

SCHOOLGRANTS BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2005

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NEWS AND RESOURCES FOR GRANT WRITERS

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Learn more about the
[SchoolGrants Biweekly
Newsletter!](#)

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SchoolGrants Update

<http://www.schoolgrants.org>

It appears that the threat of SchoolGrants being shut down due to the denial of service attack that was recently launched against it has been averted. Because the attacks occurred several times during 2004, I have to assume they will continue in this new year. At any time, the site may have to be taken down – at least for several months. I will keep all subscribers updated through this newsletter and the SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter should it be necessary.

Did You Know?

<http://www.schoolgrants.org/newsletter2.htm>

Did you know that the content in the free newsletter appeared several months ago as a small portion of an issue of [SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter](#)? If you are a serious grant writer, you should consider subscribing to the *Biweekly Newsletter* so that you will receive timely information twice each month. The subscription price is only \$45/year.

I have posted a new sample of the SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter. It includes the information in the December 15, 2004 issue. Some links have been removed in the sample copy. If you'd like to see it, go to <http://www.k12grants.org/sbn.pdf>. You must have the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader to access it.

Coming Soon! Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Workshop

<http://www.cdpseminars.com>

Frank Klimko, editor of Aid for Education Report (AFE) and I are presenting an audioconference on February 2, 2004 called *From FOIA to Funding*. The federal Freedom of Information Act can give you access to a wealth of invaluable but not readily available information that can make all the difference in your federal grant quest —provided you know the rules and how to navigate regulatory, procedural, and personnel barriers that can readily stymie your efforts.

During the 75-minute audio-conference, you'll learn:

- What to know before using a FOIA in your grant process

- Cost-effective alternatives to the FOIA process
- How to properly write your FOIA
- What to look for in applications you get
- What you can and can not obtain
- How to overcome barriers, rejection and more!

If you know the ins and outs of FOIA, getting that valuable information can be easier than you think! Your entire staff can gather around a speakerphone to hear the audio-conference for one low price of \$179 (which represents a \$50 savings available only to SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter and/or AFE subscribers). If you register before January 27, the cost is only \$159! If you do not subscribe to either of the two publications, your cost will be \$229 if you register after January 27 or \$209 if you take advantage of the early bird special.

You'll receive informative handouts to download from the AFE website prior to the audio-conference. In addition, you can also send in questions you would like answered before the audio-conference. Time will also be provided to ask questions during the presentation. Space is limited. CD Publications and SchoolGrants Biweekly Newsletter subscribers will receive priority and the special rates shown above.

[Congress Approves Federal Budget](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/)

With an overwhelming majority in both the House and the Senate, the \$388 billion 2005 federal budget was passed on November 20. The 14-pound, 1000+ page bill that provides the funds to 13 federal agencies and departments for the fiscal year that began in October is one of the most stingy domestic departments have been given since the late 1990's. The President has not yet signed the bill.

A preliminary table, last updated on 11/24/04, showing figures for the U. S. Department of Education (USDoe) programs is available at <http://tinyurl.com/5vc42> (Excel) or <http://tinyurl.com/4rth9> (PDF). While total appropriations are less than requested by the President, they exceed 2004 appropriations by almost \$1 billion.

Hopefully passage of the budget will mean that we will soon begin to see the release of federal grant opportunities. Some grants will likely not be made through competition during 2005. For example, officials at the Department of Education expect that grants for the Carol White Physical Education Program (PEP), Character Education, Mentoring, and Elementary and Secondary School Counseling programs will be awarded to high-ranking applicants who submitted proposals during 2004.

[Donors' Expectations for Their Gifts](http://tinyurl.com/4pvbf)

Nonprofits and public agencies must frequently rely on the generosity of donors to provide services to others. We spend a great deal of time pursuing those donors – and sometimes making promises for programs that will be implemented should they bless us with their largesse.

The *New York Times* reports that some donors do not take it lightly when those promises are not carried out. For instance, Paul F. Glenn gave the University of Southern California a

\$1.6 million gift that was to be used for biological research on aging. He sued the college for fraud when he determined the funds were misused. He says, "This is not a donation. It's a contract, and both parties have to live up to it."

