Making Reading Engaging Reflection 2023/2024 Escondido Education Foundation By Sierra Satterstrom

I'd like to reflect on the incredible grant, "Making Reading Engaging" that I received from the Escondido Education Foundation for the 2023-24 school year. This grant was originally designed to purchase a handful of book series that I could use in my reading groups. I planned on buying 6 sets of seven book series that are aligned with the Science of Reading and are written to meet the needs of different phonics skills. After receiving the grant I was happy to discover that there was a sale going on through High Noon, the company that publishes the book. I used the funds to purchase the original books in the grant, which was about 450 leveled books, but I was also able to purchase 6 teacher guides to accompany the books. I used some of the funds to buy bins to store the books through a Donors Choose project I had written. The bins allowed me space to organize the books and access them quickly and efficiently during my interventions.

As an intervention teacher I work with students in 8-week sessions, so I was able to reflect and make changes throughout the school year, instead of having to wait and modify it for next year. Initially I planned on using a book as I focused on the skill I was teaching. For example, if I was teaching the /sh/ sound, I'd use a book that aligned with it. However, I found that the series worked better if we read it sequentially instead of bouncing around between books and series. Additionally, the students started to bond with the characters or the story and they wanted to see what would happen next in the story line. Instead, I looked at a few of the upcoming skills and selected a book series that would address multiple skills that we were going to teach. For example, if I was teaching /sh/, /th/, and /ch/ and noticed that all three skills were in the Magic Belt series, I'd use that book set with the students in that group. Each group would read a different book series. For each session, I'd change the book series so if students were in more than one session with me, they'd be able to read multiple series.

My intervention results were astounding this year, which I will largely credit the engaging books that the students didn't have in the past that were exciting and accessible. I didn't have the books during my first session, but after session two I learned that my students' i-Ready test scores went through the roof. 87% of my students' reading level went up between 1-3 grade levels! After the third session, my students' scores went up and close to 60% of my students went up a grade level. My heart was bursting with pride. Not only that, it was heartwarming seeing the students excited to read. If we didn't get to their book one day due to other skills, they were disappointed that they'd miss a day of reading. Their vocabulary grew because the books introduced them to words they'd never heard before, and they bonded with the other students in their groups over what was happening in the storyline, which encouraged dialogue and comprehension skills.

I set up the book series so that they'd be in the corridor that I share with the other intervention teachers. All three of us were able to read the books with our groups. One teacher had to use it more so as a read aloud because her students were lower than what the books

provided, but they still grew as readers as they heard the story and incorporated their skills into what was happening in the book. The 3rd intervention teacher used the intervention books for students to read independently as an early finisher activity. It was great seeing them utilized in multiple ways. Having the teacher guides accompany them was great because I could have them for students to work on after we read a book. They could do it independently or with a partner, while I assessed a student on a skill we were teaching. The teacher workbook activities directly aligned with the phonics skill or followed other literacy skills for students to strengthen their mastery of a specific reading skill.

Overall, this project did more than I could have hoped for. The students not only improved academically, but I think it also showed them that they *could* read and it could be enjoyable. I hope they take that reading outside of my classroom and become readers independently of my classroom. Thank you so much for supporting me and Conway's students. I appreciate all of your passion to provide resources for our community.

With gratitude,
Sierra Satterstrom



The Dr. Mike Caston Innovation Awards

Budget Page Instructions 2023-24

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Project Title	Making Reading Engaging
Total Dollar Amount Requested: (\$5,000, \$2,500 or \$500) Suggested amounts listed; grant requests can be less or a bit more than the dollar amount listed.	\$4,188.67
Subject Area. Please specify (e.g. math, science, art, technology)	Language Arts
Indicate grant type: 1) Classroom Project, 2) Team Project (at least two teachers and up to a grade level at one school), or 3) School-wide Project	School-Wide Project
Grade Level	2nd-6th grade
Number of classes that will participate	15
Number of students who will participate	60 students per trimester
School	Conway Academy of Expeditionary Learning
Applicant's Name	Sierra Satterstrom
Daytime Phone Number	(760) 432-2435
Email Address (Best for EUSD/EEF communication)	ssatterstrom@eusd.org
Applicant's Signature I agree to spend all funds in accordance with the attached budget, notify EEF of my project's timing and to submit digital images, my Evaluation, and any unused funds before the end of the school year.	
Co-Applicant's Name(s) (If applicable)	Lori Cisterna
Co-Applicant's Signature(s) (If applicable)	
Principal's Name	Tina Meglich
Principal's Signature with <u>Date</u> I have reviewed this proposal and have determined that it is in alignment with our school site plan. By signing I acknowledge this grant aligns to EUSD's standards based program and EUSD/Board of Education's educational philosophy.	

If you have any questions about the application or your project, please contact EEF Board President Carolyn Royer at eefcroyer@gmail.com or EEF Board Member Suzan Reiner at suzanreiner@hotmail.com. Be sure to put "EEF Grant" in the subject line. You may also visit the Foundation website at www.escondidoeducation.org

Creating a Just Right Space for Literacy

Help me give my students storage supplies to organize our STEM and

intervention books.

\$531 GOAL

View order status



Mrs. Satterstrom

Grades 3-5 Conway Academy of Expeditionary Learning

Escondido, CA

More than half of students from low-income households

EQUITY FOCUS At this school, more than 50% of students

My Project

I'm fortunate to have received a large quantity of books for my STEM library as well as my reading intervention books. However, when students are trying to navigate through the hundreds of books, it's hard to find a "just right" book that fits their needs. Additionally, they aren't sure where to return the book after reading it and it ends up being misplaced, which makes it harder for future students to find.

Students are more likely to find success in school when they have access to books at their reading level, and I need a way for them to navigate the library independently.

My goal for this project is to create miniature bins within our collection of books that students can use to help them find books that meet their needs. Each of the bins have a label space in the front for teachers to list the topic of books in the bin, and then within the bins there are

Write a personalized note

DEC 18, 2023



Sierra Satterstrom from California gave

This donation due to support from the Escondido Education Foundation.

Thank you for supporting our Escondido public schools!

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) matched this donation

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) has matched your contribution! This means your donation will have at least twice the impact for local students. At SDG&E, we live by our values of Doing the Right Thing, Championing People, and Shaping the Future. By investing in educational programs and projects to help empower our next generation of STEM leaders, we are building a brighter future for us all.



Write a personalized note

