

August, 2008

Dear PBL Certified Teachers:

The Foundation is pleased to announce our new Opportunity-for-Change Grant. The Foundation recognizes that you may have programming ideas or projects that you would like to incorporate throughout the school year. Because of this, The PBL Education Foundation has developed the Opportunity-for-Change Grant.

The Foundation will award up to \$4,500 per school year in Opportunity-for-Change Grants ranging in amount from a minimum of \$100 to a maximum of \$500 each. The purpose of this grant is to offset incidental out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies and essentials to support classroom enrichment projects beyond what the district can support. Proposals should be aimed at classroom/student improvement and/or instructional enhancement. Funds may not be used for salary or work-time compensation. The grant may not be used for items that do not have a direct benefit to students. Each teacher is eligible for ONE funded grant per year

The Foundation prefers that teachers submit applications online using the form available at <http://pblfoundation.org/opportunityonlineapp.htm>. If teachers are not comfortable with that procedure, an application in PDF format may also be downloaded from the Foundation's website at http://pblfoundation.org/grant_applications.htm. These forms must be submitted by the 15th of each month (online applications will go directly to the Education Foundation and the PDF version must be given to your building principal). Building principals will review the grant requests and return them to a selection committee of Foundation and community leaders by the 30th of the month. By the 15th of the following month, the Foundation will provide funding to the PBL School District for selected proposals. Grants are expected to be completed within one year from the grant award date. Grant evaluation and sharing community-wide of the results will be part of the process. The Foundation would like to be notified when you are doing activities for which grant money was used so that someone from our organization can come to take photos for the newspaper.

Attached is a basic fact sheet on the Opportunity-for-Change Grant criteria. If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Cliff McClure or your building principal.

Sincerely,

Nancy Baird, Chairman
PBL Education Foundation Grant Committee

The PBL Education Foundation
Opportunity-for-Change Grant Program
2008-2009

Purpose: The Mission of Paxton-Buckley-Loda Education Foundation is to acquire and distribute financial and other resources that will be used for programs and projects which enhance or supplement the educational opportunities for all learners in the PBL Community Unit School District #10.

The Opportunity-for-Change Grant program will help achieve the Foundation's mission by directing support toward the following goals:

- To promote development for learners of all ages.
- To encourage employee innovation and creativity.
- To encourage school/community partnership.

Timeline:

- Applications are due by the 15th of each month with online submissions going directly to the PBL Education Foundation and PDF versions given to your building principal. The Grant committee will review the applications by the 30th of each month; grants will be announced by the 15th of the following month
- Grants will continue to be awarded each month throughout the 2008-2009 school year until the entire \$4,500 has been exhausted. Each certified teacher may request one Opportunity-for-Change grant per year. Grant requests may be for a minimum of \$100 per grant and a maximum of \$500 per grant
- Projects funded by Opportunity-for-Change Grants must be completed by May, 2009
- Final project evaluation is due two weeks after the Grant program/project is completed. An evaluation form will be e-mailed to you for completion.

Selection Criteria

The proposal must coincide with the school district's priorities, as identified by the superintendent, building principals, or school improvement team(s).

Priorities:

- Student achievement, language arts, math, social science, science, fine arts, health/P.E Technology
- Professional development
- Community partnership
- Innovative/creative projects
- Interdisciplinary approach/number of students impacted by the grant

Requirements:

All materials, equipment, and purchase services awarded by the PBL Education Foundation shall be considered property of the PBL Community Unit School District #10. Applicants whose grant projects are selected will prepare a written evaluation upon completion of the project. All funded grant projects will be publicized.