Franklin-Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation, Inc.
GRANT APPLICATION COVER PAGE

Applicant Name & Position: Michael Barnum, Simpson Elementary Principal

School/Organization Involved: Simpson Elementary

Amount Requested: $2,602.50

Purpose of Funding: Typing Club Writing Supplement

Targeted Grade Levels: 1st through 3rd grades

Number of Students/Persons Affected by Grant: approximately 750
Academic Area: Keyboarding

Brief Summary of Project (2 - 3 Sentences):
Computer and keyboarding skills are essential for students in today's academic environment and their future careers. To help SES students develop these important skills, this initiative focuses on enhancing the basic keyboarding abilities of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-grade students. With support from FSEEF, SES has successfully implemented Typing Club, a supplementary keyboarding program, for the 2024-2025 school year. Students have the opportunity to participate in weekly sessions aimed at improving their touch typing proficiency. Each student has been provided with their own online account, granting access to 650 typing games, typing tests, and instructional videos. Typing instruction and practice have been incorporated into the students' weekly Special Area sessions and daily Morning Work. The primary goal of this keyboarding project is to improve students' typing speed and accuracy, ultimately preparing them to communicate, collaborate, and problem-solve effectively in a digital world. We look forward to continuing to use this resource in the 2025-2026 school year.

Address of School/Organization: 721 Witt Road, Franklin, KY 42134

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Grant Cycle Submitted: March 2025

Required Signatures

Simpson County Schools:

Principal/Supervisor _Michael Barnum_   Date _3/20/25_

Superintendent _____ Date _04-14-25_

Board Representative _____ Date _04-14-25_

Grant Preparer _Sam Northern_   Date _3/20/25_

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CREATE YOUR GRANT APPLICATION.

A. NARRATIVE: I. <u>SIMPSON COUNTY SCHOOLS AND PERSONNEL</u>

1. *Describe the problem(s) or need(s) addressed by this request. Be sure to:*
   a. *State your school's mission.*

Simpson Elementary is dedicated to providing its students with a high-quality education. We firmly believe that every student possesses the potential to excel, and our goal is to ignite each student's readiness for success. Implementing weekly supplemental keyboarding practice cultivates students' interest in technology and enhances their ability to conduct research, communicate effectively, and collaborate online. Students regularly utilize Chromebooks for tasks such as taking Accelerated Reader tests, completing online assessments, and practicing supplemental math and reading skills. The students at SES will greatly benefit from additional support in developing proficient typing skills. Funding from the FSEEF for a year-long subscription to Typing Club will offer students weekly opportunities for keyboarding practice, which is essential for success in and out of the classroom.

   b. *Clearly describe how this program/project will help your school to carry out its mission.*

Typing Club is an exceptional supplemental keyboarding program designed to enhance SES students' typing skills and overall technology use. The program offers a series of engaging, easy-to-follow lessons that include speed and accuracy assessments. These lessons cover traditional keyboarding techniques, starting with the home row and gradually progressing to help students improve their typing speed and endurance. Typing Club incorporates common letter patterns, challenging words, and captivating content to support and enhance students' reading and spelling abilities.

The Typing Club project at SES is designed to support students in developing and showcasing the technology skills outlined in the Kentucky Academic Standards for Technology (K - Grade 12). According to the Kentucky Department of Education, strong technology skills enable students to effectively apply and demonstrate their learning. This initiative aligns with the Technology standards vision, reflecting SES's commitment to ensuring that every student engages in high-quality, standards-based learning. By participating in the Typing Club initiative, each student at SES will have the opportunity to engage in technology-driven learning, which will equip them with the essential skills needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

2. *Describe in detail the specific activities and strategies of this project.*

Typing Club is an interactive and engaging platform designed to help students learn touch-typing, which involves using all fingers to type on a keyboard without looking at the keys. It offers comprehensive lessons starting from lowercase letters to using capital letters, numbers, and even symbols, covering nearly every aspect of standard keyboarding. The platform is designed to be safe for younger children, as it does not include any social features.

Typing Club will be utilized as a supplementary keyboarding program during a weekly Special Area class and

for daily Morning Work as determined by the Homeroom teachers. The program offers valuable insights into student performance, accessible to both teachers and students. It provides 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-grade students with feedback in the form of a gold-star rating on a five-star scale. Additionally, more advanced students will benefit from Typing Club's detailed feedback, which includes information on speed and accuracy, strong and problem keys and fingers, practice time, and instant feedback while typing.

At weekly professional learning communities (PLCs). Homeroom and Special Area teachers will analyze reports to determine students' typing progress. With FSEEF's donation for the paid (Pro) version of Typing Club, SES teachers can access the Course Progress Grap to get a bird's eye view of students' performance in all lessons in a given course. Teachers can identify which students are mastering each lesson and which need to go back and repeat certain lessons. Based on the data reports, teachers will be able to collaborate on the design of differentiated instruction to meet the needs of each learner.

FSSEF funding will enable every student to access keyboarding instruction and practice in the 2025-2026 school year. Typing Club will propel students towards competencies that highlight learning academic standards in other content areas, such as reading, mathematics, social studies, and science.

