**Spencer County Public Schools**

**Part Two: Expanded Details**

1. The Crusade’s mission, “To help children overcome physical, mental, emotional, and medical challenges” is much like our own district ECE mission. In Spencer County Public Schools we have a team of professionals dedicated to providing services for students who need specifically designed instruction. Our goal is to help these children overcome their limitations and challenges in the hope that they will achieve at high academic levels and become productive citizens in society.

All of the items requested are going to be used to help children overcome their limitations and challenges. These items will not only allow students with special needs an opportunity to access the curriculum in all settings, but also provide our unique classrooms with needed resources for our students. With our quickly growing student population resources can be sparse for all students, but this grant is a much needed source to help our students.

1. Spencer County Public Schools provides a wide range of educational services to students with a variety of disabilities, as defined in current eligibility guidelines set forth in the Federal (IDEA 2004) and State (KAR 7.07) Regulations. Our district provides services in the individual student’s least restrictive environment, ranging from alternative school settings, to self-contained classrooms, to resource classrooms, and to collaborative services.

Our staff challenges each student to work towards achieving individual success. Teachers support student achievement in all areas, with a focus on incorporating the use of technology to promote independence and enhance fundamental reading, writing, and math skills. In addition, related service personnel collaborate with teachers to provide services for students to further develop the skills necessary to accomplish their individual education program goals.

Current data (assessment scores, progress monitoring, reading intervention programs) has shown that our ECE students are struggling the most academically in the area of reading. We as a district have a fundamental belief that reading is the core for all other academic areas. This is why our #1 priority request is for an ECE Reading Specialist who would work solely with our ECE students in this core area. The technology items requested through this grant will provide students and staff the necessary resources to enhance the educational experiences of special needs students. Related service personnel work with many of our students and they need the necessary resources to enhance the learning of special needs students. Lastly, our Preschool which has a special needs population of 50% is in dire need of new and updated playground equipment. All of the items requested are difficult to purchase with limited funding and resources that are available to a small, rural district that is growing at a rapid rate.

1. **Request #1: ECE Reading Specialist Total = $42,500.00**

The job of the ECE Reading Specialist will be established for the purpose/s of improving ECE students’ success in reading by implementing district approved curriculum. The ECE Reading Specialist will also document teaching and student progress, activities, and outcomes along with developing lesson plans, modeling the necessary skills to perform assignments, providing a safe and positive learning environment, and providing feedback to students, parents, and administration regarding student progress, expectations, goals, etc.

The position is to be created based on the need to help our ECE students in the area of reading. Current data (assessment scores, progress monitoring, reading intervention programs) has shown that our ECE students are struggling the most academically in the area of reading. As stated above, we as a district have a fundamental belief that reading is the core for all other academic areas. The amount asked for is based upon the salary of a certified teacher with 5-years of experience in our district. The amount could vary depending on the person that is chosen for the position.

JOB DESCRIPTION

This job reports to the Director of Special Education and building Principals in which they will serve students (SCES and TES). The essential functions of the ECE Reading Specialist will include, but is not limited to:

* Assists other teachers (Gen. Ed. and ECE) for the purpose of implementing district reading curriculum with our ECE students.
* Collects, analyzes, and prepares data for the purpose of interpretation and reporting to the district, state, and federal agencies.
* Demonstrates methods required to perform assignments for the purpose of providing an effective reading program for our ECE students and addressing the needs of those students.
* Develops and coordinates reading programs cooperatively with classroom teachers for the purpose of supporting teachers and ensuring student success.
* Directs paraprofessionals and/or instructional assistants for the purpose of maximizing their efficiency and meeting work requirements, providing an effective school program, and addressing the individual needs of students.
* Instructs ECE students (e.g. individually, group sessions, etc.) for the purpose of improving their success in reading and assessing reading concepts and proficiencies through a defined course of study.
* Maintains confidentiality of all information for the purpose of protection of students, staff, parents, and the district.
* Manages student behavior for the purpose of providing a safe and an optimal learning environment.
* Mentors classroom teachers and support staff for the purpose of supporting staff in the instructional process.
* Monitors student progress for the purpose of providing student feedback on a regular basis to students, teachers, and parents, and determining interventions for the ECE students.
* Prepares teaching materials and related reports (e.g. grades, attendance, anecdotal records, etc.) for the purpose of implementing lesson plans and documenting student progress.
* Provides assistance in selecting and administering valid, reliable reading assessments and screening instruments for the purpose of providing an effective school program to increase the reading skills of ECE students.

