

SUTEP Grant Application
October 12, 2011
Hayesville Middle and High School

“Igniting the Fire”: Motivation, Project Based, and Multi-disciplinary Learning in an Alternative Learning Program.

Narrative Description:

The Alternative Learning Program (ALP) of Clay County Schools is endeavoring to enhance the motivation, competence, and academic success of their students through the introduction of very high interest projects together with experiential cohesive learning modalities. This project driven approach serves as a hub for instruction across all academic areas in the NC Standard Course of Study as well as introduction to the Common Core State Standard Initiative.

Students with a history of academic failures as well as disruptive behaviors are included in the ALP. These work habits and behaviors did not develop overnight. A review of the student’s academic history indicates that most students began to drop in academic performance in the 4th grade with yearly deteriorations. Standard practices for academic motivation and behavioral reward have widely and largely proved unsuccessful for these students.

Unique to the Hayesville ALP is the establishment of high interest / intrinsically motivating projects as well as the use of outdoor cooperative group activities which build class cohesion, develop problem-solving and higher order learning skills.

The collaboration with WCU will enhance the ALP through the establishment of more effective behavioral management skills, innovation in developing further very high interest projects and in the development of ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of the program.

Grant funds are essential for contracting with WNC Pacesetters, Inc. for the experiential learning modalities which are a key factor in motivating our students. WNC Pacesetters provides weekly instruction and activities as well as field trips to high adventure experiences.

Our goal in the ALP is to return our students to the general school population as soon as possible with the requisite skills and motivation to be successful in that learning environment.

The effectiveness of this program will be seen in the significant improvement in the student’s grades, attendance, and statewide testing results.

We at Clay County Schools are looking forward to collaborating with WCU to provide the best education models and lasting results for our students.

Budget

SUTEP Grant

Clay County Alternative Learning Program

2011-2012

All grant funds will be used to provide experiential education and associated supplies through Western North Carolina Pacesetters, Inc.

\$100 Supplies for activities

\$650 20 experiential sessions @ \$32.50 per session

\$750 Total