

**Request for Funding
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – ARRA**

Identified Need (must attach any and all data used to determine need): _____

Paraprofessional Professional Development

Paraprofessional staff members work with students on a daily basis, supporting academic needs, social engagement, gross and fine motor skills, language development and other identified needs of students.

Proposal (must include any and all costs): _____

*Needs assessment of paraprofessional staff members conducted by consultants from the State Education Resource Center (SERC)

*Needs assessment of administrators in Fairfield regarding what PD activities paraprofessional staff members require

*Focused professional development provided by SERC consultants to paraprofessionals

***Total cost: \$16,000**

Measurable Goal (Must be a SMART goal: Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely) and must be directly related to improved achievement for children with disabilities: Paraprofessional staff members will learn skills necessary for them to support students with disabilities in professional development sessions on topics identified through needs assessment of paraprofessional staff members and administrators.

What will be used to measure the impact of this initiative on achievement for children with disabilities (please include the method for and frequency of progress monitoring):

Paraprofessionals will have increased skill across a variety of domains, through the supervision and evaluation process.

Submitted by: Ann Leffert

School: Special Education Dept.

Date: 10/30/09

Approved by CO for funding under ARRA: More information Needed: _____

Approved for funding OTHER: _____ Account #: _____

Request Denied: _____

Authorized by: 

Date: 11/17/09

Fairfield Professional Development Proposal

DRAFT 8/20/09

2009-2010

Preliminary Planning Session: Administration (Central Office, Special Education Coordinators, HR Specialist). Provided at no cost.

Needs of paraprofessionals regarding professional development were discussed. Additionally, the need for a common understanding of the role of a paraprofessional among building administrators was identified.

Phase I: District-wide Needs Assessment of Paraprofessionals (Fall 2009)

In this phase, SERC will conduct a district-wide needs assessment of preK-12 paraprofessionals. Areas of strength and need will be identified. Future professional development will be determined based upon the results of this needs assessment.

Needs Assessment (to be conducted district-wide by SERC on September 1, 2009)

SERC consultants will meet with paras in grade level groups (elementary – including preK, middle, and high) to facilitate discussions of strengths and needs of paraprofessionals.

3 teams of 2 SERC consultants each with replication of the sessions in the p.m. = \$6,000

Presentation of Needs Assessment Results to Administrators/Discussion of Appropriate Para PD with Administrators

The results of the needs assessment will be analyzed by SERC consultants and presented to administrators at one of the monthly meetings. A similar needs assessment will then be conducted with administrators to determine what they consider the needs for paraprofessional PD to be. At this time, appropriate future professional development for the paraprofessionals will be determined.

1 SERC consultant x ½ day = \$500

Total Cost for Phase I:

Phase I = \$650

Phase II: Professional Development (Winter 2010)

In this phase, the needs of the paraprofessionals will be addressed through follow-up technical assistance visits.

Training for Paraprofessionals

Follow-up technical assistance TBD. \$1000 per day per consultant, up to 25 participants. \$500 per ½ day per consultant, up to 25 participants.

To be determined under separate contract.

Training of Administrators

Administrators will receive training regarding the supervision of paraprofessionals in one of two ways.

Option One: attend SERC's Supervision and Evaluation of Paraprofessionals session with Kent Gerlach (December 15, 2009).

Fee: Team of 16 administrators (1 per building) to attend session at \$50 per participant = \$800

Option Two: bring Kent Gerlach to the district to train administrators. Approximate fee: \$2700

Phase III: Continued Learning (2010 – 2011 school year)

In this phase, the district will begin to formulate plans for building internal capacity in the area of paraprofessional leadership and continued professional development.