



ARKANSAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY MINIGRANT PROGRAM

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for the Middle School Science Minigrant program must teach at least one classroom section of science in grades 5 through 8 in an Arkansas public school. The funds must be utilized to improve hands-on and inquiry-based science curriculum in those classrooms during the regular school day. The applicant's school must reside in one of the following counties:

Arkansas	Hot Spring	Poinsett
Benton	Independence	Polk
Boone	Jackson	Prairie
Bradley	Lafayette	Randolph
Clay	Lawrence	Saline
Cleveland	Logan	Scott
Crawford	Lonoke	Searcy
Crittenden	Madison	Stone
Dallas	Nevada	Union
Drew	Newton	Van
Franklin	Perry	Washington
Grant	Pike	Woodruff
		Yell

Teachers at schools in other counties must contact the [Arkansas Community Foundation](#) for application information.

Application Procedure

Online application forms are available at the Authority website.

The Minigrant application deadline is **September 10, 2009**.

If more than one grade level is taught by the applicant, he/she may apply for multiple awards addressing science benchmarks for each grade level. These will be considered as completely separate proposals. Individual teachers may receive no more than three awards per year.

Proposal Review Process

A review committee will evaluate and score the proposals using the following criteria:

1. All sections of the application must be completed.

2. The applicant must have a current Arkansas teacher license.
3. The activity description should include:
 - a. Activities that are interesting, creative, innovative, or related to current issues;
 - b. Goals and objectives aligned with specific frameworks;
 - c. Inquiry based and hands-on activities or projects;
 - d. Engaging students and creating interest in science.
4. The proposal includes evaluation measures for each planned activity to determine either successful use of materials, increase in student knowledge, or positive changes in student behavior or attitudes toward science.
5. The proposal indicates a plan for addressing the learning needs of the students.
6. The proposal indicates *Why* the activities are needed in the classroom.
7. The proposal includes a budget for requested materials that does not exceed \$500. The item list should include appropriate consumables or science kits. Classroom textbooks, paper products, and instrument purchases are not allowed.

The activity descriptions will be weighed more heavily than district needs or demographics. However, when project design is equal, priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate greater classroom need based on demographics, disabilities or disadvantages. The review committee will review all applications with evaluation priority for total award distribution across multiple grades.

Award Guidelines

The Minigrant award is based on the understanding that all state and local rules, regulations, and procedures governing this project have been and will be followed. The grant recipient is responsible for any violations of such requirements. If a school receives multiple awards, each award must be kept in a separate account by the school for audit purposes.

If at any time during the 2009-2010 school year the applicant (teacher) is not employed at the awarded school, the purchased materials will remain in the intended classroom or department. The school will notify the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (Authority) of another teacher, named by the principal, to fulfill the intent of the project and to assume reporting responsibilities.

An online report will be submitted to the Authority by June 1, 2010. This report will include a summary of student activities, demographic data and any other information requested by the Authority Board of Directors.

The award funds may be used only for materials listed in the proposal budget and/or directly related to the activities described in the proposal.

Should any publications or presentations result from a Minigrant project, the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority, the National Science Foundation, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation should be acknowledged and a copy of the publication should be forwarded to the Authority.

The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority staff or evaluators may contact a school and request an on-site visit with the teacher or principal.

