

Thank you for your submission. Your Qwest Foundation grant application has been submitted successfully, and the tracking number is 34865. You will be receiving more information on the status of your application shortly. Notification of funding decisions is made within 6-8 weeks following the grant submission. For your records, here is a copy of the contents of your application.

## **General Information**

**Organization Name**

Eagle Ridge Junior High

**Legal Name****Also Known As**

Please provide any nicknames/acronyms that your organization may use

**Federal Tax ID**

41-6000802

**Mailing Address**

13955 Glendale Road

**City**

Savage

**State**

MN

**Zip Code**

55378

**Organization Telephone**

Please use the following format (###) ###-####

(952)707-2800

**Organization Fax Number**

Please use the following format (###) ###-### #

(952)707-2802

**E-mail Address**

Please provide the general organization e-mail address if available.

**Web Address**

www.isd191.org

**Please provide a brief description of the organization.**

Eagle Ridge Junior High School, located in Savage, Minnesota, is a middle school in the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Public School District (ISD 191). It currently serves students in 7- 9 grade. There are approximately 750 students enrolled. Beginning in the 2010 - 2011 school year, Eagle Ridge will become a Gifted and Talented Magnet program for students.

The Gifted and Talented Program at Eagle will provide an enriched and rigorous junior high experience for all students. The focus is on differentiated course offerings and classroom teaching strategies delivered in a safe and supportive school.

**Organization Type**

Please choose which of the following best describes your organization.

Education

**Primary Contact**

Please list the person responsible for the management of this project

**Prefix**

Mr.

**First Name**

Don

**Middle Name or Initial****Last Name**

Leake

**Suffix**

<None>

**Title**

Principal

**Office Phone**

Please use the following format (###) ###-### #

952-707-2801

**Extension****Office Fax**

Please use the following format (###) ###-### #

**E-mail**

dleake@burnsville.k12.mn.us

## **Grant Overview**

Has the organization received a grant from the Qwest Foundation in the last three years?

No

Please list any Qwest employees involved in your organization and their roles.

(If applicable)

**Project Title**

(Please keep brief)

SmartBoards for Smart Students

Amount requested:

15616.00

**Type of Support:**

(Please choose Project Support from the drop-down below and then continue.)

Project Support

**Please briefly describe the program for which you are seeking support:**

(Word limit = 500)

Eagle Ridge Junior High has been awarded the opportunity to house and facilitate a Gifted and Talented (GT) magnet program beginning the 2010-2011 school year. Currently, 172 seventh and eighth grade students have been accepted to the program. There are eight core GT teachers, four at each grade level. A key component to the program's success and impact on student learning would be that students and teachers alike have the latest technology at their fingertips. We would like to see that each GT teacher's classroom is fitted with a SMART Board.

We would like to purchase eight 77" SMART Boards with wall mount, software, USB cables, wireless modules and have them installed for our GT teachers. In purchasing eight SMART Boards, GT students will be able to access and manipulate current technology on a day-to-day basis to maximize student learning.

Integrating SMART Boards into our GT program will help increase rigor, differentiate instruction, and create 21st century learners. We feel that the SMART Board is an essential piece of technology because it serves as an interactive tool which enhances instruction and learning. According to the article, SMART Board Implementation Strategies by David Wetzel, many classrooms are becoming equipped with SMART Boards, because they are interactive applications which enable all students to engage in the learning process.

In order to involve all students in the learning process, teachers must be able to differentiate instruction. The use of SMART Boards easily allows teachers to accommodate all learning styles as well as vary instructional delivery. Classrooms fitted with SMART Boards provide a tactile environment in which kinesthetic students thrive. Audio learners also benefit by using videos and pod casts, while visual learners keep a steady focus on content and witness discovery unfold before their eyes.

SMART Boards are a needed technological upgrade for our classrooms. The majority of classrooms at Eagle Ridge Junior High have just one computer with basic computer software which is for teacher use alone. Students will be able to contribute their ideas in a new format, while other students input and save information at the computer. (Wetzel, 1999) All of the students will be involved in using the technology.

