



Placer Hills Education Foundation Mini Grant Request Form

Request Date	09-02-2011		
Desired Funding Date	November		
Scheduled event details (if applicable)	Date :	Time:	Location:

Project Title	Mrs. Sindel's Phonic Ear Sound System		
Project Goals	To enhance the listening skills of our children and to keep my voice		
Requested Amount Maximum request amount \$2,500	\$ 1,500		
School Year	2011-2012		
Requestor	Name	Mrs. Kathy Sindel	
	Title	Kindergarten Teacher (24 years) all at PHYSD!!! & all in Kindergarten ☺	
	Phone	Work : (530) 878 – 4052	Cell: (530) 320-4218
	Email	Sindel@phusd.k12.ca.us	
School Board Approval Date	school board approval received on July 2011		
Benefiting Grade(s) & Classes	Kindergarten room 2 at Sierra Hills School		
# of Benefiting Students	24 per year (On Thursdays with our Buddies = 50 students) ☺		

Detailed Project Description Attach supporting literature; Include supporting URLs in this description	<p>I would like to get a FrontRow Pro Digital Audio System for my classroom. It has speakers, a pendant microphone that the teacher wears around our neck, and a student hand held microphone that the students may take turns talking into.</p> <p>See all the info online at: http://gofrontrow.com/en/classroom</p>
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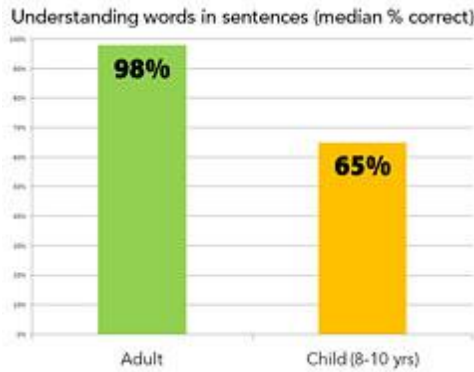
How does the project directly relate to the instruction and benefit of students?	<p>FRONTROW IMPROVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Student achievement</u> ○ <u>Attention, behavior, & management</u> ○ <u>Student equity</u> ○ <u>Teacher fatigue</u> ○ <u>ESL performance</u> ○
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How will the project continue to increase student performance?

Children aren't short adults — and *can't* listen like we do



The key to understanding why [FrontRow sound systems](#) — also known as 'soundfield' systems — work rests in recognizing that kids are not smaller versions of their parents and teachers. Until children are about 13 years old, the brain structures needed to help them effectively listen in less-than-ideal conditions aren't fully developed — with some aspects not maturing until the end of high school. Because adults are so much better at listening accurately in noise and over a distance, the impact of the acoustic environment in K-12 classrooms is almost always underestimated by teachers, administrators, and parents.

But there's more. Unlike adults, young students have immature language skills and lack the vocabulary needed to expertly fill in the blanks when they miss a new word or word ending. Children are surprisingly poor at using context to reconstruct what their ears have missed — a task that adults perform easily and unconsciously.

Does the project address the required school curriculum? If so, how?

To understand 100% of speech sounds, children need to hear the teacher's voice spoken 15 decibels louder than the background noise. But in a typical K-12 classroom, the teacher's voice is barely 5 decibels louder than surrounding noise — so only those children closest to the teacher can get the most information with the least amount of effort. Research over the last decade has shown that **kids farthest from the teacher can miss up to 40% of what's being said**. When it's that hard to keep up, it's no wonder they stop paying attention, cause disruption, and perform



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	<p>more poorly.</p> <p>At least 45% of the class day requires listening. In other words, teachers use kids' <i>ears</i> as a pathway to their brains, especially in the lower grades where children are gaining basic skills. Even with good behavioral control of classrooms to minimize student-generated noise, a teacher can do little or nothing to reduce seating distance and background noise.</p> <p>The limitations of children's' brains and coping skills, plus the obstacles of noise and distance from the teacher, combine to erode speech perception, attention, behavior, and overall classroom performance.</p>
<p>How will the project positively affect the school or district?</p>	<p>A <u>FrontRow sound system</u> lets students throughout the classroom hear without undue effort – leaving them mentally more ready and able to learn. Numerous studies have reported tremendous benefits from FrontRow implementations, including greater <u>student achievement</u>, easier <u>classroom management</u>, and improved <u>teacher energy</u>.</p>

<p>Project Funding Details</p> <p>Itemize project costs and all funding sources; include supplies, equipment, subscriptions, facilities, personnel, etc.</p> <p>Add as many line items as necessary</p>	Description	PHEF \$\$	Other Funding Source	Other \$\$	Total
	Pro Digital System	1/2	Parents	½	2,996.13
	Total Cost				\$ 2,996.13

<p>Consequences if request not approved</p>	<p>I might lose my voice very soon and I will have to take a leave of absence from teaching; Maybe even change careers. I love teaching Kindergarten!!! (I don't want to terminally damage my vocal cords as many educators have done.)</p>
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I hereby certify the information provided above is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge

Mrs. Kathy Sindel

 Requestor

09-02-2011

 Date

Mr. Fred Adam has approved this sound system and so has our Board

 School Principal

09-02-2011

 Date