

Lexington Education Foundation 2014-15 Grants

PROGRAM GRANTS

LEH Program Grants support the exploration and implementation of innovative instruction, enriched curricula, and the use of new technology in the classroom.

Systemwide

Summer Workshops. LEF support will enable the LPS to implement a summer workshop schedule for teachers across the district to address topics of educational and instructional need through professional development opportunities.

Elementary Schools

People on the Move: Immigration to America Past and Present – All Lexington Elementary Schools. New York City presents a rich environment in which to explore our nation's immigration history and present-day realities. Elementary teachers will visit selected sites to deepen their knowledge of the subject, then create and implement a fourth grade curriculum on the American immigrant experience at all six elementary schools.

Afterschool Class for English Language Learners – Bridge Elementary School. ELL and classroom teachers will create an afterschool program designed to ease the transition to Bridge/Lexington for students from non-English speaking families. The class will focus on building the students' vocabulary and understanding of American culture. A concurrent class will be offered to the students' parents.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Science Curriculum Development. Classroom teachers, math and literacy specialists, and the LPS K-5 Science Curriculum Coordinator will identify curriculum integration models and project-based learning experiences that incorporate the LEED features of the new Estabrook School and support the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

Strengthening Library Research Skills – Bowman Elementary School. The library teacher and instructional technology specialist will create lessons and resources that enhance differentiated instruction through the use of iPads. This technology will enable students to access databases, e-books, booklists, and pre-selected research websites, and to record and share their work with teachers and classmates.

Addressing Homeless Students' Achievement Gap – Estabrook Elementary School. To help close homeless students' achievement gap in math and literacy, teachers will provide them with iPads loaded with apps selected to address each child's educational needs. The teachers will guide the students and their families in the effective use of this technology.

Developing Social and Academic Language Skills of English Language Learners – Harrington Elementary School. To improve beginning English language learners’ academic performance and enable them to interact more easily with teachers and fellow students, Harrington will match the newcomers with student mentors and provide them with iPads loaded with translation applications.

Middle Schools

Harnessing Student Inquiry in the Social Studies Classroom – Clarke and Diamond Middle Schools. Social studies teachers from all three grades at both Clarke and Diamond will attend a summer seminar on teaching students to “ask the right questions” using the Question Formulation Technique. The teachers will create lesson plans in Ancient Civilization, World Geography, and United States History that use this technique to foster an inquiry-based approach to study and higher-order thinking skills.

Bringing Digital Art to the Middle School Curriculum – Clarke and Diamond Middle Schools. Art teachers at Clarke and Diamond will acquire a cart of iPads and develop instructional units that engage every middle school student in creating art on these versatile devices.

Strengthening Differentiated Instruction: Teaching All Kinds of Minds – Diamond Middle School. Teachers will receive professional development that applies current understandings from brain research to educational practice. “Teaching All Kinds of Minds” gives teachers a more nuanced understanding of *how* learning happens. Its purpose is to make learning tasks accessible to every student by addressing the uniqueness of each student’s profile of learning strengths, weaknesses, and affinities.

Expanding Reading Options and Interest in Struggling and Nonstruggling Readers and Independent Reading in the 7th Grade Classroom – Diamond Middle School. Two grants – one to a reading teacher and one to the 7th grade English team – will build classroom libraries with high-interest fiction and nonfiction books that offer a variety of genres, text complexities, subject matter, and formats. The goals are to encourage students’ reading for pleasure and to increase their cognitive abilities in reading and other subjects.

High School

3D Printing to Enhance the Engineering Program – Lexington High School. Through the acquisition of a 3D printer and professional development in machine operation and curriculum design, physics teachers will be able to embed engineering design, computer aided design, and rapid prototyping into their classroom instruction.

Multimedia iBook for US History – Lexington High School. History teachers will create a multimedia sourcebook of images, speeches and primary and secondary

documents that will augment textbooks and classroom activities in the AP and Level 1 United States History courses.

Aligning Grammar Instruction to Improve Student Writing – Lexington High School. Freshman English teachers will create and share resources for teaching grammar instruction in conjunction with student writing assignments. The goal is to help students master the skills required to express ideas effectively in writing in all disciplines and to handle the variety of writing required in college and in the workplace.

Google Drive Resource Repository for Taking Students Abroad – Lexington High School. Teachers who have mastered the organizing of LPS student language exchange programs will develop, and train teachers to use, a web-hosted drive containing a common database of documents, forms, and spreadsheets required for study-abroad programs.

