

## ORACLE GRANT APPLICATION

*Please provide us with a narrative (5 page maximum) that answers the questions below. Please submit the narrative along with the Cover pages, your school's most recent standardized test scores, and documentation of the number of students who qualify for a free ore reduced-price school lunch.*

### **Narrative Response**

1. *Tell us about your community and the population you serve. For example, are you located in an urban, suburban or rural area? What are the demographics of the youth your agency serves? Please describe any particular factors that have limited access to technology for the youth you serve.*

**Demographics:** Ernie Pyle Elementary Schools is an urban Kindergarten through sixth grade traditional school located in Central Fresno. Pyle Elementary provides a unique program to meet the needs of its culturally diverse student population, which consists of approximately 47% Hispanic, 27% Anglo, 13% African American, and 12% Asian and 1% other. Ninety percent (90%) of the school's 757 students qualify for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program, 25% have been identified as Limited English Proficient, and 13% participate in Special Education program (9% Resource Specialist Program and 4% Special Day Class. Pyle's staff includes 37 teachers, 1 Resource Teacher, 1 Literacy Coach, 1 Teacher on Special Assignment in Technology, 2 Administrators (a principal and vice principal/program manager), and 30 classified employees. The Pyle Elementary School Program includes mainstreaming and structured English immersion with strong primary language support from bilingual instructional assistants, and bilingual teachers.

**Access to Technology:** The low economic conditions of the surrounding community limit access to technology. Pyle Elementary School is the primary resource for technology for a majority of the students, families and community.

2. *Plan & Vision: Tell us how technology fits into your curriculum. Start by giving us a sketch of how students at your school currently use computers and Internet technology. What computer equipment do you currently own? Next, describe your vision for how technology will be further integrated into your curriculum in the future. As concretely as possible, describe your plan for realizing this vision, including objectives and how you propose to reach them. If your school is following a District Technology Plan, briefly describe the district-level plan, and then tell us how this plan is being implemented in your school.*

Pyle currently has 775 students and has 36 IMac computers that meet the minimum requirements for this grant. Pyle also maintains a list of old computers. These computers are older IMacs, older Apples, and refurbished PC's in small number. Fourth through sixth grades have the newest and fastest operating systems and are required to have a least four computers with word processing capabilities and server access. Kindergarten through third grade classrooms have at least one working IMac that has varied operating

systems and access to the server. Consistent with the District plan of integrating curriculum and technology, Pyle places a priority on literacy and technology development, especially focusing on literacy center. Continued staff development for all staff members, certificated and classified, by the technology TSA will develop computer literacy skills so that the Pyle staff will be able to combine the use of various technologies to produce materials and/or units of instruction to enhance the teaching of the curriculum.

**Technology Vision** -Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) has an Education Technology Plan, which has been approved by the FUSD Board of Education and the California Department of Education. Ernie Pyle Elementary School's technology plan or vision is aligned with district's technology plan. Consistent with the District plan of integrating curriculum and technology, Pyle places a priority on literacy and technology development, especially focusing on literacy centers. Teachers and students use software programs that supplement the Language Arts and English Language Development (ELD) Programs. These programs assist with oral, written, and literacy skills, especially for our Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. Access to Pyle's multi-user Local Area Network (LAN) provides testing data and assessment programs that link classrooms to classroom and classrooms to the world via the Internet and intranet. Every classroom has at least one computer connected to the Internet. Pyle has integrated the Renaissance Reading and STAR Assessment programs to each classroom. These two programs are nationally connected reading assessment tools that integrate technology into the regular Language Arts program. The programs test and then place students at reading levels and then provide ongoing reading levels and provide ongoing reading assessment and leveled reading comprehensive tests. Each program provides individual teachers with student data that helps direct individual instruction and goal setting strategies. In the future Pyle plans to purchase additional software programs to further integrate technology into the curriculum. Both school and District place a priority on grant acquisition and allocation of available funds towards technology and curriculum integration.

### **Technology Plan Fresno Unified School District and Ernie Pyle Elementary School**

**Mission:** To provide an educational program with high expectations for all to learn the academic, social, and emotional skills needed to become lifelong learners.

**Vision:** A learning environment that inspires in our students and families the passion and the power to make positive life choices by becoming architects of their future.

**Technology Vision:** To provide opportunities for students to become superior, highly motivated, and self-directed learners through critical thinking, effective communication, and utilization of technological literacy.

**Strategic Goals:** District's projected implementation- 2004

## **1. Improve student learning and performance through effective use of technology.**

**Objective:** Pyle will incorporate learning opportunities that will provide distance learning, video conferencing and online course work that will be available for intervention and support of individual student learning needs.

