# SAMPLE

## Project Description 1

This grant application proposes a comprehensive platform of research-based instructional devices to create a ***Digital Storytelling*** environment that will link classroom literacy instruction for students in grades K-8 with enhanced library programs in five schools (three elementary and one middle school and oneK-8 school). The program will support learning for all of our students, especially special education and English Language Learners (ELL’s) through good instructional practices and additional resources and materials. The use of video and media will allow ELL’s better opportunities to learn dense amounts of information and build their understanding through organizing facts around storytelling. Creating digital stories about real life events will enable students to move from working with data and facts in history and their lives to enduring understanding and concepts. Instructionally sound connections between literacy, technology and content area studies will enable librarians and teachers to work collaboratively together to plan, implement and access specified standards-based units of non-fiction studies.

The visual nature of the digital story development will help struggling writers as well as students with special needs to visualize and overcome difficult places in text. Students will visit the library and participate in literacy/social studies workshops that are aligned to language arts and social studies curricula. The classroom teachers and the librarians will work closely together to plan lessons and ensure continuity of instruction. They will learn how to use digital video and photography to tell stories about events in history. They will utilize the graphic organizer as a tool for outlining and categorizing their concepts in a story map and will use multimedia tools such as PowerPoint to retell their stories and share them with other students. In learning how to use multimedia technology, students will address a variety of the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) standards. The process of ***Digital Storytelling*** will reinforce crucial communication skills including the ability to collaborate, publish and interact with their peers, experts and other audiences. Students will use a variety of media formats to communicate information and ideas effectively and will develop positive attitudes toward technology use that support lifelong learning, personal pursuits and productivity.

The distinct components of our proposal include an expanded library collection featuring print and non-print materials for all students and technological equipment to support the instruction of the New York State standards-based curriculum. In addition, we will use this grant to purchase laptop computers for student/parent use. This will enable students/parents to borrow the laptop computers and will provide them with access to technological resources that will enable them to continue research projects at home as well as in small groups within the multimedia library center. Also, the multimedia library centers at each school will be updated to include three new desktop computers for student/parent use, and the library hours will be extended. This will provide students and parents with access to the state of the art information- rich library centers, which will enhance the learning experiences for these school communities.

# SAMPLE

## Project Description 2

The proposed project will provide exemplary resources providing ‘just in time’ professional development in a number of ways for teachers in various stages of preparation and training. Coursework will provide 60 hours, per year of training targeting, targeting over 300 teachers in year 1 with an increase in the number of teachers each year. Teachers will be selected by giving preference to those in SINI schools, opening up to those in D9 schools where available. The courses will be a combination of self-paced modules for the development of pure skills and facilitated instruction for in-depth delivery of content and pedagogical approaches. There will be a focus on “project based” activities with attention to interim assessments and performance indicators as identified by Central Department of Education assessment and web based tools such as NYLearns.org SchoolTools.US as well as online resources identified in the NYS Math Initiative such as Key Idea Tasks to Enhance Success (KITES), Curriculum Resources, Online Learning Experiences etc.

The flexibility of online implementation will significantly increase the opportunities for teachers to access the professional development anytime and anywhere. Each year ten new courses in mathematics instruction for online delivery will be developed and piloted, providing for coverage across all grades and subject areas. They will all be keyed to the performance indicator level in order to maximize student achievement.

The district will work with NYIT and the NYS Teacher Center Online Learning Academy to develop courses designed for teachers, lead teachers and mathematics coaches to improve subject matter knowledge used by the teacher at the point of need. All coursework will be woven into the full menu of professional development activities that are already planned by the mathematics department at the district level throughout the school year.