

## ARTS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLANNING ASSISTANCE GRANT

Question: We are considering adopting the TPRS methodology (for foreign language) at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> levels in our two high school districts. Would this grant apply to our desire to develop a plan to implement TPRS into our entry level courses? Sixteen teachers would need intense training and collaborative time to figure out methods to implement this into our current curriculum. Would this grant be a worthwhile pursuit for us if we were looking to enhance an existing program with TPRS? If so, and if awarded, would the grant monies apply to paying a consultant to train us?

Answer: This would be an allowable activity as the purpose of the planning grant is to provide funds to initiate, expand, or improve instruction in the area of arts or foreign language. Under the parameters of the grant, hiring planning facilitators is an allowable expense.

Question: We are trying to develop an interest in Spanish so we can keep a full time Spanish teacher. This is our first year to have a full-time Spanish teacher as in previous years we've shared a part-time teacher with another district. Could this grant be considered for our program or would it have to be a new program in need of being set up?

Answer: Since this is your first step in expansion the planning grant funds could be used to continue planning for a complete and systematic expansion of your foreign language program beyond the step you have taken this year.

Question: In reviewing the information required for the grant it appears as though we need to have determined which grades would be involved with the implementation of the foreign language program prior to the planning process. Before we eliminated the program in our district it was a middle school program. I would like to look at the possibility of starting the instruction at younger grade levels if possible. Can that be part of the research done during the planning phase or must we decide that before we can apply for the grant?

Answer: This research would be part of your planning process as the purpose of the planning grant is to provide resources to plan for initiating, expanding, or improving instruction in arts (dance, drama, music, visual arts) or foreign language.

Question: I don't know if this is permissible, but would you care to look over my narrative and provide any comments? Our district applied for this grant two years ago but did not receive it, so I'm a little unsure of myself.

Answer: ISBE cannot review and provide feedback to proposals during the writing process. Make certain that you follow the guidelines outlined in the RFP and include all the required information in your proposal.

Question: On the planning grant form, it asks for our district type code. I am unsure of what that is.

Answer: Check with your district business office. That information should be on file there.