

GET THAT GRANT!

By Karen Greenwood Henke

As summer approaches, teachers often have more time to plan activities and look for ways to fund them. What can you do during the summer months to get ready for new grant opportunities?

Here are five steps you can take this summer to find grant money for your classroom:

Create a toolkit

If at first you don't succeed, you probably tell your students to keep trying. But do you practice what you preach? Vacation is a good time to create a grant toolkit. Your toolkit will include a basic proposal refined and polished (reviewed by friends), a list of target grants and a calendar of deadlines.

Schedule research time

So many resources, so little time. The Internet is filled with grant listings, workshops, guides and people who can help with grant writing and research. The amount of information can be overwhelming. If you schedule some time and set a few goals, you can narrow your research more quickly and focus on what will help get funding for your classroom.

Set your own deadlines

Many foundations offer ongoing grant-giving programs with rolling deadlines or no deadlines. They often fall below the radar without a pending date to apply. When you discover one of these programs, set your own deadline during the summer and be sure to apply.

Work together

Exciting projects that require team teaching often don't happen because of a lack of planning during the busy school year. If you and your colleagues have a great idea, schedule time during the summer to make a plan for the next year. Working together on researching and writing grants makes the process more fun, more creative and often more successful.

Subscribe to a grants bulletin

When the year gets started again, it's easy to lose track of the deadlines for the best grants. There are many grant bulletins and alerts that can help. Find one that has the most relevant grants and sign up.

Karen Greenwood Henke runs Grant Wrangler, a grants- and awards-listing service for teachers.

Go to techlearning.com and click on "Grants" for more information and resources.

EDUCATION GRANTS

2008-2009 Deadlines

JULY 2008 DEADLINES

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1 Olympus America/Tool Factory Student Photo Contest
www.toolfactory.com

1 The National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Inc.
www.newspaperfund.org

1 SMARTer Kids Research Grants
www.smarterkids.org/research/details.asp

STRATEGY TIP

Include a sustainability plan

Whether it's maintaining and upgrading technology or paying a program teacher's salary, you must have a feasible plan for covering costs once grant funds are gone. Putting it in writing makes it more likely to happen.

AUGUST 2008 DEADLINES

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1 Intel Community Grants
www.intel.com/community/grant.htm

1 American Honda Foundation Grant
<http://corporate.honda.com>

1 NWA's Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants
www.nwas.org/grants/solhirsch.php

1 Toshiba Large Grants (Grades 7-12, more than \$5,000)
www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp

STRATEGY TIP

Update your community needs assessment

Web-based survey tools such as SurveyMonkey facilitate data collection and analysis, particularly from off-campus stakeholders. Set up and administer a new survey to gather current information.

SEPTEMBER 2008 DEADLINES

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15 Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Mini-Grants
www.ezra-jack-keats.org

30 Captain Planet Foundation Grants
www.captainplanetfdn.org

ONGOING

Products for Learning Grants, sponsored by Fuji Film USA, Inc.
www.fujifilmusa.com/JSP/fuji/epartners/ProductsForLearning.jsp

NEC Foundation of America Grants
www.necfoundation.org

Microsoft Unlimited Potential (UP) Grants
www.microsoft.com

Verizon Foundation Grants
<http://foundation.verizon.com>

STRATEGY TIP

Use Web-based applications to promote collaboration while developing your proposal

Invite stakeholders to leave feedback at their convenience by setting up an online group or wiki. If security is a concern, choose a tool that has access controls. Set up and administer a new survey to gather current information.

OCTOBER 2008 DEADLINES

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1 Toshiba Small Grants Program (for K-6)
www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp

15 Learning & Leadership Grants, sponsored by the NEA Foundation
www.nfie.org

15 Mr. Tu's Next Excellent Example Talent Search
www.bestquest.com/talentsearch

17 Lowe's Toolbox for Education
www.toolboxforeducation.com

STRATEGY TIP

Establish a site grant-writing committee

Proposal writing often falls to one or two volunteers. This results in staff burnout and less-than-successful program implementation. Increase success and buy-in through shared responsibility.

NOVEMBER 2008 DEADLINES

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1 Intel Community Grants
www.intel.com/community/grant.htm

1 American Honda Foundation Grant
<http://corporate.honda.com>

30 Environmental Excellence Awards
www.seaworld.org

ONGOING
Share the Technology
<http://sharetechnology.org>

Toshiba Grants (Grades 7-12, up to \$5,000)
www.toshiba.com

STRATEGY TIP

Attend a grant-writing class or workshop

There are tricks of the trade that increase your chances of success. An upfront investment in a class or workshop may be repaid many times over when your proposals are consistently funded.

DECEMBER 2008 DEADLINES

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3 Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) Distinguished Service Award*
www.ala.org

8 National Schools of Character Program, sponsored by the Character Education
www.character.org

30 Olympus America/Tool Factory Podcasting Contest
www.toolfactory.com

31 Captain Planet Foundation Grants
www.captainplanetfdn.org

STRATEGY TIP

Read sample proposals

Grant-making agencies often provide samples of funded proposals. Ask for examples and read them carefully. Note writing style, formatting, use of graphics, etc. Use this information to polish your proposal.

* 2008 deadline. Please check Web site for 2009 deadline.

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INVESTING IN K-12 FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

To bring 21st century skills to every child in America, Dell is committed to being a catalyst and advocate for change in teaching, learning and assessment. We are investing in partnerships and solutions to enhance education in school districts across the nation.