FELLOWSHIPS

LEF Fellowships enable individual educators to pursue professional development opportunities that will have a direct impact on their teaching in the classroom.

Elementary Schools

Technology in the Elementary Classroom – Bridge Elementary School: A fifth grade teacher will attend a summer workshop on “Technology in the Elementary Classroom” to learn how to leverage technology to create a more student-centered, inquiry-based learning environment.

Strengthening Writing Instruction for English Language Learners – Estabrook Elementary School: Estabrook’s ELL teacher will attend a summer Writing Institute at Columbia Teacher’s College to learn how to use the Writer’s Workshop Model to improve the writing skills of English language learners.

National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference – Fiske Elementary School: Fiske’s school nurse will attend the national conference in San Antonio, Texas to develop her knowledge of evidence-based programs, models and tools to keep children healthy and in school.

National Association of School Nurses Annual Conference – Harrington Elementary School: Harrington’s school nurse will attend the national conference in San Antonio, Texas to develop her knowledge of evidence-based programs, models and tools to keep children healthy and in school.

Middle Schools

Chinese Language Teachers Institute in Beijing for Nonnative Speakers of Chinese

– **Diamond Middle School:** Diamond’s Mandarin language teacher will attend an intensive 6-week institute for Chinese language teachers whose first language is not Chinese. The institute focuses on expanding language skills, Chinese language instructional skills, and knowledge of Chinese culture.

Summer Institute on Incorporating the Reader's Workshop Model into 6th, 7th, and 8th grade English/Language Arts Classes – Diamond Middle School: Building on the Writer’s Workshop Model that has been successfully introduced into the 6th grade classes, three teachers will attend a summer institute at Columbia Teachers College on the companion Reader’s Workshop Model. This approach focuses on enabling students of diverse reading abilities to become communities of readers who share ideas and develop a love of literature with the teacher acting as a coach.

Yoga-in-Schools Symposium and Teacher Training – Clarke Middle School. An English/Language Arts teacher who is also a certified yoga instructor will attend two workshops at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health on using yoga to help students manage anxiety and stress and give teachers a tool for classroom management.

High School

Study Tour in Japan – Lexington High School: To prepare for the new East Asian Studies elective to be offered in 2014-2015, a history teacher will participate in a Japan Society study tour that focuses on Japanese history and current issues.

Primary Care Conference and Pharmacology Conference – Lexington High School: A school nurse will attend conferences for nurse practitioners that share the latest information on medical conditions and health care issues that she frequently sees and manages at LHS, including asthma, pediatric pharmacology, diabetes, anxiety and depression, ADHD, and immunizations.

AP Biology Summer Institute – Lexington High School: A science teacher will attend a summer institute to learn about course expectations, classroom strategies, useful textbooks and laboratory exercises, and new question types for the recently revised AP Biology curriculum.

AP Physics Summer Institute – Lexington High School: Two science teachers will attend a summer institute to learn about course expectations, classroom strategies, useful textbooks and laboratory exercises, and new question types for the recently revised AP Physics 1 and AP Physics 2 courses.

AP Statistics Summer Institute – Lexington High School: A math teacher will attend a summer institute to deepen his understanding of statistics concepts and to develop story lines and activities to communicate these ideas effectively to students in AP Statistics, Level 1 Statistics, and Math 3 courses.

Strengthening Writing Instruction for English Language Learners – LPS System: The English Language Learner K-12 Coordinator will attend a Columbia Teachers

College Institute to learn how to use the Writers Workshop Model to improve the writing skills of the LPS's more than 400 English language learners.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY GRANTS

Annual *LEF School Community Grants* enable each of the nine Lexington public schools to undertake activities that will strengthen learning and build community schoolwide.

Elementary Schools

Academic Intervention for Students, Leadership Development for Staff – Bowman Elementary School: Bowman used its 2013-2014 School Community Grant to strengthen opportunities for students to improve reading fluency, attention, and memory, and to provide staff with professional development and leadership development opportunities. Staff will present Bowman's Flipped Leadership Model at a national conference and also receive expert guidance in exploring aspects of culture and race.

Cafeteria Mural and Literacy Library – Bridge Elementary School. Bridge used its 2013-2014 School Community Grant to hire a local artist to guide students and faculty in creating a mural for its new cafeteria that ties the school's character-building initiative (the ABC's of Attitude, Behavior, and Character) and community building emphasis to the extensive renovations currently underway. Bridge has also dedicated grant funds to purchasing leveled texts for its literacy library.