Charles and Marie D. Robertson gave Princeton \$35 million dollars years ago. Properly invested, the donation mushroomed into an enviable \$600 million fund. The purpose was to prepare graduate students for government service. Charles and Marie Robertson have passed away but now their children are demanding the return of the entire \$600 million. They are alleging that Princeton swindled their parents by taking their money and then putting little effort into soliciting or preparing students to take jobs in the federal government.

There may have been a time when donors simply gave with little expectation for how their money would be spent. Today, philanthropists are called 'a new breed.' Many demand an active role in shaping how their donations are spent and carefully scrutinizing the institutions to ensure accountability.

The *Times* article focuses on giving to colleges and universities but it is important for all grant writers and fundraisers realize that it is infrequent that gifts are made without some strings attached. If promises are made – in a grant proposal or a fundraising letter – for how the money will be spent, the onus is on the grantee or donee to ensure that those promises are met.

Drug Facts

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/index.html>

Those who are running or will be applying for programs dealing with substance abuse and/or safe schools may find useful information on the Office of National Drug Control Policy's Web site. Here you'll find facts and figures on major drug categories and special populations (including juveniles) that include links to source materials, federal drug data sources, a glossary of street terms, 2002 state estimates of substance abuse and much more.

Education Issues – The Next Four Years

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2004/11/03/11pres_web.h24.html

While the war in Iraq and other issues took priority over education issues during the Presidential campaign, we were given some hints about what we might expect to see during the second Bush administration. Below are some highlights:

- * There will be continued support for the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The Bush administration says that the law is working as intended and that student achievement is improving and achievement gaps for poor and minority students are closing. With Republican majorities in both the Senate and House, it remains to be seen how much, if any, the law will be adjusted through regulatory fixes in the upcoming years.
- * The President's fiscal 2005 budget request represents a 3% increase in discretionary funds for the U.S. Department of Education. [In past years, Congress has appropriated substantially more than the President's request for education. With the new Congress – with Republicans having the clear majority in both the House and

Senate – the possibility exists that Congress will simply approve the President's request.)

- * A Teacher Incentive Fund is likely to be created that will be used to reward 100,000 effective teachers by giving each of them awards of \$5,000.
- * An Adjunct Teachers Corps may be initiated to encourage professionals outside the field of education to teach middle and high school students on a part-time basis.
- * Highly qualified math, science and special education teachers in high-poverty schools may be eligible for a \$17,500 college loan forgiveness program – a \$12,500 increase.
- * High school students face assessments each year in grades 9-11 and states may be required to participate in the 12th grade National Assessment of Educational Progress.
- * The Striving Readers initiative, a program designed to help struggling middle and high school readers may be expanded.
- * There is likely to be an increased emphasis placed on making Advanced Placement courses more available to low-income high school students.
- * A continued emphasis on school choice and charter schools is almost certain.
- * Expect to see a continued, perhaps stronger, push toward coordinating the Head Start program with other pre-K and childcare services.
- * The Mathematics and Science Partnership program will receive a \$120 million boost that will be used to increase high school math achievement by providing teachers with high-quality professional development.
- * A \$250 million program designed to strengthen the role of community colleges in workforce development with an additional \$125 million set aside to encourage programs that allow high school students to earn college credit is likely.

According to an article in the *Boston Globe*, <http://tinyurl.com/5y2uk>, we may also see an onslaught of lawsuits filed against the U.S. Department of Education and, perhaps, state departments of education by districts that believe they are being held to unreasonable requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act.

[Seeking Funding for Playgrounds](http://www.ptoday.com/playground.html)

<http://www.ptoday.com/playground.html>

One of the more common requests for help that I receive is from parents or parent organizations that are concerned about the playgrounds at their children's schools. Playgrounds are expensive to build or renovate and they are not usually at the top of most funders' lists of priorities. Likewise, most school and district budgets are not large enough to help pay for much, if anything, in the way of playground improvement.