**Request #2: High School Reading Interventions Total = $5050.00**

a. Saddleback Timeless Classics Leveled Readers $350.00 from School Specialty
This selection covers items being read in the classrooms grades 9-12 and can be utilized for summer reading and used with MSD program.

b. Saddleback Timeless Classics Leveled Intervention Activities for Timeless Classics from School Specialty $1350.00
This is an intervention and skills practice activity set that goes with the books above and can be used in Content Reinforcement as well as our Enrichment/intervention time. This classroom set contains activities of classic literature that is leveled and includes 6 copies of 36 different titles and activities.

c. Academy of Reading from School Specialty $3000.00 This is a computer program that is good for up to 50 users. It is a reading intervention program for grades 2nd-12th, but will be primarily used at the high school level. The cost for a 12 month subscription is $3000

d. Read & Write Gold from Texthelp $350.00 Read & Write Gold (RWG) is a literacy software program for struggling readers and writers, students with learning disabilities, and English Language Learners. It helps students access the support tools needed to reach their potential, build confidence and independence, and succeed.

**Request #3: Technology Total= $14,550.00**

1. DELL full size Laptops (6) $6500.00

These laptops will enable us to set up mini labs so we can efficiently run reading and math technology programs for numerous grades. We have found the younger children & students with visual impairments work best on the full size screens and keyboards. We are currently using several laptops purchased by WHAS funds that are as many as 10 years old. As one can imagine (while they have served us well), speed and reliability are not descriptions we can use for these machines. Our school/district has purchased numerous software & online licenses for us to use: however we are experiencing a severe time loss issue while dealing with inadequate technology. Our student’s do not have time to lose. The laptops have been more effective for our students in using such programs as I-Ready, Moby Math, My Reading Coach, etc.

1. Apple IPOD Touch (12) $3600.00

IPODs provide engaging technology that reaches many types of different learners. They are for use with every our older students to increase reading and math skills. You are able to modify the content and task with the IPOD to reach specific students on specific goals. The IPODs would increase the flexibility of use within the school setting, and make the technology available to a greater number of students.

1. Dell Desktop Computers (6) $3850.00

Student use desktop computers have been requested for our younger students that cannot hold a laptop in their lap. The desktop computers allow the student to sit in a chair and access educational software at their age or ability level. These younger students also need a regular size keyboard, which a mini laptop cannot provide.

1. Blue Tooth Switch to IPAD device from RJ Cooper $600.00

This blue tooth device allows you to connect switches to the IPAD.  RJ Cooper has created a blue tooth device that will allow switches and the IPAD’s that we already have to interact. For our lower functioning students this can act as a communication system. This product was demonstrated at the annual CEC Conference (Louisville, KY) in late November 2013. The district already has the necessary switches and IPADS to use this blue tooth device.

**Request #4: Preschool Playground Equipment Total= $6000.00**

The Value of Outdoor Play

Many exciting and wonderful experiences happen for children involved in outdoor play. For young children, especially identified with disabilities, outdoor play is critical for development and growth. When children play outdoors, they take risks, play freely without needing to achieve or learn, and interact with peers. These opportunities for cooperating, sharing and problem-solving occur during outdoor play. Research has shown us that unstructured physical play is a developmentally appropriate outlet for reducing stress in children’s lives. Physical activity improves children’s attentiveness and decreases restlessness. During outdoor play, the mind, body, and spirit are untied. Children gain confidence as they figure out how to navigate their immediate environment safely. This confidence lays the foundation for the courage that will enable them to eventually “navigate” their own lives.

