

Grant Proposal for New Computers for Oakwood Middle School

Submitted to: Renewable Energy Grant Initiative

Date: October 20, 2024

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Enhancing Digital Learning at Oakwood Middle School

Project Abstract

Oakwood Middle School is seeking \$50,000 to purchase 100 new desktop computers for our 7th and 8th grade classrooms. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve educational opportunities and prepare our students for the demands of the 21st century, this project will enable every student to have access to a personal computer for hands-on learning, research, and development of digital literacy skills. The remaining \$10,000 will be provided by our school's PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization) and local fundraising initiatives.

Statement of Need

Oakwood Middle School is dedicated to providing high-quality education to 600 students in grades 6 through 8. As we strive to prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, we recognize that access to modern technology is essential for their academic success. Unfortunately, our current technology infrastructure is outdated, and the lack of adequate resources is hindering our students' ability to fully engage in digital learning and develop the critical skills they need for the future.

At present, the school's student-to-computer ratio is approximately 4:1, with many of our computers being over 6 years old. These devices are slow, prone to technical issues, and unable to support the latest educational software and online tools that are integral to a 21st-century learning environment. Additionally, frequent breakdowns and compatibility issues have led to disruptions in classroom activities and limited access to digital resources. As a result, students often have to share computers, which reduces the amount of individual time they can spend on important tasks such as research, digital assignments, coding exercises, and collaborative projects.

In addition to these logistical challenges, Oakwood Middle School serves a diverse student population, many of whom face economic hardships. Access to modern technology is not just a luxury—it is a necessity for leveling the playing field and providing all students, regardless of background, the opportunity to develop digital literacy skills. Without proper access to up-to-date technology, our students are at risk of falling behind their peers in other districts that have made greater investments in educational technology.

In response to these challenges, Oakwood Middle School is seeking funding to purchase 100 new desktop computers for our 7th and 8th grade classrooms. By providing each student with their own personal computer for use during lessons, projects, and after-school programs, we will ensure that every child has access to the tools they need to succeed academically. The new computers will not only improve students' ability to complete assignments and engage with digital learning materials, but they will also help develop critical skills in coding, digital collaboration, and problem-solving—skills that are essential for their future success in high school, college, and the workforce.

This project is critical for the success of our students and for ensuring that they are equipped to thrive in an increasingly digital world. The requested funding will provide Oakwood Middle School

with the resources necessary to create a more equitable, engaging, and effective learning environment.

Project Description

Oakwood Middle School currently serves 600 students in grades 6 through 8, with a student-to-computer ratio of 4:1. While our teachers incorporate digital resources into daily lessons, outdated technology is severely limiting the effectiveness of these efforts. Many of our current computers are more than 6 years old, resulting in slow performance, frequent technical issues, and software incompatibility. As a result, students often have to share devices, leading to delays and reduced access to technology.

To address this challenge, we propose the purchase of 100 new desktop computers equipped with up-to-date processors, software, and peripherals to support our STEM curriculum and digital learning initiatives. These computers will be distributed to 7th and 8th grade classrooms and will be available for student use during class and after-school programs. With these new computers, we plan to enhance our students’ ability to complete assignments, engage in interactive learning, and prepare for high school and beyond.

The new technology will also allow our teachers to utilize modern educational software and tools, including interactive learning platforms, coding programs, and online collaborative projects. These resources will help develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy skills among our students, better equipping them for future academic and career challenges.

Goals and Objectives:

- 1. To increase student access to modern computers in the classroom.
 - a. Objective: Purchase 100 new desktop computers, ensuring that every 7th and 8th grade student has access to a personal device.
- 2. To enhance digital literacy and STEM education.
 - a. Objective: Equip classrooms with updated technology to support the teaching of STEM subjects, digital literacy, coding, and online collaboration.
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Project Timeline:

Phase	Timeline	Milestone
Phase 1: Planning	December 2024	Finalize computer specifications and vendor contracts.
Phase 2: Purchase	January 2025	Order 100 new desktop computers.
Phase 3: Installation	February 2025	Set up and install computers in classrooms.

Phase	Timeline	Milestone
Phase 4: Training	March 2025	Teacher training on utilizing new technology in the classroom.
Phase 5: Full Operation	April 2025	Begin full use of computers by students in lessons and projects.

Sustainability

Once the computers are installed, Oakwood Middle School is committed to maintaining them for at least five years. The district's IT department will provide ongoing technical support, and we will allocate a portion of our annual budget to cover regular software updates and minor repairs. Additionally, the new computers will improve our ability to access cloud-based applications and software, reducing future hardware demands.

Our school will also continue to foster partnerships with local businesses and organizations to help sustain technology initiatives, ensuring that our students have the tools they need to succeed academically and professionally.

Evaluation

The success of this project will be measured by the following metrics:

1. **Increased Access:** Ensure that all 7th and 8th grade students have daily access to a personal computer in the classroom.
2. **Improved Academic Performance:** Monitor student progress in STEM subjects and digital literacy through assessments, projects, and teacher feedback.
3. **Teacher Engagement:** Track the usage of digital tools and educational software in the classroom, with teachers incorporating new technology into at least 80% of their lessons.

We will also seek feedback from both students and teachers to evaluate the effectiveness of the new computers in enhancing learning experiences.

Conclusion

The need for updated technology at Oakwood Middle School is urgent, and we believe this project will have a profound impact on both student outcomes and teacher effectiveness. With your generous support, we can ensure that every student has access to the tools they need to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

We are excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the [Foundation's Name] to make this project a reality and are happy to provide any additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to the possibility of working together to enhance educational opportunities for our students.

Oakwood Middle School
456 Oakwood Lane, TX 75001
Oakwood, TX 75001

October 20, 2024

ABC Foundation
13 Hill Street
Boston, MA 02116

Subject: Grant Proposal for New Computers for Oakwood Middle School

Dear Johann,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of Oakwood Middle School, where we are dedicated to providing our 600 students with the educational tools and resources they need to thrive in the 21st century. We are seeking a grant of \$50,000 to purchase 100 new desktop computers for our 7th and 8th grade classrooms. These updated computers will significantly enhance our students' digital learning experiences and help us close the technology gap in our school.

Currently, our student-to-computer ratio is approximately 4:1, and many of our existing computers are over 6 years old. These outdated devices are slow, prone to technical issues, and unable to support the latest educational programs. As a result, students often have to share computers, which limits their ability to complete assignments, engage in interactive lessons, and develop essential digital literacy skills. For students in underserved communities, such as those attending Oakwood, access to modern technology is critical for providing equal educational opportunities and preparing them for future academic and career success.

With this grant, we plan to purchase 100 new desktop computers, ensuring that each 7th and 8th grade student has access to their own personal device during lessons and projects. These new computers will allow us to enhance our STEM and digital literacy curriculum, provide hands-on learning experiences, and integrate cutting-edge educational software. They will also equip students with essential skills in coding, digital collaboration, and problem-solving, all of which are necessary to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

The total cost for this project is \$60,000, and we are requesting \$50,000 from [Foundation's Name] to cover 83% of the total cost. The remaining \$10,000 will be funded through contributions from our school's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and local fundraising initiatives. We are confident that with your support, we will be able to significantly improve the learning environment at Oakwood Middle School and ensure that our students are equipped with the tools they need to succeed.

Thank you for considering our request. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal in greater detail and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Your support will have a lasting impact on our students and help us prepare them for a bright, successful future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Williams

Principal

Oakwood Middle School

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