**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.

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, observations) has shown that our young ECE students are struggling the most academically and behaviorally. This is why our #1 priority request is for an Early Intervening Academic and Behavioral Specialist who would work solely with our youngest ECE students (Preschool and Kindergarten).

The technology items requested through this grant will provide students and staff the necessary resources to enhance the educational experiences of special needs students. 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. See below for greater details on each specific item.

1. **Request #1: Early Intervening Academic and Behavioral Specialist**

**Total= $45,000.00**

The job of the Early Intervening Academic and Behavioral Specialist will be established for the purpose/s of improving our youngest ECE student’s success academically and behaviorally. This position will work with our Preschool and Kindergarten ECE students who have physical, emotional, intellectual, and/or sensory impairments. Within the classroom, early intervention specialists are responsible for designing, implementing, modifying, and evaluating interventions to positively impact the developmental needs of these young students with disabilities. Early intervention specialists must have strong collaboration skills, a broad understanding of medical terminology, high energy level to interact with young children, and an arsenal of effective intervention strategies.

The position is to be created based on the need to help our youngest ECE students both academically and behaviorally. Current data (assessment scores, progress monitoring, observations) has shown that our Preschool and Kindergarten ECE students are struggling more than any other age group of students. 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. The essential functions of the Early Intervening Academic and Behavioral Specialist will include, but is not limited to:

· Assists other teachers (General Ed. and ECE) for the purpose of implementing academic and behavioral interventions 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 our ECE students and addressing the needs of those students.

· Develops and coordinates 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 academically and behaviorally.

· 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 assessments and screening instruments for the purpose of providing an effective school program to increase the skills of ECE students.

**Request #2: Technology Total= $30,000.00**

1. Lenovo Student Laptops (up to 100) $20,000.00

These laptops will enable us to set up mini labs so we can efficiently run reading and math technology programs for numerous grades. We 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. IPAD Pro 12.9” display (10+) $10,000.00

IPAD’s provide engaging technology that reaches many types of different learners. You are able to modify the content and task with the IPAD to reach specific students on specific goals. The IPADs would increase the flexibility of use within the school setting, and make the technology available to a greater number of students. The 12.9” IPAD’s have a larger screen that can be used with our visually impaired students.

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 and the position 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 student 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 2016/2017 school year in order to purchase a van to be used by our Special Olympics team, Community Work Transition program for juniors and seniors with special needs and our Moderate/ Severe disability community based instruction program at the middle and high school.

We received a grant in the amount of $30,000 for the 2017/2018 school year. For this school year the grant was based around our districts needs for improvement in updating some of our aging technology. 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.