3. _Incorporate a timeline for implementation._

- Re-subscribe to Typing Club's Pro plan (June 2025)
- Provide staff with training on how to support student learning through Typing Club's special features and reporting tools (July/August 2025)
- Communicate SES's goals for using Typing Club with students and their families (August 2025)
- Begin implementation of Typing Club during a weekly Special Area class and Morning Work (August 2025)
- Spend time in PLCs to analyze Typing Club usage, instructional tools, and student performance data (Ongoing)
- Provide coaching during instruction observations and debriefing sessions (Ongoing)
- Provide support throughout the year on district Learning Community Days (November, February, and March)
- Share student outcomes with families at parent conferences (October and February)
- Celebrate students' typing progress with certificates of achievement (Bi-weekly)
- Monitor and compare student performance from the beginning to the end of the school year (April 2026)
- Assess program effectiveness and implementation (May 2026)

4. _Describe in detail the expected outcome/goals of your project and how these outcomes will be measured._

The expected outcome of this project is that students will gain keyboarding skills, speed, accuracy, and typing best practices (e.g., posture). Through Typing Club's 200-friendly, colorful videos and interactive lessons, students will learn all about the alphabet and practice sight words, word families, and simple sentences. They will also learn to type lowercase letters, capitals, numbers, and punctuation.

Since the supplemental keyboard program's implementation in August of 2024, we have seen improvement in students' alphabet recognition, dexterity, eye-hand coordination, and overall familiarity with technology. Typing Club provides students with differentiated typing courses for each grade level so they experience a variety of content and typing experiences.

- In first grade, students focus on letter recognition, finger dexterity, and associating fingers with letters on the keyboard.

- In second grade, students are introduced to all letter keys and limited punctuation marks.
- In third grade, students are introduced to all letter keys and punctuation marks and experience extensive typing practice with standards-aligned content.

Typing Club's reporting tools help teachers monitor student learning and plan subsequent lessons according to each learner's skill level. Students' engagement with the keyboarding curriculum throughout the school year provides an entry point into keyboarding knowledge, skills, and competencies and empowers them to demonstrate their learning from grade-level content (phonics, reading, writing, etc.) in a digital format.

B. EVALUATION

1. *Please describe the evaluation method you will use to measure the success of your project. What questions will be answered?*

We will continue to use qualitative and quantitative data to measure the success of this project. Qualitative data will include faculty needs surveys, PLC discussions/agenda notes, and parent feedback. Responses from faculty needs surveys will reflect teachers' perceptions of Typing Club as a keyboarding supplemental program. Notes on our weekly PLC agendas will record teachers' conclusions from data analysis and instructional next steps. Parental feedback and general impressions will be collected at parent-teacher conferences and via digital surveys.

- The 2024-2025 qualitative data gathered from student feedback and observations reflect a highly positive perception of Typing Club. Many students have reported feeling more confident while typing their answers on Chromebooks, expressing excitement about their improved speed and accuracy. Additionally, students have shown significant progress in navigating various online tools. This positive shift illustrates the program's effectiveness in fostering essential technology skills among our young learners.

Quantitative data from Typing Club reporting tools will measure students' performance on typing accuracy, practice time, and typing speed. Data will reveal the level of progress students have made in key areas of computer typing. Additionally, we will measure the project's success by incorporating more digital writing pieces per grade level. Students' demonstration of Kentucky Academic Standards for Technology will also be monitored throughout the implementation of Typing Club.

The table below displays schoolwide growth from the beginning of the school year in August 2024 to March 2025.

Timeframe	Average Speed	Average Accuracy
August 2024	9 Words Per Minute	93%
March 2025	11 Words Per Minute	98%
Growth:	**+2 Words Per Minute**	**+5% Accuracy**

C. BUDGET
1. *Provide a detailed budget of how you plan to use the requested funding to ensure the success of your proposed project. Applicant may attach estimates, quotes, or data collected online to support budget projections. Attachments DO NOT replace a constructed project budget.*

Funds awarded by the Franklin-Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation will enable SES to utilize the Typing Club Pro supplemental keyboarding program throughout the 2025-2026 school year.

Item	Price
Supplemental Keyboard Program Typing Club Pro Plan (Subscription for 2025-2026)	$2,602.50

Attached to this application is a quote for Typing Club Pro for the 2025-2026 school year. The subscription plan includes an individual account for every student enrolled.

Simpson Elementary School and Simpson County Schools will support teachers' ongoing professional development in using Typing Club by dedicating time and resources to PD events, Learning Community Days, and PLCs. Simpson Elementary School and Simpson County Schools are committed to supporting teachers' continuous professional development in utilizing Typing Club. We will allocate dedicated time and resources to organize training and collaboration during Learning Community Days and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). The Simpson County School Tech Department will play a crucial role in supporting this initiative by ensuring students' Chromebooks are optimized to run Typing Club efficiently. Furthermore, the department will ensure that Chromebooks can seamlessly connect with existing online resources such as Clever, our district's single-sign-on platform. This seamless integration will give students easy access to Typing Club and other educational resources, enhancing their overall learning experience.

2. *Please indicate any other sources of funding you are seeking for this project and the amounts anticipated from those sources.*

Revised 08/18

D. APPLICATION SUMMARY

Simpson Elementary School's Mission Statement: To develop students to become life-ready in an environment where everyone is honest, responsible, respectful, and safe.

FSEEF's Mission Statement: To financially support the Simpson County Board of Education in providing a level of education excellence through learning opportunities for all residents of Simpson County, Kentucky. The foundation acts as a funding partner to help meet the education challenges facing the school system.

Our proposed Typing Club project aims to offer comprehensive keyboarding and word-processing instruction to students across all grade levels. Throughout the 2025-2026 school year, our students will partake in weekly guided keyboarding sessions during a Special Area class, focusing on best practices for computer typing. This supplemental program encompasses over 600 lessons, systematically guiding students from mastering individual keys to proficiently handling numbers and punctuation. The lessons are designed to incorporate instructional videos, educational games, and cross-curricular content, such as spelling, vocabulary, composition, and digital citizenship. With the invaluable support of FSEEF, SES students will embark on a journey toward computer literacy, aligning with the core values of state technology standards, ELA objectives, and SES's overarching vision and mission. Simpson Elementary School thanks you for taking the time to consider our proposal. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.