



# Spring Branch Education Foundation

J. Landon Short Mini-Grants for Educators

## SBISD - Educator Mini-Grant Application

Note: *This general information page is for contact and processing purposes only. It is withheld from the judges until evaluations are completed. Hand written applications will not be accepted.*

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### General Project Info:

Project Title:	Filling Educational Gaps in th	Project Category:	S.T.E.M.
Subject Area:	Special Education Math	Number of Students Impacted:	50
Grant Amount Requested:	<b>\$ 750.00</b>		

### Project Synopsis: Provide a brief overview of your proposed project, desired outcomes and how the requested resources will affect the impact of this project.

As special education teachers, we have learned the challenges of teaching a group of students who are in a pull-out math class due to the tremendous gaps in both knowledge and ability. During the 2014-2015 school year, we have been fortunate enough to have been given 15 individual student accounts to a math website called IXL. However, the annual subscription to that website is up for renewal and the special education department is requesting help to provide individual IXL accounts to all of our pull-out students for this coming school year. We are also needing dry erase pockets and student dry erase markers. These have been used in the past with great success, but our dry erase pockets have started to fall apart through constant use and the markers are expensive and difficult to replace on limited school funds.

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### Project Objectives:

#### What do you expect students to accomplish as a result of this project? Clearly define the goals for student learning, participation, and growth/development.

The use of those donated IXL accounts this past school year has played a key role in the growth we have seen in many of the pull-out math students who used them. These students have gaps ranging from disabilities that have kept them up to 5 years behind their general education peers, as well as those students who are literally unable to focus in a general education classroom but are able to perform on-level when provided with the modifications in teaching that they need. IXL.com is a web-based software containing math skills from Pre-K through High School. After providing whole-group instruction on whatever TEKS are on the roadmap, a teacher can assign the specific skill, at the specific grade level, that each student needs in order to progress towards mastery of grade-level material. IXL allows the student to keep track of their own progress which can be a great motivational tool as well as builds self-accountability in the student. If the student answers a problem correctly, the software tells them they did great and they can see their score increase. If the student misses the problem, IXL.com offers a very easy explanation of how to

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Explain how you will know if the above mentioned goals have been accomplished. What will have changed as a result of this project?

The goal of individualized student growth, motivation, and self-accountability will be evidenced by their ability to progress towards mastery of the grade-level TEK. The instruction is differentiated to each student's specific need, speed, and ability level. A student making great progress can move to a higher level. A student who seems unable to grasp a concept can be moved back to work on a remedial skill that is needed for them to progress towards the set goal. For those students who had access to the IXL accounts, progress charts showing mastery of each skill is updated by the students themselves and provides a visual means of holding the individual accountable for their progress. The dry erase boards are a great way for the teacher to monitor what each student is doing. The writing is large, easy for the teacher to see from across several desks, and allows the teacher to see the areas of difficulty that the students may run into.

How does the project support the Spring Branch T-2-4 Goal to double the number of our students who successfully complete a technical certificate or military training, or a 2- or 4-year degree?

Anything that helps our special education students reach their potential, whatever that may be, will help improve their chances to be able to participate in continuing education opportunities. When instruction is differentiated to meet each student's individual needs, closing those educational gaps becomes more of a reality and can open doors for many of our special education students.

Which one of SBISD's Core Values does your project most closely align with or support, and why?  
Every Child, Collective Greatness, Collaborative Spirit, Limitless Curiosity, Moral Compass

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### Project Description/Activities:

Provide an outline or timeline of the project's scope and sequence.

This would be a year-long project working towards growth of every student. Data collected in the classroom as well as historical reports run by the teacher from IXL would be a tool for the ARD committee to help determine proper placement and growth of each student. The only time this project will run out is when the IXL subscription ends. Then we will have to try to find the funding again to maintain access to this great tool.

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### Project Creativity:

The funding for this grant is designed to support unique and innovative project ideas. Please describe how the requested materials or resources contribute to the creativity of your teaching and learning plans.

This project is aimed at solving the problems of filling educational gaps, motivating students, and building a stronger work ethic in our students. This is the daily, hourly challenge of anyone in the field of education – providing each student with the opportunity to be the very best they can be. These materials will provide another tool to meet our goal of student success.

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### Budget Request:

*(Not to exceed \$500.00 for individuals, and \$750 for a team)*

List specific materials, equipment, outside experts, transportation, etc. Estimate costs where not known.

Note: **DO NOT** include items available from the school or school district.

Item 1:	50 Student IXL accounts	Item 1 Cost:	<b>\$ 415.00</b>
Item 2:	Student set of Dry Erase Pockets	Item 2 Cost:	<b>\$ 70.00</b>
Item 3:	330 Dry Erase Markers	Item 3 Cost:	<b>\$ 265.00</b>
Item 4:		Item 4 Cost:	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
Item 5:		Item 5 Cost:	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
Item 6:		Item 6 Cost:	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
		Total Grant:	<b>\$ 750.00</b>

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