

Louisiana GEAR UP 2009-2010
School Enhancement Grant Application
Cooperative Agreement and Contracts

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Due May 31, 2009



Introduction

Dear LA GEAR UP Coordinator,

Now that your school has participated in the LA GEAR UP grant for one year and you have gotten a better idea of the initiatives offered as part of the project, we invite you to take a larger ownership role in determining how your students will most benefit from that participation. You know the types of things that LA GEAR UP supports, and you know the real needs of your student. Now you'll be able to propose to LA GEAR UP the projects that you'd most like to take on as a partner school.

The mandated initiatives will stay the same (Rewards for Success, Summer Camps, Explorer Clubs, Writing Contests, etc.), but rather than have you try to cram your goals into our line items, we're asking you to go to your School Improvement Plan and identify a few things that your school would really like to provide but have just been unable to do for one reason or another. We've worked out a simple step-by-step process that will walk you through your requests and your LA GEAR UP Staff Coordinator will be there to help you along the way. The big bonus is that once you see how simple it really is to propose sub-grant funding, you may find that you end up submitting other proposals to other funding sources, as well!

Thanks, again, for all of your tremendous support of LA GEAR UP's mission!

How to Apply

School and district personnel, after reviewing relevant data and School Improvement Plans, should propose funding for special initiatives that would normally go un- or insufficiently financed.

To do this, a **School Enhancement Grant Application Packet** should be submitted to your Louisiana GEAR UP Staff Coordinator. The packet must consist of:

1. A Cover Sheet
2. Initiative proposals

Examples of each of these documents follow on subsequent pages.

Once the packet is submitted it will be: 1) reviewed, 2) approved or negotiated, and 3) returned in a contractual form for signature. Proposals for activities or items that are not allowable under federal GEAR UP guidelines will be ineligible for funding. Please feel free to contact your LA GEAR UP Staff Coordinator for guidance in this regard.

School Enhancement Grant Initiative Proposal Format

School & District: Identify your school and district on each page.

Part One: What you want from LA GEAR UP

Initiative Title: Identify a title for your proposed initiative.

Purpose: This section should include a statement identifying what you want.

Problem: This section must: 1) identify an area of opportunity also identified in your School Improvement Plan and 2) provide data that shows exactly where the school stands at the present moment with regard to the aforementioned issue.

Solution: This section should identify what you plan to do to address the problem. What will the proposed initiative entail and how will it be organized? How many students will it impact and who are they? This section is where you detail your program initiative design.

Goals and Objectives: This section should list the overall goals of the initiative and **measurable** objectives for each goal. There is no minimum or maximum number of goals or objectives required.

Part Two: Why you think it will work

Support: To strengthen your proposal, you are encouraged to submit best practices, supplemental data, research studies, journal articles, or any other material upon which your initiative design is based.

Part Three: What it will cost

Cost: To complete this section you must identify what costs will be associated with the program initiative. This should include any supplies, personnel, transportation, equipment, software licenses, and any other costs. **This section should end with a statement of total funding request for your proposed initiative. You may request partial or full funding from LA GEAR UP for each proposal.**

Part Four: What you will provide in return

Deliverables: This section should list the documentation you will provide regarding the establishment, implementation, progress, and outcome of the proposed initiative.

Example: Initiative Proposal for School Enhancement Grant, 2009-2010

School Name: John Doe Middle School

School District: Unified School District

Initiative Title: Exploring Careers in Science

Purpose

We propose using LA GEAR UP collaborative agreement funds to begin an after-school program focusing on academic achievement and career opportunities in the sciences.

Problem as Identified in School Improvement Plan

Approximately **74%** of last year's 7th and 8th graders scored either Approaching Basic or Unsatisfactory on iLEAP and LEAP tests.

Solution

An after-school and Saturday program that involves hands-on science activities closely aligned to the Grade Level Expectations for 7th and 8th grade science is proposed thereby allowing for supplemental instruction in science. Field trips to places of business and industry as well as universities will enhance students' understanding of the application of the specific scientific principles explored.

Students will spend four hours a week in after school activities, and there will be a field trip one Saturday per month meant to illustrate practical applications of the principles learned in the previous 16 hours of exploration and the related careers. Thirty rising 7th and 8th graders will participate. They will be selected based on their test scores.

Goals and Objectives

Goal One: To raise the level of academic achievement of rising 7th and 8th graders in science.

1. Indicator: Number of 7th and 8th graders, respectively, scoring Approaching Basic or Unsatisfactory on the iLEAP and LEAP tests decreased from 74% in 2009 to 60% in 2010.

Goal Two: To develop students' understanding of the relevance of science to their lives and increase interest in scientific endeavor by exploring careers in science.

1. Indicator: Number of seventh and eighth graders interested in scientific careers increased by 10% from the total identified in the pre-program survey.

Research/Support Materials

Doe, J. (2006). Field trips in science education. *Science Education Journal of America*, 7(4), 20-31.

Cost

Goods/Service	Estimated Total Cost	Amount Requested from LA GEAR UP
transportation	\$700.00	\$700.00
experiment supplies	\$1000.00	\$500.00
instructor pay (X) hours @ \$X per hour	\$800.00	\$500.00
total	\$2500.00	\$1700.00

We hereby request \$1700.00 to fund the Exploring Careers in Science after-school program at John Doe Middle School. The remaining \$800.00 will be paid by district funds.

Deliverables

1. lesson plans for hands-on after-school activities
2. test scores
3. invoices
4. photos
5. pre/post tests
6. pre/post surveys

Note: All information presented in the Example Initiative Proposal is fictitious and intended for illustrative purposes only.

Deadlines

Application packets are due to your LA GEAR UP Staff Coordinator by the end of the fourth quarter, **May 31, 2009**. If you need assistance in completing any part of the proposal, contact your LA GEAR UP Staff Coordinator.

Context for LA GEAR UP School Enhancement Grants

The following text from the 2008-2014 Louisiana GEAR UP proposal provides the context for the School Enhancement Grants under the Cooperative Agreements and Contracts, Project 500.

PROJECT 500: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS

For the past five years, LA GEAR UP has worked closely with schools and districts to identify targets of opportunity which allow modest GEAR UP monies to leverage the schools' own resources and priorities for reform. In areas of concurrence, LA GEAR UP provides modest *School Enhancement Grants* to advance special initiatives consistent with School Improvement Plans. Typically, schools use these grants to support such efforts as tutoring, positive behavior support, field trips, Freshman Academies, or special curricular needs they would otherwise be unable to sufficiently finance. Cooperative Agreements have proven to be a wise management tool; they are reviewed annually to track progress made in achieving mutual goals and to reassess the need for further intervention and funding.