Celebrating the "New" Estabrook School – Estabrook Elementary School: Estabrook's 2013-2014 School Community Grant supported the development and implementation of the LEED science curriculum, the engagement of an artist-in-residence to compose and teach a new school song, the framing of students' paper mosaic collages, the framing of historical photos and memorabilia of Estabrook School 1961–2013, and participation of Estabrook staff at the Annual School Recycling Conference.

Outdoor Amphitheatre/Classroom Space – Fiske Elementary School: Fiske is partnering with the Fiske PTO to build an outdoor amphitheater that provides additional space for activities such as Big Backyard and other science instruction, grade level activities, and family events for the school community.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports – Harrington Elementary School: Harrington's 2013-2014 School Community Grant supported professional development to build the staff's capacity to prevent and respond effectively to challenging and disruptive behaviors that interfere with learning.

Building Bridges Between School and Home: Hastings Elementary School: Hastings's 2013-2014 School Community Grant provided opportunities to bring together expert professionals, Hastings staff and parents to learn and share regarding the key issues of student stress, social/emotional development (including bullying behavior), and executive function.

Middle Schools

Rachel's Challenge – Clarke Middle School. Clarke has adopted this nationally acclaimed bullying prevention program as a vehicle to promote pro-social behaviors, build a community that values compassion and kindness, and honor the diversity of Clarke's student body. The 2013-2014 grant supported Rachel's Challenge assemblies and student activities.

6th Grade Community Building through Project Adventure – Diamond Middle School: Diamond used its 2013-2014 School Community Grant to bring a team from Project Adventure to the school to run a full day of activities involving all 6th grade students and teachers. Students rotated through team-building activities designed to ease the transition to middle school, forge connections among students and teachers, and build pro-social skills.

High School

Schoolwide Communication and Community Building – Lexington High School: Lexington High School is working to improve communication and build a sense of community within the school and with the larger community. The school used its 2013-2014 School Community Grant to install outdoor and indoor signage that provides information about upcoming events, celebrates student achievements, and announces important deadlines.

GRANTS AWARDED in 2014 (BY SCHOOL)

Bowman Elementary School

Program Grant

Strengthening Library Research Skills – Bowman Elementary School. The library teacher and instructional technology specialist will create lessons and resources that enhance differentiated instruction through the use of iPads. This technology will enable students to access databases, e-books, booklists, and pre-selected research websites, and to record and share their work with teachers and classmates.

School Community Grant

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Bridge Elementary School

Program Grant

Helping English Language Learners. ELL and classroom teachers will create an afterschool program designed to ease the transition to Bridge/Lexington for students from non-English speaking families. The class will focus on building the students’ vocabulary and their understanding of American culture. A concurrent class will be offered to their parents.

Fellowship

Technology in the Elementary Classroom: A fifth grade teacher will attend a summer workshop on “Technology in the Elementary Classroom” to learn how to leverage technology to create a more student-centered, inquiry-based learning environment.

School Community Grant

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Estabrook Elementary School

Program Grants

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Fellowship

Strengthening Writing Instruction for English Language Learners: Estabrook's ELL teacher will attend a summer Writing Institute at Columbia Teacher's College to learn how to use the Writer's Workshop Model to improve the writing skills of English language learners.

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Fiske Elementary School

Fellowship

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Harrington Elementary School

Program Grant

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Hastings Elementary School

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All Lexington Elementary Schools

[NOTE: This grant can be included on the individual lists for each of the six elementary schools]

Program Grant

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Clarke Middle School

Fellowship

Yoga-in-Schools Symposium and Teacher Training – Clarke Middle School. An English/Language Arts teacher who is also a certified yoga instructor will attend two workshops at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health on using yoga to help students manage anxiety and stress and give teachers a tool for classroom management.

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Clarke and Diamond Middle Schools

[NOTE: These two grants can be included in the lists for each of the two middle schools]

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Lexington Public Schools - Systemwide

Program Grant

Summer Workshops. LEF support will enable the LPS to implement a Summer Workshop Schedule for teachers across the district to address topics of educational and instructional need through professional development opportunities.

Fellowship

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The English Language Learner K-12 Coordinator will attend a Columbia Teachers College Institute to learn how to use the Writers Workshop Model to improve the writing skills of the LPS's more than 400 English language learners.