



Funded by
APS and The Phoenix Suns



2008-2009 School Year
Grades K-12

Education Mini-Grants Program





Program Information

APS and the Phoenix Suns are pleased to announce their Education Mini-Grants Program. Grants will be awarded to support innovative, student-based educational projects that enhance learning with the objective of improving student achievement. Projects should have the ability of being replicated or adapted by other schools. Projects addressing energy, the environment, reading, mathematics or character education will be considered.

Who may apply: The program is open to educators who teach in public schools in the APS service territory.

Grants are available in three categories: grades K-6, 7-9 and 10-12. Each category will be judged separately in its own category.

Grants up to a maximum of \$500 each may be awarded. A total of up to \$50,000 is available for grants for the 2008-2009 school year. Funds may be applied to equipment, materials and field trips that would not normally be provided by the school or school district. Refer to the **Budget** section of this application for specific guidelines.

Funding will be provided to the school or school district for distribution to the teacher recipient, who will use the grant money in accordance with the approved budget. The school and/or school district is encouraged to continue the project after this source of external funding expires. Project funds must be spent on designated items within the project year.

Members of the Education Mini-Grants Review Committee, will review the applications based on the following criteria:

- a creative, innovative solution to a stated problem or issue as it relates to energy, the environment, reading, mathematics or character education
- a positive contribution to achieving higher student achievement and motivating students to learn
- clearly defined and valid objectives and outcomes that are realistic in terms of what is expected to be accomplished
- activities must be well-defined, specific and directly related to project goals
- appropriate to grade level and includes direct student involvement
- budget must be itemized and reasonable
- plans for evaluating the project must be realistic and quantifiable
- have the ability to be replicated or adapted by others

All publicity released, information brochures, printed programs and public reports pertaining to the Education Mini-Grant must include acknowledgment of APS' and the Phoenix Suns' support.

Grant applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis through Friday, January 30, 2009. Announcement of grant winners will be made on a monthly basis. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Louise Moskowitz at (602) 250-2291 or e-mail her at: louise.moskowitz@aps.com. For additional copies of the grant application, visit our web site at www.aps.com/grants.

Send applications to:

Louise Moskowitz
APS
P.O. Box 53999, M/S 8010
Phoenix, AZ 85072-3999
Fax: (602) 250-2113
louise.moskowitz@aps.com

Creating A Winning Project Proposal

Funding will be provided for projects which enrich the standard curriculum or school activities in ways that directly affect students' day-to-day school experiences. Proposals should encourage creativity and increase student motivation to learn. Each proposal should address high priority needs at the school and show that funding does not supplant school district responsibilities. Projects must be grade specific.

Priority will be given to projects designed to do one or more of the following:

- develop new teaching strategies and methodologies that motivate students and keep alive their eagerness to learn about energy, the environment, reading, mathematics or character education
- improve basic learning skills
- improve cultural awareness to better prepare our students for a global economy
- to help underachieving students reach their potential
- involve the community in the improvement of education
- provide meaningful and measurable parental involvement activities
- address critical issues facing Arizona including education, economic, energy and environmental issues

Considerations:

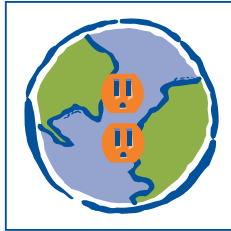
- grants cannot be used to supplant school and/or school district responsibilities
- grants cannot be used for food and/or refreshments
- proposals for equipment and/or field trips will be considered only if they are an integral, vital component of a larger strategy and is NO MORE THAN 25% of the total budget
- outside consultants and experts will be supported only if the expenditure is a necessary part of the overall objective of the project and is NO MORE THAN 25% of the total budget
- each educator may submit only one proposal per academic year

The Project Description section should clearly define the need for the project and what you hope to accomplish. Tell about your anticipated results. What competencies you will address. Describe your target population and the reasons why your project will meet its needs. Explain how your project is different in creativity and innovation as compared to other projects. Include how you will communicate with your school community about APS' and the Phoenix Suns' investment in your school should you be awarded a mini-grant.

The Activities Planned section should clearly and concisely describe the project activities, the sequence, the scope and interrelationship of activities, the staff, community and students involved.

The Project Evaluation design will be closely examined since one of the goals of the Committee is to share the results of programs. Programs that fail have just as much value to education when shared as those that succeed. For each objective, include a measurement indicator that would quantify results: surveys, pre-/post-tests, students portfolios, running records. Questions to ask yourself are: What do you want your students to learn? and, How do you know if your students have learned it?

Budget items should be related to activities. Include specific information, such as kinds of materials and equipment needed, sources of supply and costs. See Considerations above as it relates to equipment, field trips, outside consultants and experts.



APS/Phoenix Suns Education
Mini-Grant Application
2008-2009 School Year • Grades K-12

Instructions for completing Application: All applications **must be typed** and follow this format. You may attach one additional typewritten page if needed to properly describe the project.

Project Title _____ Funds Requested _____

Check category applying for:

Energy ____ Environment ____ Reading ____ Mathematics ____ Character Education ____

Subject/grade level _____ Number of students involved _____

Date project will begin _____ Date project will be completed _____

School _____ School District _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

School Telephone _____ Home Telephone _____

E-mail _____

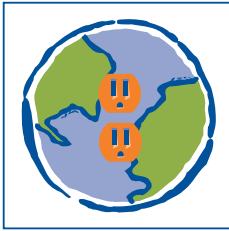
Applicant _____ Position _____

I understand that the awarding of all grants, and the amount of grant, shall be at the sole discretion of the Education Mini-Grants Review Committee. If I am awarded a grant for the project herein described, I agree to submit a written report, including recommendations for improvement and copies of materials developed, within thirty (30) days of completion of the project. APS and the Phoenix Suns shall have the right to disseminate to others the information and materials developed.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Principal Signature _____ Date _____

Application continues on the next page



APS/Phoenix Suns Education
Mini-Grant Application continued
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A. Project Description - include educational objectives and outcomes. What do you hope to accomplish? What specific academic competencies will you be addressing? How is your project different in creativity and innovation from other projects? Should you receive funding, how do you plan to let your school community know about APS' and the Phoenix Suns' investment in your school?

B. Activities Planned - include how your students, parents and community will be involved; indicate which activities are "hands-on" or laboratory based.

C. Project Evaluation - include your evaluation design that is objective and quantifiable in determining if your objectives and outcomes have been achieved and whether your project was a success.

D. Budget Detail - in "line item" format, list your expenses, their cost and how they relate to your activities. Remember for field trips, equipment/instrumentation, and outside consultants and experts, expenses cannot be more than 25% of your total budget. Funding will not be provided for teacher stipends or textbooks.

| Item | Quantity | Total Cost |
|------|----------|------------|
|------|----------|------------|

How Related to Activities:

Do...

- type your application
- collaborate - apply as a team
- try to develop projects which will be self-sufficient at the end of funding
- remember evaluation is an important component of the grant
- integrate technology; however, purchase of computers or major equipment in and of themselves is discouraged

Look for...

- grammatical and spelling errors
- logical inconsistencies
- unjustified budget items
- unsupported statements

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A mini-grants program providing funds for creative and innovative projects that are student-based with the objective of improving student achievement, projects that address energy, the environment, reading, mathematics or character education will be considered.



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