

Northwest Regional ESD FOUNDATION

Supporting Special Education

Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, & Washington Counties, OR

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PRESS RELEASE

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Local Foundation awards 22 grants benefitting students with special needs in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Washington county school districts

The Northwest Regional Education Service District Foundation, under the direction of President Yuen Chin, has awarded \$19,152 in grants to local school districts for projects in special education and at-risk programs. The grants support the Foundation's mission of helping children who have barriers to learning.

Since 2006, the foundation has awarded 351 grants totaling \$304,172, making a difference in the lives of 42,789 young children and students with disabilities. The grants are focused on our two funding priorities:

1. Birth through age 5 Services: Identification of and services for children with varying degrees of disabilities including autism, hearing and visual impairments, speech-language needs, and those who are medically fragile.
2. School age special education and behavioral programs for young children and students kindergarten to age 21 with developmental delays, and psychological, emotional, and behavioral issues.

FULL LIST OF AWARDS (alpha by county)

CLATSOP COUNTY

Astoria School District School District

Applicant: Cindy Sapp, Astoria Middle School

\$398 to purchase wiggle seats and exercise balls to use as alternative seating in the school's special education resource room. The majority of the 32 students are eligible in the areas of autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and have difficulty maintaining focus. These purchases will help students self-regulate sensory input and use excess energy while completing tasks.

Astoria School District School District

Applicant: Whitney Randall, Special Programs Office

\$1,875 to purchase an established vending machine route to provide students in Clatsop County's high-needs special education consortium classroom a practical way to develop vocational and applied academic skills. The complexity of the skills developed through managing the route range from simple restocking and customer service to more complex business management skills. Students' responsibilities will increase as they progress through high school, and transition to a vocational program.

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Applicant: Stacie Peeler, Autism- Regional Programs

\$1,800 to provide training and resources to build skills for Clatsop County families with children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Parents of children ages 0-21 will receive a solid base of understanding of ASD and evidence-based treatments and interventions. The grant will also support building a resource library that focuses on issues families face at home, and resources to assist daycare providers in caring for children on the spectrum.

Seaside School District

Applicant: Meredith McGrath, Seaside Early Childhood Special Education

\$200 to refurbish an abandoned raised garden bed - actively engaging students the process and reinforcing academic social and emotional concepts through garden-specific lessons which will include nutrition, colors, counting, and qualitative and quantitative concepts.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Jackie Bergerson, Autism-Regional Programs

\$1,000 to establish a sensory equipment library to allow teachers and parents in Clatsop County to check out and trial materials for students who struggle with sensory differences. Often families and schools need to try out different equipment to find the right fit for students. The opportunity to “try out” a variety of equipment and gathering data to see if the equipment makes a positive change for the student, saves the district and families resources. Equipment will include seating adjustments, sensory input equipment, environment blocking items, fidgets, and weighted vests and blankets.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Angie Harrington, Special Student Services/ELC

\$1,800 to provide early literacy education for parents and caregivers throughout Clatsop County. The program will allow English- and Spanish-speaking families the opportunity to support early literacy development by giving them the skills to prepare young children to enter kindergarten with the necessary pre-reading skills.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Paulette Rubio/Speech Language

\$225 to provide enrichment opportunities for speech-language students in the Warrenton School District through the purchase National Geographic science exploration curriculum. Many of our students come to us with limited to exposure to the environment and limited language-rich experiences. The materials will provide additional ways to engage students in language activities such as verbal comparisons and problem-solving tasks; collaborative discussions; and tangible experiences for comprehension of abstract concepts.

Warrenton Hammond School District School District

Applicant: Kathleen Adams, Warrenton High School

\$300 to enhance the modified foods class at Warrenton High School’s special education room, where students learn and practice life skills in the kitchen.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Mary Dorry, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

\$2,440 to purchase interactive lighted tables for four ESD-run Early Childhood Special Education classroom in Columbia County (the fifth classroom has been using a light table with success). Students with vision impairments or those who use adaptive equipment can easily access the table and participate in activities with their peers. Light tables have many functional properties to enhance learning in the preschool setting, while addressing individual learning goals for students with developmental delays.

TILLAMOOK COUNTY

Tillamook School District School District

Applicant: Rachel Sip, Wilson River School

\$680 to purchase early literacy books and implement an incentive-based book study for teen parents attending the Pregnant and Parenting Program at Wilson School. The program builds parenting capacity and parent and child bonding through guided activities.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Hillsboro School District

Applicant: Anita Hansen, Imaly Elementary School

\$320 to purchase activities and materials to support the development of foundational classroom skills (using scissors, holding a pencil, etc.) for students who have been receiving special education services in self-contained classrooms, and who are now transitioning into a general education classrooms. The skill acquisition will make the general education curriculum more attainable while the safety concerns are minimized.

