

Kirkman, Rachel

From: Cotton, Doug
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 1:22 PM
To: Kirkman, Rachel
Subject: Fw: Elem Science Grant Opportunity

Importance: High

Ms. Kirkman,

Here is the Grant information to be approved by the board on June 9.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you,

Doug Cotton, Principal
South Todd Elementary
Guthrie, Kentucky 42234
270-265-5785

From: Womack, Brian (GRREC) <Brian.Womack@grrec.ky.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Cotton, Doug
Subject: FW: Elem Science Grant Opportunity

[Here you go!](#)

Dear Superintendents, Instructional Supervisors and Principals,

GRREC will be submitting to KDE a Math/Science Partnership (MSP) grant proposal for elementary science. We would like to invite **schools listed below** from your respective districts to participate in the application process and, hopefully, the funded program.

School District	School Name	Principal Name	Superintendent Name
Allen County	Allen Co Intermediate Center	Shawn Holland	Randall Jackson
Barren County	Eastern Elementary	Will Compton	Bo Matthews
Breckinridge County	Ben Johnson Elementary	Michael Broadbent	Janet L. Meeks
Clinton County	Albany Elementary	Tim Armstrong	Charlotte Bernard
Elizabethtown Ind	Helmwood Heights Elem	Michelle Hart	Jon Ballard
Glasgow Independent	South Green Elementary	Chad Muhlenkamp	Sean Howard
Hardin County	Vine Grove Elementary	Greg Sutton	Nanette Johnston
Henderson County	Bend Gates Elementary	Deborah Haman	Marganna Stanley
Hopkins County	Earlington Elementary	Karen Mackey	Linda Zellich
Hopkins County	Jesse Stuart Elementary	Phyllis T. Sugg	Linda Zellich
LaRue County	Abraham Lincoln Elementary	Karen Downs	Sam Sanders
Marion County	Glasscock Elementary	Jennifer Brogle	Taylor Schlosser
Meade County	Flaherty Elementary	Georgia Taylor	John Milay
Todd County	South Todd Elementary	Doug Cotton	Wayne Benningfield
Warren County	Cumberland Trace Elementary	Mary Evans	Rob Clayton
Webster County	Clay Elementary	Clay Mattingly	Rachel Yarbough

In order to continue in the development of the proposal, we **need your approval** to include your school(s) as soon as possible. And, by **Friday, May 22nd**, we would like for you to identify the team of science teachers and support staff from your invited school(s) that will be involved in the project.

To be clear, the project will target science teachers from grades 3-5 (two teachers) – a “team” – who will:

- Participate in 4-6 days of science PD during the school year and 4-5 days of PD during the summer.
 - A “team” will consist of two teachers, principal, curriculum coordinator, and/or school district special populations (GT, ESL, etc.) will serve as the project/grant team over the three-year project, which will run from 2015-16 school year through 2017-18 school year.
 - Because of the nature of the work and design of the grant project, it is important to choose teachers you are committed to supporting as participants in the grant over the course of the next three years.

While the details of our 2015 proposal are still in the works, we believe our **Science MSP** projects will include:

- Content Specific PD for Science Teachers. The content focus for science will be specific to the Kentucky Core Academics Standards for Science (Next Generation Science Standards); PD will include a content “stretch” to increase teacher knowledge, as well as grade-level content and classroom level pedagogy to improve classroom practice.

- Observing / Replicating. Teachers in your teams will observe other teachers as they present demonstration lessons in real elementary school classrooms and begin to select strategies to replicate in their own classrooms. Formative assessment and data-based decision making will be integrated into each learning opportunity for teachers.
- Leadership PD (regional, embedded). As in past and current science grants implemented, principals and instructional supervisors will receive professional development around specific structures to support and guide the work. Implementation “look fors” will be shared and then observed throughout the project to help leaders better understand what effective science instruction looks like. Face-to-face (two days in the school year; two in the summer) and intentional, professional conversations at the school site will be provided, including one-on-one support by GRREC & WKU staff. **ALL learning is connected to the Kentucky Framework for Teaching (PGES) framework.**
- Data Retreat Process. As a benefit of participating in the grant, we will provide a sequential Data Retreat process to help individual schools determine areas of academic improvement and develop a collaborative, data-driven planning process. The three-day summer retreat begins with guided, in-depth prep work in the spring with each principal/assistant principal and the thoughtful selection of a school-based Leadership Team. The process will help each school recognize the “right” work to be addressed within the next school year.

Responsibilities of participating in the Science project:

- Team Selection. School and/or district administrators will select and support a team consisting of two science teachers from grades 3-5, an exceptional children’s specialist (GT/ESL), and an instructional coach (e.g. curriculum coordinator, instructional specialist). This team will participate in 4-6 days of science content and pedagogy PD during the school year and 4-5 days of PD during the summer. The instructional coach will receive additional coaching training throughout the project.
- Commitment. Participants are expected to serve on the project/grant team over the three-year period which will run from 2015-16 school year through 2017-18 school year. Because of the nature of the work and design of the grant project, it is important for administrators to select teachers who are most likely to continue teaching science in grades 3-5 throughout the duration of the project.
- Data Collection. All funded projects are evaluated by an external evaluator. In order for an effective evaluation to occur, the project requires certain data to be collected and reported to the project coordinator.

Our science project will begin in **September 2015**. We would likely hold an information session in August for school/district leaders (if funded) and begin learning sessions for both leaders and teachers in the fall.

We realize this is a lot of days for the teachers you ultimately select; however, we are hoping to build your school’s capacity for science instruction – not just improve a single teacher’s professional learning. GRREC will of course work with schools to align and connect the work with other initiatives in the state and districts, including the effectiveness framework (PGES). **We anticipate providing substitutes and summer stipends to support you and your teachers in the work.** Principals/designee will attend four face-to-face session each year and, as noted above, and participate in school-based professional conversations around the work several times a year (i.e., we come to you).

To be included in this science grant project, we list here your “next steps.”

1. By **noon on Friday, May 22**, please inform GRREC of your intentions to participate by emailing Brian Womack (brian.womack@grrec.ky.gov).

2. By **Tuesday afternoon, May 26**, please let me know the names of your science team members, including their names and the grade(s) in which they teach. Teachers will be emailed and asked to complete a brief survey requesting basic information about their teaching background and professional development experiences. This is information required for our proposal.
3. As names of participants are received, we will email each instructional supervisor, principal and teacher, providing each a required KDE commitment form, which must be faxed to GRREC with an original signature by **Friday afternoon, May 29**.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me. Also, you may certainly contact Amanda Abell by phone or email. Our contact information is listed below.

Brian Womack, brian.womack@grrec.ky.gov
270.563.2113 (w) – 270.996.1165 (c)

Amanda Abell, amanda.abell@grrec.ky.gov
270.563.2113 (w) – 270.932.1376 (c)

Thanks again for your ongoing support!

George Wilson
Executive Director
Green River Regional Educational Cooperative
230 Technology Way, Bowling Green, KY 42101
Phone: 270-563-2113
Fax: 270-563-2208