

Title II-D Ed Tech Grant Community Description

The Oakridge School District is located in a small rural community approximately 45 miles southeast of Eugene Oregon in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Being very small, the district is not immune to the issues of shortfalls of state funding as economies of scale come into play. In fact, small districts in general are proportionally affected in more profound ways through funding issues. No Child Left Behind has created mandates that, while generally acceptable from an educational standpoint, are not properly funded. This creates an environment that is unstable for staff but more importantly, students are affected as they see a school that is not able to offer them what they need to succeed in the real world. Programs that are not deemed vital to graduation are on the chopping block every year (Art, Music, Shop, Business Ed, etc.). Furthermore, declining enrollment is compounding the problem. There has been a 25% decrease in student enrollment from 1999 until 2005. That equates to a significant decrease in funding generated by the state.



With the state legislature predicting a \$1 Billion shortfall for the next biennium, the situation is not going to improve anytime soon. It has brought the responsibility of funding to the local level. As a district, we all strive to secure funding that will support the learning goals of our students. Grants are one such option. Several grants have been secured over the last several years that have helped maintain academic services to our students.

The main focus of this project is to highlight a particular grant I wrote to promote writing across the curriculum through the effective use of technology. This grant, funded through Title II-D, Enhancing Education through Technology, addresses goals stated in the district Technology Plan as well as the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP). Improving student achievement, improving teacher effectiveness, and increasing access to technology are three objectives of our district technology plan and of this project. These objectives are linked in a process that concludes with improved student achievement in writing and math. The goal of improved student achievement can better be met by providing access to the technology and providing the training to not only competently use but to effectively integrate that technology into existing curriculum.