Not only will SMART Boards allow students to become more active in their learning, they will also allow students and teachers to collaborate on a deeper, interactive level. Overall, the use of SMART Boards will increase student engagement and foster stronger teacher-student relationships. (<http://smarttech.com>)

**Does the request address Qwest funding priority area of PreK-12 Education?**

Yes

**Which one of the following program areas best describes the project for which you are seeking funding?**

To assist you in your search you may type a key word in the box below and click the magnifying glass to narrow the drop-down menu of choices.

EDUCATION-Technology

**If the requesting organization is a school, please select the type of school from the**

drop down menu.

Public School-Middle School

Will the project be receiving funding from the United Way?

No

If yes, what percent of your budget for this project is from United Way funding?

0.00

Have you received funding from other major corporate or foundation donors in the past two years?

No

If yes, please list all major corporate and foundation donors for the past two years.

(Word limit = 500)

### **Demographic populations served by this project:**

**In an effort to help us better understand the communities we serve, we would like to ask for the following information:**

Which one of the following age groups will be the primary population served by this project?

Children (4-12)

Which of the following ethnicities will be the primary populations served by this project?

(Please choose up to three of the following)

Caucasian  
African American  
Hispanic

Which one of the following genders will be the primary population served by this project?

Both

Which one of the following population groups will be the primary population served by this project?

Other

The organization's current year budgeted expenses:

5768093.00

Are these budgeted expenses higher or lower than the previous year's actual expenses?

(Please choose one of the following)

Higher

What is the percent difference between this year's current budget and last year's actual expenses?

2.5

During the current fiscal year what is the total expense budget for administrative/overhead and fund raising expenses?

395639.00

What percentage of the total expense budget is for administrative/overhead and fundraising expenses?

146.00

Has the organization experienced an operating deficit (i.e., expenses exceeded revenues) in the last two years?

No

If yes, please explain the deficit(s) above and the plan for reducing or eliminating it.

(Word limit = 1,000)

Does the organization have any outstanding tax or legal issues?

No

If yes, please explain.

(Word limit = 1,000)

Are all taxes current?

Yes

## Project Information

What is the anticipated duration of your project?

(In whole months)

9

Project start date:

09/07/2010

Project end date:

06/10/2011

What is the total budget for the program/project?

0.00

Please list the organization's three major core programs or activities:

(Word limit = 1,000)

Three central activities embedded in the GT program at Eagle Ridge Junior High are to 1) offer a rigorous curriculum with school-wide enrichment while focusing on critical thinking and problem solving, 2) to provide various learning experiences that promote students' cognitive, emotional, physical, social, and artistic growth, and 3) to maintain a close partnership between students, staff, and families.

In order to offer a rigorous curriculum with school-wide enrichment, teachers must be trained in differentiation and be highly skilled and prepared to work with GT students. A closer look into GT teachers' classrooms will reveal that the focus of learning is digging deeper into an area of study rather than covering more content and doing more work. In order to meet these objectives, it is critical that we have the SMART Board technology available to GT students and teachers. Technology, such as SMART Boards, will provide students with the ability to engage in divergent and convergent thinking tasks. Students can brainstorm, take notes, save and manipulate lessons, access united streaming, play educational games, create interactive flannel boards, click and drag activities, create and utilize podcasts, create and share graphic organizers, and utilize interactive websites. This truly smart technology allows students to manipulate and create content that, in essence, wakes students up to a fresh curriculum.

Our GT program will provide numerous learning experiences which promote students' cognitive, emotional, physical, social and artistic growth. Technology plays a crucial piece in providing various types of learning experiences. Students' cognitive and physical growth can be developed through use of technology, as it allows many more students to actively listen, process information, participate in student-directed choices, and execute skills in a variety of modes, whereas this type of student involvement is somewhat limited in teacher-directed environments that are devoid of technology. Social and emotional growth is increased when students feel competent after mastering technology-based tasks. Students' sense of self worth is increased through technology use as we recognize and validate their learning in a tech-filled world by infusing technology into our instruction. In addition, technology increases students' ability to work cooperatively and to provide scaffolding among peers.