Hillsboro School District

Applicant: Anita Hansen, Imlay Elementary School

\$913 to pilot an intervention program using evidence-based strategies from occupational, physical, and developmental optometry therapies that support students who are at-risk and receiving special education services. The S'cool Moves program has shown to increase focus, self-regulation, and academic stamina. Grant funds will provide resources to develop small group interventions for special education students and whole classrooms interventions for three- to five-year-olds.

Grantee has also secured the mentorship of Dr. Debra Em Wilson, one of the founders of S'cool Moves to advise the team about implementation.

Hillsboro School District

Applicant: Heather Hafner, Life Skills Program, Glencoe High School

\$1,200 to support an ongoing, successful and rewarding cooking course for students attending the Life Skills Program at Glencoe High School. The program serves students with moderate and severe disabilities, and strives for each student to graduate with the skills needed to lead happy, healthy, and successful adult lives.

Hillsboro School District

Applicant: Antonia Mete, Lincoln Street Elementary

\$668 for an iPad mini to support speech-language services for students receiving special education services , creating more meaningful assignments and assessments that are tailored more directly to individual needs. The students would be challenged through stimulating activities, tutorials, and games and would even create cultural bridges for those that are still learning English through apps that support native language.

Hillsboro School District

Applicant: Annie Browning, WL Henry Elementary School

\$1,124 to purchase a set of iPads for students in the school's dual-immersion (Spanish-English) program Kindergarten through 6th grade. The ipads will impact student reading motivation, engagement and achievement in my small groups.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Ethan Akre, Cascade Academy

\$390 to enhance technology education for at-risk high school students. Grant funds will be used to purchase microcontrollers and microcomputers that will give students hands-on experience with basic electronics, robotics, and software coding - not only exposing students to technology and building important new skills, but to inspire them about the opportunities that technology offers as a career.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Gail Peterson Frey, Early Intervention

\$600 for literacy, movement, and play kits for infants and toddlers with disabilities, to encourage reading, movement and sensory exploration. The kits will a variety of books on specific themes such as zoo, trucks, food, and and supplies for each theme, such as sensory balls, scarves, musical instruments, and bean bags. This will provide parents with all the necessary supplies for several activities related to a book.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Terry Larkin, Early Intervention

\$504 to purchase passes to Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District's Indoor Play Park at the Conestoga Center for children receiving Early Intervention services and their families. The passes to the play park, with a service coordinator's support, will benefit the parent's need of meeting other parents and their child's development of gross motor and social-communication skills.

Partnership : The Conestoga Center has offered designated play time that is for Early Intervention families only, in order to reduce the number of children in the gym and possibly less "rambunctious" interactions so there may be less sensory stimulation for little ones.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Kristen Rivas, Pacific Academy

\$259 to purchase an engaging consumer math program for middle-school and high-school students with emotional, social, and behavioral needs. The online program called Adapted Mind, uses games and points to motivate students to move up from level to level. This means that students can start at different levels in math and build their skills at their own pace.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Brenda Reed, Tualatin Early Childhood Center

\$156 to purchase light covers for two classrooms at Tualatin Early Childhood Center to diffuse the lighting and support a calm learning environment. By improving the classroom setting, the students would be more able to attend, and therefore learn complex skills such as cutting with scissors and playing with peers.

Northwest Regional Education Service District

Applicant: Larissa Treat, Woodside Early Intervention

\$1,700 for a variety of early intervention sensory tools and resources for families struggling with the impact of children with with ASD and sensory processing disorders. The tools and resources will provide specific inputs that help a child self-regulate and better tolerate sensory experiences that may be overwhelming. The tools and resources would be checked out for a pre-determined amount of time, and the use monitored by an occupational therapist who knows the child.

Sherwood School District

Applicant: Chelsie Vukovich, District-wide employee working with students reciving special education serivces

\$600 purchase curriculum that addresses social and emotional deficits in students and to create supplemental activities to compliment the curriculum. The goal is to build skills for our students to better manage their social and emotional needs throughout the school day, allowing them to better access the academic curriculum and social environment. The Zones of Regulation curriculum and Social Detective curriculum are widely used by other local districts, behavior programs and Speech Language Pathologists to teach these skills to students - kindergarten through second grade.