PTOtoday.com recognizes both the fact that funding is difficult to find and that there is a big need across the country for playground improvement. They have a Web page that is devoted to providing a one stop resource for everything you need to know about playgrounds that is found at <http://www.ptoday.com/playground.html>.

One particularly innovative school, West Parish Elementary in Gloucester, MA, designed their playground around a science curriculum. Young students learn difficult concepts of

physics while having fun. The playground is called the West Parish School Science Park. Funders who are not interested in helping pay for playgrounds may jump at the opportunity to fund a science park! Find the story at <http://www.ptoday.com/1004incredible.html>.

SchoolGrants also includes some links to ideas and potential sources of funding for playgrounds. You can access it at <http://www.schoolgrants.org/Links/playground.htm>.

Participating in the FundingFactory's (<http://tinyurl.com/6r3z4>) program is another way to help raise money for playground equipment. A recycling program, FundingFactory pays schools and nonprofits for sending them their used ink cartridges and old cell phones. This program is much less time consuming than many fundraising programs such as collecting and counting box tops and it is a great way to involve parents and the community in helping your school or nonprofit organization raise funds for needed items and/or programs. At the same time, it provides an easy way for them to dispose of items that harm the environment when discarded improperly. Check FundingFactory out – and please tell them that SchoolGrants sent you!

E-Rate – Funds to Help Defray Telecommunications Costs

E-rate can be an important source of funds for school districts. The window for filing for Funding Year 2005 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006) reimbursements opened on December 14 and closes on **February 17, 2005**. The process begins with filing a Form 470 which must be filed at least 30 days prior to completing the required Form 471. Note that it is the Form 471 that must be filed by the February 17, 2005 deadline.

Districts will be required to complete a newly revised Form 471 for Funding Year 2005. A summary of the changes to Form 471 can be found on the SLD's web site in the [Form 471 Changes presentation](#). Other training available through SLD include:

- Presentations: <http://tinyurl.com/5qpec>
- Live Web casts: <http://tinyurl.com/48md2>, and
- Recorded sessions: <http://tinyurl.com/48md2>

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

[NASA Explorer School](#)

<http://explorerschools.nasa.gov/portal/site/nes/>

Schools from across the country are eligible to apply online for an opportunity to partner with NASA in a program designed to bring engaging mathematics, science, and technology learning to educators, students, and families.

Each spring, a three-year partnership is established between NASA and 50 new NASA Explorer School teams, consisting of teachers and education administrators from diverse communities across the country.

NASA invites the selected teams to work with education specialists from NASA Centers in an effort to spark innovative science and mathematics instruction for students in grades 4 through 9. While partnered with NASA, NASA Explorer School teams will acquire new teaching resources and technology tools using NASA's unique content, experts and other

resources -- to provide exciting learning experiences science, mathematics and technology for students.

The NASA Explorer Schools program focuses on schools with a significant number of underserved students due to one or more of the following criteria. Minority (greater than 50% African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native); economically disadvantaged (Title I or greater than 40% poverty rate); individuals with disabilities; geographic location (for example: rural, urban).

Schools in the program are eligible to receive up to \$17,500 (pending continued funding) over the three-year period to purchase technology tools that support science and mathematics instruction. Stipends and all-expense paid workshops are also part of the award program (see <http://tinyurl.com/5s2du> for more information)

The deadline for submission of the [on-line application](#) for NASA Explorer Schools is **January 31, 2005**.

SCHOOLGRANTS SERVICES

AVAILABLE THROUGH SCHOOLGRANTS

[BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER](#)

If you do much grant writing for PK-12 schools or children, you will not find a better value for your money. Those who make the switch from the free Bimonthly Newsletter to the value-priced Biweekly Newsletter frequently write to tell me how glad they are to be getting so much quality information on a continuing basis.

[LET'S WRITE A GRANT INTERACTIVE CD](#)

Whether you are new to grant writing or an experienced veteran, the *Let's Write a Grant* CD is a valuable addition to your library. Dr. Sigrid Trombley, Grants Specialist at Wichita Public Schools said (in part), "If you're serious about learning to write grants, you won't find a better resource than the "Let's Write a Grant" CD that was created by and is marketed and sold by Donna Fernandez." Check out her comments and those of the NASSP at <http://www.schoolgrants.org/WriteGrant.htm#review>.