**Objective:** Pyle will meet at least 80% of their target school profile for technology, with a priority given to providing a computer in every learning environment, which meets minimum district hardware and software standards for student and teacher use.

**Objective:** Every Pyle student at every grade level will have opportunities to develop and use identified technology skills and tools in keeping with state and local standards.

**Objective:** For each grade level and content area, technology best practices will be aligned with district content standards to support student learning. Grade level and content appropriate electronic resources and online learning opportunities will be identified and made available to all teachers to support content standards and individual student needs.

## **2. Increase effectiveness and efficiency of instruction**

**Objective:** A student information system will provide real-time access to attendance electronic grade book, and standards tracking.

**Objective:** Tools to collect, manipulate and report data to support data-driven instruction will be available to all stakeholders.

## **3. Enhance district and site operations to support classroom instruction and management**

**Objective:** District provided systems would be in place to support business operations, Human Resources management, facilities and operations management.

## **4. Increase parent and community awareness and involvement in the educational process**

**Objective:** Information will flow seamlessly through a coordinated communication system.

**Objective:** Extend access to electronic resources to all areas of the community through community resource centers, business access points; extended school hours and community partnerships to bring low/no cost access to all stakeholders.

**Implementation Plans** - Implementation of the technology plan will be based on site evaluation of technology needs. Needs will be determined based on:

- Student testing data, which will help identify curriculum areas that need, continued support, support that can be provided by integrating curriculum software that is part of the language arts adoption.
- Inventories of current technology, which will provide information about the limits and capabilities available to Pyle's computers. This information controls purchasing of software, Internet access, and the server access.
- Input by FUSD Technology Action Group, which uses school district data pools to identify areas of curriculum focus, or need while at the same time keeping school sites up to-date technologically and computers operational.
- Site committees that plan for future needs based on student demographics and site-specific requirements like LEP or ELL students.
- Implementation of district approved management and student information systems software, which monitors attendance, grades, testing data, and student's achievement.
- Regularly scheduled professional development for the technology TSA and Language Arts Literacy Coach that will be provided by District Technology Services, which will facilitate the implementation and integration of technology at Pyle.

3. *Infrastructure & Resources: Prior to completing this part of the narrative, please thoroughly review the Facility Infrastructure Requirements on our website, under Grant Seekers & Grantee Support.*

Pyle Elementary School has connected all classrooms to a primary server located at the school site. Each room has been equipped with no less than four ether net, CAT 5 outlets and each room is capable of handling a computer center for small student groups. Pyle has also been approved for the construction of a media center that will house a library, technology lab, conference rooms, and workspace for teachers. Pyle is directly linked to the Internet; classrooms are direct through the server to an intranet at the Fresno Unified School District Web page. (<http://intranet.fresno.k12.ca.us>) Pyle operates through an OS X Macintosh operating system that is run through a Lucent Technologies Definitely R6csi Enterprise Communications Server that can easily handle thirty more computers. The electrical systems capacity has been upgraded to support future growth. Pyle has recently been wired with fiber optics but needs computers and hubs to have functional classroom centers. These centers are a focus in our classrooms for core curriculum support; Pyle plans to use the technology/media center for whole class instruction, and teacher/parent inservice and workshops. The media center's projected completion date is the summer of 2003.

Currently there is funding for a technology Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA) that provides student and teacher instructional development in conjunction with the maintenance and upkeep of the server and all computer/technology equipment. This TSA also provides inservice that support integration of technology with curriculum. The TSA provides whole classroom instruction, staff instruction, and individual needs based

instruction on software, classroom computer use, data retrieval, and technology related questions.

Fresno Unified School District also provides technology services for maintenance, repair, and school site technology service. Site budget allocations will reflect technology as a priority and purchases will be made as needed funds permit. Ernie Pyle's technology plan is directed toward decreasing the student to computer ratio to at least a four to one ratio in all grade levels. Pyle is constantly looking to increase and fund technology projects through grants and the allocation of funds from Pyle's site budget. The district actively pursues technology related state and federal grants.

The future multimedia center will incorporate digital hardware and integrate audio//visual equipment. The integrated audio/visual aids with technology and multimedia will produce site generated video and real time programs for whole school and specific class presentation.

4. *Is there any additional information you would like to communicate to us?*

Technology is an essential component of providing quality education for all Pyle Elementary students.

**Documentation for eligibility is attached.**

Ernie Pyle Elementary School appreciates the opportunity to apply for support from the Oracle Foundation and thanks you for your consideration of our application.