Lastly, technology can help our school maintain a close partnership between students, staff, and families. Being able to utilize a SMART Board to create a lesson, and have it electronically available for students to access at home, helps create a bridge between home and school. Teachers can create visual copies of assignments and they can be quickly sent via email without needing scanners or retying. Teachers will be

able to upload learning that took place during the class to their websites for student access outside of school hours. Unlike the traditional whiteboard, they will now be able to have that information electronically available, which will maximize instructional time.

Being able to provide our GT students the daily access to SMART Boards will enhance our ability to offer a rigorous curriculum, provide various learning experiences, and maintain a close partnership between students, staff, and families.

### How does this effort address a community need?

(Please describe the community and clients that will benefit)  
(Word limit = 500)

Harriet Bishop, an elementary school in ISD 191, is a Gifted and Talented school serving approximately 650 students in Kindergarten through sixth grade. It is the feeder school for Eagle Ridge Junior High. While at Eagle Ridge, students could access honors courses and accelerated Math courses, however, those offerings did not take into account specific GT needs. With that, students were enrolled in mainly general education courses. There was a disconnect in the district for Gifted and Talented students. Eagle Ridge submitted a proposal to the Board of Education in order to become a Gifted and Talented program beginning in the 2010 - 2011 school year. The proposal was approved and the GT program at Eagle Ridge will address a community need for the Harriet Bishop students to continue their Gifted and Talented education at Eagle Ridge.

Students at Harriet Bishop Gifted and Talented Elementary School utilize 8 SMART Boards. Students at each grade level from Kindergarten through grade 6 have been able to use the SMART Board technology in their classroom on a daily basis. Just as it was imperative the students had a Gifted and Talented Program to transition into from elementary school to junior high, it is as critical that students continue with the technology use when they enter the program.

As educators we know that we that we are creating 21st century learners. We now live in an increasingly diverse, globalized, and media-saturated society. Students must be able to utilize as much or more technology at school as they do at home. It is our job to provide this technology to them and help them become self-starters and dynamic learners in our changing world. Through the use of technology we will be creating graduates who will contribute actively to the community in a 21st century world and become proactive citizens in society.

Lastly, our goal is offer rigorous curriculum that will raise standards and expectations for all students in ISD 191. We need to have the latest technology utilized in our classrooms that will enable students to have global access and a breadth of information. Utilizing technology in our GT program will help to ensure growth in the community by attracting families into our district.

### Please explain how you have measured or will measure the success of the program/project:

(Word limit = 1,000)

Eagle Ridge will form a Gifted and Talented Advisory Council that will be made up of students, parents, teacher and administration. The Advisory Council will meet quarterly to review data and make modifications/improvements to the program to ensure goals and objectives are being met. The data will include: student enrollment data, student growth, services and courses being offered, community satisfaction and professional development participation by staff.

In addition, the Gifted and Talented Advisory Council will evaluate the success of technology use in the program. We will conduct a survey with students regarding attitudes toward engaging different modes of learning. One of the different modes of learning we will focus on is SMART Boards. We will have students

evaluate the difference between classrooms in which they are not accessing SMART Board technology, either currently or in the past, and those in which they have daily access and how their learning changes as a result. The survey will be given quarterly to the Gifted and Talented students. We will have teachers' complete data regarding how many lessons in which they utilize the SMART Board technology and what the student impact is as a result of that utilization. Teachers will analyze data from test scores to see which lessons technology has impacted student learning.

If awarded, select which of the following will be part of your communications plan to help publicize this grant?

(You may choose up to five choices from the following drop-downs)

Recognition on Website

Recognition on Program Materials

Press Release on Your Letterhead

**The undersigned certifies that they are authorized to represent the organization applying for a grant and that the information contained in this application is accurate. The undersigned agrees that if a grant is awarded to the organization: (1) the grant will be used for the purpose outlined in the grant award letter and may not be expended for any other purpose without prior written approval from the Qwest Foundation, (2) Qwest has received nothing of material value in exchange for the grant, and (3) information about the organization and the grant may be used by Qwest in any published materials.**

Applicant's Signature

Please insert first and last name to certify that you are authorized to represent the organization, have read the entire application and that the information contained in this application is accurate.

Don Leake

Today's Date:

06/08/2010