[GRANT WRITING CONSULTING SERVICES](#)

I have the expertise you need in accessing state and federal grant funds for your students. Services available range from helping you plan your program and writing a proposal that reflects *your* program plan to providing an independent review and critique of a proposal you've written.

[HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS](#)

Consider providing your teachers and administrators with a hands-on one or two day workshop to teach them how to find funding opportunities and write competitive proposals. Past clients have included Performance Institute, BellSouth, Sandersville Technical College and, one of the regional education centers in Georgia.

[Remember Me Rose School Garden Award](#)

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/rosegrant.asp>

This award, sponsored by Messenger, Edmunds' Roses and "Remember Me" Rose Gardens,

will help 20 schools establish rose gardens to commemorate the events of September 11th, 2001. Beyond their commemorative significance, each garden will also be catalyst for education in conflict resolution and mediation skills, preparing students to seek and achieve fair and peaceful solutions.

Schools or community organizations across the United States who plan to garden with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18 in 2005 are eligible applicants.

Each winning school will receive 10 rose bushes, Messenger plant biostimulant, and educational materials from NGA.

The application deadline is **January 31, 2005**.

[NASA Explorer School](http://explorerschools.nasa.gov/portal/site/nes/)

<http://explorerschools.nasa.gov/portal/site/nes/>

Schools from across the country are eligible to apply online for an opportunity to partner with NASA in a program designed to bring engaging mathematics, science, and technology learning to educators, students, and families.

NASA invites selected teams to work with education specialists from NASA Centers in an effort to spark innovative science and mathematics instruction for students in grades 4 through 9. While partnered with NASA, NASA Explorer School teams will acquire new teaching resources and technology tools using NASA's unique content, experts and other resources -- to provide exciting learning experiences science, mathematics and technology for students.

Each team member who fully participates in the residence summer workshop will receive a \$500 stipend at the conclusion of the workshop. In addition, each team member will receive two \$250 stipends for full participation in the implementation of the team action plan. Participating teachers are also eligible to earn 3-4 graduate credit hours through Oklahoma State University and/or professional development credit hours.

The deadline for submission of the on-line application for NASA Explorer Schools is **January 31, 2005**.

[Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship Programs](http://www.rmhc.org/mission/scholarships/scholarships_hacer/index.html)

http://www.rmhc.org/mission/scholarships/scholarships_hacer/index.html

The Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship Program provides financial support to traditionally underserved students (Hispanic, Black and Asian) who face a widening education gap. The goal of this program is to provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors who may need extra help getting in and staying in college.

Students must reside in a participating local Chapter's geographic area. Learn whether your area Chapter is participating by going to

http://www.rmhc.org/mission/scholarships/scholarships_hacer/index.html (Hispanic)

http://www.rmhc.org/mission/scholarships/scholarships_african/index.html (Black)

http://www.rmhc.org/mission/scholarships/scholarships_asia/index.html (Asian)

Scholarships are generally a minimum of \$1,000 and are designated for graduating high school seniors, although some local programs may award different scholarship amounts.

The deadline for the 2004-2005 academic year is **February 15, 2005**.

FINAL DETAILS

SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter is copyrighted. You are welcome to forward the newsletter in its entirety but you may not cut and paste information out of it to forward without credit to SchoolGrants. You should also not cut and paste the information from the newsletter onto your own Web page without express permission. Write to me if you wish to publish the content in the *SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter*.

Did you know you can reach thousands who are vitally interested in K12 education by advertising in SchoolGrants Newsletter? Contact me for more information if you are interested.

You can [SUBSCRIBE](#) to or [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) from the free electronic SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter by going to <http://netpals.isoft.com/archives/schoolgrants.html>. Click on the "Join or Leave the List" link and follow the steps given by the listserv software.

Thank you for subscribing to the free *SchoolGrants Bimonthly Newsletter*! Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Thanks to each of you who has helped spread the word among your friends and colleagues about the SchoolGrants site and this newsletter.