Listed below are items for the Spencer County Preschool Program, outdoor learning environment. The items will provide opportunities for the children to grow, explore, and socialize. They are new items to our playground and will provide new experiences. The Preschool currently provides services for approximately 54 children who have been identified with developmental disabilities. Our goal is to prepare all children with the skills to enter kindergarten “ready to learn”. The outdoor classroom is one more environment to provide those needed learning opportunities. Attached are pictures and write-ups for the Preschool equipment in the grant.

1. Exer-Rider from Play with a Purpose (4) $1290.00

No motors, no batteries, no pedaling. Currently the Preschool (120 students) has 1 of these riders for the children to use daily. It provides a physical challenge for young special needs children to use upper body strength for trunk extension and rotation while promoting stability and upper extremity reciprocal movement. It is a fun and exciting way to include gross motor movement and strength for the young child in daily outdoor play.

1. Roller Racer Caddy from Play with a Purpose $180.00

One person can easily store all equipment and move the Exer-Riders from indoor security storage to outdoor play. This caddy will hold up to 4 Exer-Riders for storage.

1. Moon Rock Climber from School Specialty $2800.00

Free climbing structure designed to create challenging and educational climbing experiences for young children. $2799.00

1. Skyward Summit from School Specialty $500.00

Unique climbing surfaces allowing children to climb a narrow summit.

1. Winter Viking Twin Taxi $400.00 Tricycle allowing one child to pedal and two to ride. Promotes social skills and gross motor skills.
2. Rock Lock Sandbox Packages $830.00 Sand play is an excellent way for children to experience sensory experiences while enjoying play. It provides texture, measuring skills, promotes social growth, and helps children with start and finish projects.

**Request #5: Occupational Therapy Total= $1100.00**

1. Therapy brushes from Achievement Products $50.00

These are the corn brushes recommended for the Wilbarger pressure program. The therapy brushes come with a plastic handle that snaps onto the brush. (Set of 12 + brush handle)

1. Wrapper snappers from Achievement Products $20.00

Twist, bend, and stretch these brightly colored flexible tubes into an endless body of shapes and sizes to create high pitched noises. Blow into them to make a whistling sound. This item is an excellent hand activity that provides auditory visual and tactile stimulation.

(Set of 12)

1. Air Walker from Achievement Products $350.00

Cocoon like design and spandex fabric provides a total body pressure and a feeling of safety. Excellent for sensory processing disorders. Hang from a built in swing ceiling bolt. This item includes a safety rotational device and heavy nylon strap for height adjustment.

1. Spin Station/ rotation board from Achievement Products $190.00

The spinning action of spin station/ rotation board that integrates vestibular and proprioceptive responses to improve muscle tone and balance.

1. One Leg Balance Stool from Achievement products  $60.00 Adjustable height equilibrium device develops balance and elicits compensatory forward, backward, and lateral positional adjustments.  Wooden seat.
2. Roller Racer from Achievement Products (4) $400.00

The perfect scooter for group activities. Low to the ground, children propel themselves by simply swinging the handlebars from side to side. Using upper body strength, children can go straight or move between obstacles. Can be used on hard surfaces indoors or out.

$100 per roller racer

1. Easy Grip Tweezers from Achievement Products $15.00

Encourages proper use of pincher grasp that guides the child to pick up and sort manipulatives, counters, and other small objects. A perfect pre-scissors and writing skill builder resource for teachers and occupational therapist. (Set of 12)

1. Eye droppers from Achievement Products $15.00

Eye droppers help develop pincher grasp. Fill the eye dropper with colored water and drop the liquid beads onto paper towels. (Set of 12)

**Request #6: Physical Therapy Total= $2200.00**

1. Action-based learning ladder packs from Gopher $360.00

First steps learning ladder pack has a flat rubber ladder and mat. It contains 66 content cards and instructions for grades kindergarten through third.

1. Glitter roll and music base switch from Enabling devices $140.00

This innovative switch provides hours of multi-sensory stimulation with its roller action and built in music box. The clear roller contains a potpourri of sparkling shapes. Roll it to activate the music base.

1. Achievement Rainbow Barrel from Achievement Products $740.00

Our colorful barrel is 42 inches long with a large 20 inch opening. Provides a variety of movement possibilities including rolling, rocking, and crawling. Assists with balance, coordination, spatial orientation, and perceptual training.

