Project Rationale

The Kindergarten assessment tool would provide students, teachers, parents and administrators with specific assessment data. By using an I-Pad with the Educational Software for Guiding Instruction (ESGI), students would have a fun, more efficient way to complete their individual state required assessments, leaving more time for instruction. The teacher would be able to access the data for her entire class and for individual students. Parents will receive easy to follow results that include a summary of the skills and concepts that their child has mastered and ones that are not yet mastered. This can be printed in English or Spanish, helping to make sharing information with English Language Learners (ELL) parents easier. By using the assessment data to plan instruction, the teacher will be able to close gaps in student’s learning as well as to look at overall areas of weakness in the class to improve teaching. Administrators will have a resource that generates more specific assessment data for students in the primary grades like the standardized testing in the upper grades. This assessment package would offer a way to differentiate for higher level students by building on Kindergarten skills as a student is ready to move to first grade level tasks. The assessment software would also be very beneficial for students that are being monitored through the problem solving model process. It would give the information needed to progress monitor specific interventions.

Potential for Establishing Viable School/University Collaboration

This project has potential for establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between the school and the university. In collaboration with Birth-Kindergarten (BK) Department we will be able to share with prospective teachers what assessments look like and how to use assessments to guide teaching in the Kindergarten classroom. In the next year as we begin to implement the new Common Core Standards advice and guidance would be sought from the WCU faculty in the BK Department to help create our own
assessments using the ESGI assessment program. The BK faculty would be an invaluable resource to have as we look at developmental appropriate assessments for the 5-6 year old students in our classroom.

**Potential for Enhancing Student Learning and Promoting the Development of 21st Century Skills**

The I-Pad with ESGI software would enhance student learning and promote 21st Century Skills. Student’s interaction with the I-Pad would help increase digital age literacy, inventive thinking, interactive communication and quality results, all 21st century skills.

**Impact**

Looking ahead at the Common Core Standards that will take the place of the current Standard Course of Study and be implemented next year, the potential impact of using this Kindergarten assessment tool will be extremely valuable. After getting feedback from the BK faculty my next step would be to use the software to create my own assessments to be used and modified as needed to help assess students learning based on the Common Core Standards.

**Plan for Evaluating the Project’s Effectiveness**

The project’s effectiveness will be evaluated several different ways. First, the student’s end of the year assessment data will be examined for progress. Second, a log of the time spent assessing students in the classroom where the Kindergarten assessment tool is being used will be compared to another Kindergarten classroom where the traditional method of assessment is being used. A third way that this project will be evaluated is through the use of a student rubric. Students will be able to rate their experience using the Kindergarten assessment tool in the classroom. The fourth way that effectiveness will be evaluated is through a parent survey. Parents will be asked to rate their ability to understand the results given to them that were generated by the ESGI assessment program. By compiling the student’s
assessment results, the amount of time spent assessing students, the student’s and parent’s survey results the teacher will be able to easily evaluate the effectiveness of the Kindergarten assessment tool in the classroom.

**Importance of Grant Funds**

Without funding from this grant, this purchase cannot be made because of the limited funds available for public schools. By using this type of technology beginning in kindergarten, we could truly have an impact on student learning and achievement. I hope you will consider my request for this project.

**A Detailed Budget**

Teacher’s One Year Subscription to ESGI (Educational Software for Guiding Instruction) $199.00

I-Pad 2 $499.00

Tax $37.43

Total $735.43

**Project Summary**

The Kindergarten assessment tool would provide students, teachers, parents and administrators with specific assessment data. By using an I-Pad with the Educational Software for Guiding Instruction (ESGI), students would have a fun, more efficient way to complete their individual state required assessments, leaving more time for instruction.
October 25, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support SUTEP Applicant, Joni Clement, in her grant proposal for a Kindergarten assessment tool that would provide students, teachers, parents and administrators with specific assessment data. This grant proposal includes many creative aspects that will facilitate ease in giving the Kindergarten assessment as well as ease in understanding concepts that a child has and has not mastered.

The BK Program supports this initiative and views it as a partnership that could have lasting benefits for students in the BK Program as well as Fairview Kindergarten. As assessment becomes a more ever present component of a young child’s education, it is important to develop new innovative ways to efficiently give assessments and obtain results. The proposal, Ms. Clement has developed not only would provide interventions for students who need such specific information but technology is included as a way to provide the results of the assessment and allow students to take the assessment through the use of an I-PAD. The Birth-Kindergarten Program would be willing to assist in the success of this project with regards to time, help with data collection, or finding resources.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

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