- K-12 Customer Advisory Council for continued exploration, growth and investment
- Intelligent Classroom™ programs throughout the country
- TechKnow to expose students of all income levels to technology

- Curriculum management tools to fortify teaching, learning and classroom management
- Professional development to keep educators as up-to-date as the technology

- Best-of-breed alliances to develop and sponsor partnerships with industry leaders
- Dell Online Exchange for thousands of standards-based lessons, project plans and online courses

"It's a source of tremendous satisfaction to know that the IT improvements we've made are having a direct impact on the quality of education, and ultimately the lives of our students." — Chris Stouff, Coordinator of Information Systems — Coppell Independent School District

Sign up for Dell's K-12 eNews for trends, case studies and advanced notice for next year's grants calendar: DELL.COM/k12/EnewsCalendar

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TECH & LEARNING

www.techlearning.com

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Dell recommends Windows Vista® Business

JANUARY 2009 DEADLINES

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STRATEGY TIP

Identify site needs to focus grant-seeking efforts

What are your site's challenges and how would additional funding help? Prepare a brief description, including data to support your statements of need. Use this when selecting possible grants.

APRIL 2009 DEADLINES

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STRATEGY TIP

Consider foundation grants

Charitable foundations often earmark resources for local programs, and education is typically a high funding priority. Contact nearby foundations to learn more about the kinds of projects they are funding.

AT DELL, OUR GOAL IS TO BE THE GREENEST TECHNOLOGY COMPANY ON THE PLANET

More and more of America's K-12 schools are embracing green building design and construction for improved responsibility, operational efficiency and learning environments. Dell supports these efforts with our own corporate goal to be carbon neutral by year's end, and we continue to develop some of the greenest technology available anywhere.

"We don't just buy computers; Dell is a strategic partner that helps us pull the pieces together."

— Katie Lovett, Chief Information Officer — Fulton County School System

¹ Based on Dell's Energy Savings Calculator comparison of the OptiPlex GX620 with Intel Pentium D processor and 17" CRT vs. the OptiPlex 755 Energy Smart with Intel Celeron processor and 17" LCD. See DELL.COM/HTML/US/Products/Optiplex/Calculator/Index for more information.

² Performance and Energy Advantages of Dell Energy Smart Servers and Liebert Cooling Systems," a Dell white paper, June 2007. Trademark Notice: Microsoft and Windows Vista are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries.

FEBRUARY 2009 DEADLINES

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STRATEGY TIP

Build your budget from zero

Some grant expenditures may be mandated. Beyond that, avoid the temptation to use past practice to build this new budget. In addition, consider how the new program will be sustained beyond the grant period.

MAY 2009 DEADLINES

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STRATEGY TIP

Explore forming a local education foundation (LEF)

An LEF usually works with just one school district, but is an independent entity with its own board of directors, staff and bylaws. Most support small projects such as teacher mini-grants.

MARCH 2009 DEADLINES

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STRATEGY TIP

Prepare an "elevator pitch"

Grantors target creative ideas built on sound strategies that are easy to understand and can be quickly explained. Summarize your proposal in a couple of sentences — the time it takes to ride a few floors in an elevator.

JUNE 2009 DEADLINES

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STRATEGY TIP

Use fundraisers for smaller projects

Writing a grant proposal for a small amount of money may be more trouble than it's worth. Look at the application requirements. If the return is too small, investigate possible fundraiser activities instead.

5 Olympus America/Tool Factory Student Photo Contest
www.toolfactory.com

15 The International Reading Association sponsors several great opportunities for IRA members:
• Jeanne S. Chall Research Fellowships
• Steven A. Stahl Research Grant
• Teacher as Researcher Grants
www.reading.org

25 Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning from Inspiration*
www.inspiration.com

28 Toyota TAPESTRY Grants*
www.nsta.org/pd/tapestry/

29 Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association's ExploraVision competition*
www.exploravision.org

1 SMARTer Kids Research Grants
www.smarterkids.org/research/details.asp

27 Lemelson-MIT Program's InvenTeam Grants*
<http://web.mit.edu/inventeam>

28 Gale/Library Media Connection TEAMS Award*
www.galeschools.com/TEAMS

30 Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes
www.barronprize.org

30 Olympus America/Tool Factory Podcasting Contest
www.toolfactory.com

30 ING Financial Services' Unsung Heroes Awards*
www.ing.com/us/unsungheroes

1 Intel Community Grants
www.intel.com/community/grant.htm

1 Learning & Leadership Grants, sponsored by the NEA Foundation
www.nfie.org

1 Toshiba Large Grants (Grades 7-12, more than \$5,000)
www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp

1 The American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Distinguished School Administrators Awards*
www.ala.org

1 American Honda Foundation Grant
<http://corporate.honda.com>

13 Lowe's Toolbox for Education
www.toolboxforeducation.com

1 Intel Community Grants
www.intel.com/community/grant.htm

1 American Honda Foundation Grant
<http://corporate.honda.com>

30 Parent Group of the Year Contest*
www.ptotoday.com/pgy

31 Target Local Store Grants
www.target.com (community link)

3 National Endowment for the Humanities' Summer Seminar & Institute Programs*
www.neh.gov

5 Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants*
www.dollargeneral.com

7 Kay L. Bitter Vision Award for Excellence in Technology-Based Pre-K Education*
www.iste.org

28 Tech Museum Award*
www.techawards.org

31 ISTE SIG Media Specialist Technology Innovation Award*
www.iste.org

31 Captain Planet Foundation Grants
www.captainplanetfdn.org

1 Learning & Leadership Grants, sponsored by the NEA Foundation
www.nfie.org

6 Student Achievement Grants, sponsored by the NEA Foundation*
www.nfie.org

11 The Lindbergh Foundation makes Grants to Recognize Technological Advancements and Environmental Preservation Efforts
www.lindberghfoundation.org

12 Dollar General's Back-to-School Grants*
www.dollargeneral.com/Community

15 Invent America! Student Contest
www.inventamerica.org

30 Captain Planet Foundation Grants
www.captainplanetfdn.org

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