other learning centers would allow students to get beneficial learning time without my direction.

In our school technology is very limited we have a computer lab with thirty outdated computers that students can use during computer lab for thirty minutes each day. During this time students can work on assignments or programs assigned by the teacher. In the classroom we have two outdated computers that students only use in the mornings to take accelerated reader tests. If our classroom was awarded this grant it would allow us to obtain eight Apple IPads and additional educational apps approved by the school board. Students can learn so much with the variety of educational apps available. This would drastically change our learning center classroom. Students can use these for all subjects in their learning centers. Having IPads in the classroom would allow us to have ample time to work on skill improvement programs and not just thirty minutes in the computer lab. This would change our whole learning dynamics in the classroom while challenging our students in a new way.

In the county several schools are piloting Apple IPads in the classroom to take the place of text books. They were approved and chosen by the county for their outstanding educational qualities and abilities. Using IPads in the classroom can take the place of textbooks and workbooks. Scientific studies show students learn better using technology instead of pencil based assignments. My students show a greater motivation towards learning and achieving a quality education.

We would like to begin purchasing the new technology in the end of December into the beginning of January. Technology department at Raleigh County Schools is negotiating getting iPads at a discounted rate if this is possible we will be able to purchase two additional iPads. Teachers will then begin training in January. Training will be provided by our educational coaches and technology specialists from the school board. Students and teachers will begin introducing iPads in the classroom we will work together to use the new technology together. Students are very adaptive and learn new technology easily being digital age natives. In March or sooner we would like to be fully using the technology in the classroom.

December January January-February March

2013 2014 2014 2014

**Purchase Teacher Student Complete**

**Technology Training Introduction/ Student Use**

**(Provided by RCS) Training**

We expect that our students will greatly increase their AYP reports. Using technology in the classroom will motivate our students to achieve better in classroom and in the outside world. We except by next year students will have achieved better test scores by at least 5% this will be measured when we receive our WesTest scores. Each month student’s progress will be monitored in our tier groups by testing in Dibels and Star Reports. Next year we will seek to find additional funding to buy Apple iPads for all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. We are very excited to bring better technology to our students.

We will be receiving any new additionally offered training by the county school board or state department. We would like to receive additional funding in the community businesses or other grant opportunities to eventually buy iPads and the additional apps for all students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade.

We would like to purchase 8 Apple iPads and educational apps. If we purchase each Apple iPad at cost it will cost $499 dollars per iPad plus the additional educational apps. Raleigh County Technology Department is working on getting the iPads for $299 dollars is this deal is accepted we will be able to purchase 2 additional iPads and more educational apps approved by the county and West Virginia Department of Education. These Educational apps will be used for reading and math in our learning groups.

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| Type of Technology | Quantity | Price | Total |
| Apple iPads-Full Price | 8 | $499 | $3992 |
| Apple iPads-Discounted Price | 10 | $299 | $2990 |
| Educational Apps Math | At least 10 | Varies |  |
| Educational Apps Reading | At Least 10 | Varies |  |
|  |  | iPads Full Priced= We will have $1008 for education apps | iPads Discounted Price- We will have $2010 dollars for educational app |

We will be using our Educational Coaches and Technology Specialist to assist us with proper usage and activities. These supporters are scheduled to come three times a week and can be called whenever needed. This will allow us to have a great support team to ensure our learning goals are achieved. With the support from everyone we can create a learning environment that is technology based to me the needs of the digital learners we are educating. Raleigh County Schools will provide any further training we need and will also retrain teachers each year on new technology. We thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to your response.