



## 2009 *School Matters!*

Bank of America *School Matters!* grant program is intended to support and celebrate effective, creative teaching connected to Maine's Learning Results.

The Bank of America *School Matters!* grant program is designed to support and celebrate effective, creative teaching connected to Maine's *Learning Results*. In addition, this year we are encouraging grant requests to fund **transition programs** - preparing middle school students for a rigorous high school course of study and those initiatives that support students **transitioning from high school to college**. We know that these are vulnerable times for students and we want to support the innovative programs employed around the state that support student aspirations and encourage development of **transition initiatives** where there are none.

- Grants will be awarded for classroom- or school-based projects, units, programs, or lessons in K-12 public schools in all regions in Maine.
- \$500 grants will be awarded to individual teachers, or to each member of a group of teachers working together on a project up to \$1500.
- Criteria will be based on the following four areas:
  - Planning
  - Instruction -
  - Assessment
  - Parent and Community Involvement
- Applications and/or more information on the Bank of America *School Matters!* may be obtained by contacting the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education at 469-3231.

The *School Matters!* Program is funded wholly by Bank of America and administered by the Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education.



## *School Matters!*

### Grant Application Guidelines

#### General Information:

The Bank of America *School Matters!* grant program is designed to support and celebrate effective, creative teaching connected to Maine's *Learning Results*. In addition, this year we are encouraging grant requests to fund **transition programs** - preparing middle school students for a rigorous high school course of study and those initiatives that support students **transitioning from high school to college**. We know that these are vulnerable times for students and we want to support the innovative programs employed around the state that support student aspirations and encourage development of **transition initiatives** where there are none.

- Grants will be awarded for classroom- or school-based projects, units, or lessons in K-12 public schools in all regions of Maine.
- \$500 grants will be awarded to individual teachers (classroom teachers, specialists, special education, etc.) or to each member of a group of teachers working together on a project or unit. (No limit on the number of teachers per project, but maximum of \$1,500 will be awarded for any single project.)
- Multiple proposals from a single school are permitted, but individual teachers are eligible to receive only one grant *per school year*.
- Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis.
- Grants will be made to audited school accounts for disbursement to teachers as needed for project expenses.
- Notification of grants will occur as quickly as possible after application deadlines.

**Note:** Grant application cover sheet includes space for signature by principal, who should review the proposal for consistency with school goals and alignment with curriculum.

**Applications are accepted on a rolling basis**

## **Application Review Criteria:**

The following design criteria will be used to evaluate grant proposals. Projects will be judged on their overall strength in each of the **four** broad categories, not on the basis of how many specific criteria are discussed in the proposal. The project description is to be developed in a separate narrative of **not more than two single-spaced pages**. It should explain clearly how each of the four broad categories will be addressed in the project, unit, or lesson, with specific emphasis on the integration of career preparation content standards with academic content standards.

Use the following specific criteria as a place to begin your thinking about project design.

### **Planning:**

- ✓ How the project design reflects existing assessment of student needs.
- ✓ How the project will address interdisciplinary linkages among the content areas of the *Learning Results*
- ✓ How the project builds in real-world applications or experiences.
- ✓ How the project incorporates teacher collaboration.
- ✓ How the project reflects specific connections to the Maine *Learning Results* (guiding principles, content standards, and performance indicators) or local, aligned curricula.
- ✓ How the project reflects new learning or personal growth for the teacher(s) involved.
- ✓ How the program provides support to students during transitional periods in their education

### **Instruction:**

- ✓ How the project addresses the needs of diverse learning styles and levels.
- ✓ The strategies the project incorporates for engaging learners (what is the hook?)
- ✓ How the project utilizes “best practice” standards on how students learn.
- ✓ How the project employs technology creatively and effectively.
- ✓ How the project addresses affective needs or impacts classroom/school climate.

### **Assessment:**

- ✓ How project standards or expectations will be communicated (rubric?)
- ✓ The assessments the project will employ to determine whether instructional goals have been met.
- ✓ How the project assessments link to existing assessment program elements (portfolio artifacts, continuous progress toward standards, etc.)
- ✓ How assessment data will be used to inform future instruction.
- ✓ How students will reflect on their own work and growth as learners.

### **Parents and Community Involvement:**

- ✓ How parents and community will be informed and involved.
- ✓ How the project extends beyond the walls of the school.
- ✓ How project achievements will be reported and celebrated.

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## Grant Application Cover Sheet

School \_\_\_\_\_ District Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Other teachers involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested (\$500 per teacher with maximum of \$1,500 per project) \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Students \_\_\_\_\_

Project Start and End Dates \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Narrative: Please attach a description of your project, unit, or lesson using no more than two, single-spaced pages. Use the four broad categories (planning, instruction, assessment, and parent/community involvement) as organizers for your narrative.**

Teacher(s) Signatures(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(The above signature attests that the principal has reviewed the application, supports it, and acknowledges that the project is consistent with overall school goals and connects with school curricula.)

Please return application to: Dolly Sullivan, Program Director  
Maine Coalition for Excellence in Education  
PO Box 1089  
Bucksport, ME 04416  
Telephone: 207-469-3231; Fax – 469-3448; Email: mcee99@aol.com

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## Grant Application Budget Form

Category	Description	Amount
Outside Consulting Services		
Outside Performers		
Professional and Technical Services		
Professional Development		
Printing		
Travel		
Materials		
	<b>Budget Total:</b>	