Enhancing Student Mathematics Learning through the Use of Tools and Technology Grants (Pre-K-12)

Supported by the Isabelle P. Rucker Fund and the NCTM
Grades: PreK-5, 6-8, 9-12

"Based on assessment scores, the use of technology has developed students' understanding and increased their proficiency in math."

~Michelle Carpenter, 2017-18 Awardee

The Principles to Actions Tools and Technology Guiding Principle states that "an excellent mathematics program integrates the use of mathematical tools and technology as essential resources to help students learn and make sense of mathematical ideas, reason mathematically, and communicate their mathematical thinking."

The purpose of this grant is to encourage the innovative use of technology and other tools to "help teachers and students visualize and concretize mathematics abstractions..." (Principles to Actions). When used appropriately, they can enhance other effective teaching and promote meaningful learning opportunities for students. Grants are for a maximum of $3,000 each and will be awarded to persons currently teaching mathematics in grades Pre-K-12. Materials may include, but not be limited to, books, calculators, tablets, computers, or related equipment as well as professional development in the use of the designated tools and technology. The focus of the proposal should be on the mathematics being taught and innovative uses of the tools and technology. Proposals must include a plan for evaluating materials and the anticipated impact on students’ learning. Applicants are encouraged to seek matching funds from internal and external sources.

The applicant must be a current (Essential or Premium member of NCTM, or teach at a school with a current NCTM membership, and currently teach mathematics in grades Pre-K-12 at least 50 percent of the school day or be a full-time mathematics coach. Project activities are to be completed between June 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021. Past recipients of this grant are not eligible to re-apply. No person(s) may receive more than one award administered by the Mathematics Education trust in the same academic year.

Interested teachers are invited to submit a proposal. Note: This grant is awarded to an individual teacher. The award must be reported to the Internal Revenue Service, and it is subject to federal income taxes. A Form 1099 will be sent to the grant recipient at the end of the calendar year. If you have any questions about your own income tax liability, you should contact the Internal Revenue Service or your tax counsel. These sources can advise a recipient on the proper way to report project expenses.
View the scoring rubric. This rubric is used by reviewers to rate proposals and determine which proposals will be selected for funding.

Requirements

I. General Information
   - Complete all requested information on contact and eligibility information
   - Must include NCTM member number

II. Proposal (Three pages maximum)
   Plan
   - Describe your plan to teach mathematics with innovative uses of tools and technology, including professional development in the use of the designated tools and technology if needed.
   - Describe how your plan will help teachers and students visualize and concretize mathematics abstractions.
   - Describe your plan for evaluating materials.

   Outcome
   - Explain anticipated impact on students' learning.

III. Budget (Two pages maximum; table format)
   - No Indirect Costs.
   - Include an itemized budget, presented in line-item table format.
     - If the total budget for a proposed project is greater than the grant maximum, indicate clearly what the grant funds will cover and what additional funding sources might be available to complete the total budget.
   - Be specific and justify line items.

IV. Background and Experience
   - One-page maximum, outline format preferred.
   - One for each applicant.
   - Formal education: institution, type of degree, major, minor, and date each degree was granted.
   - Teaching experience related to this grant proposal.
   - Must be currently teaching mathematics in grades Pre-K-12. Indicate the school(s), teaching assignments, and other pertinent information, including continuing education and professional activities.

V. Letter of Support from Principal
   - One-page maximum.
   - Must be on official school stationery and signed by the principal.
   - Confirm the teaching status of the applicant.
   - Indicate strong support for the proposal and the applicant's ability to accomplish it.
   - Confirm efforts to seek matching funds.

Final Report Requirements
   - Awardees will be required to submit a brief report (two to three double-spaced pages) and an itemized report of expenses.
   - Two-thirds of the approved budget, not to exceed $2,000, will be paid at the beginning of the project; the remainder will be paid on receipt of a final report and verified expenses (with receipts) related to the proposal.

The Mathematics Education Trust was established by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.