1. Achievement Positioning System from Achievement Prod. $430.00

This versatile wedge system provides foam comfortable positioning for children. It can be used in a variety of configurations including prone, supine, and the sideline position. It consists of two large wedges and two small wedges with hook and loop tabs.

1. Now Board from Achievement Products $490.00

A portable and affordable solution that turns any flat surface into an interactive whiteboard. Helps children to promote upright posture, reaching, standing as well as assisting in learning.

1. Ultra Fit Rubber Medicine Balls from Gopher $40.00

Pebbled solid-rubber surface offers better grip than a classic medicine ball. Firm to touch. The 4 lb. ball will bounce and has a 7” diameter.

**Request #7: Speech Therapy Total= $500.00**

1. Autism & PDD Photo Cards Verb Tense Questions $100.00

From Lingui Systems

The 240 cards with realistic photos isolate verb forms and help children comprehend, respond to, and learn to ask questions.

The 240 cards target regular past tense, irregular past tense, future tense, and present tense + infinitive verb tense. A three-level cueing hierarchy on the back of each card helps you phrase the stimulus to get the desired response. Instruction cards give additional teaching strategies, including how to begin; how to make the task more or less difficult; and cues used to elicit correct syntax, morphology, and sound production. Grades: PreK-6

1. Autism & PDD Photo Cards Wh- Questions $100.00

From Lingui Systems

The 240 cards with realistic photos are adaptable and depict a wide variety of people and situations in functional, everyday life. Teach students to generate simple to complex sentences and develop pronoun use and vocabulary. Use them for discrete trial teaching and applied behavior analysis programs. Grades: PreK-6

1. Webber® BIG Apraxia Photo Cards from Super Duper Pub. $300.00

This evidence-based card set helps to treat children with apraxia of speech by focusing on repetition of the movement sequences for speech. Includes 562 large (6" x 6") photo cards targeting 21 consonant sounds and 10 vowels. Multiple activities for sound practice on flip side of cards. In addition to targeting motor movements for speech, it also includes language activities: definitions, sentence closure, answering questions, and rhyming.

**Request #8: Sensory/ Attention Readiness Package Total= $2900.00**

1. Sensory/ Attention Readiness Package

Results have shown that our students are not coming to Kindergarten with the necessary skills. The students’ lack of readiness often manifests, in the classroom, with limited attention to task and awareness of where they should be to successfully participate in each activity. This tendency is even more pronounced with our special needs students. Therefore we want to focus on strategies and materials that will support a rapid increase in these skills.

This package will include a Concentration Station, Calm Pro, Ball chairs, Howda Hug Chair, Think and roll to allow movement in chairs in a quiet way, cozy cushions, weighted deep pressure sensory vests, an inflatable dome, and a headphone center (all from School Specialty).

This package will also include different games that will teach concepts such as controlling your anger, learning boundaries, self-control, impulse control, and how to act/ handle other situations (all from childsworkchildplay.com and marcoproducts.com).

1. **Measures of success:**

Spencer County Public Schools measures individual student success through a variety of measures, including state, district, classroom, and individual assessments. Such assessment tools provide us with valuable information on progress as related to the integrity of core instructional programs and the instructional supports in place such as: technology, reading/ writing interventions, and the other materials requested as part of this grant.

Furthermore, individual student progress in achieving IEP goals and objectives act as an effective measure for determining the success of programs and supports selected for providing intensive instructional supports based on individual student needs. These students needs include, but are not limited to the physical, educational, and therapeutically supports requested as part of this grant.

1. **Outcome from previous years grant:**

Spencer County Public Schools received a grant in the amount of $30,000 for the 2013/2014 school year. For this school year the grant was based around our districts needs for Reading Interventions and technology to provide those interventions. We were also able to update some of our equipment for our Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist as well as providing materials for a sensory room. This grant has allowed us to use these resources to enhance the educational experiences of our special needs students in Spencer County.

These resources that were provided through the WHAS Grant also allowed our special needs population an opportunity to access the curriculum in all settings. We want to thank the WHAS Crusade for Children for providing the necessary money to fund some of the projects that we needed so desperately in our rural, but rapidly growing county.