

Teaching American History (TAH) Grant

Grant Overview: The Teaching American History Grant is a federal program designed to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge and understanding of, and appreciation for, traditional U.S. history. Grant awards will assist LEAs, in partnership with entities that have content expertise, to develop, document, evaluate, and disseminate innovative and cohesive models of professional development. By helping teachers to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of U.S. history as a separate subject matter within the core curriculum, these programs will improve instruction and raise student achievement.

Working with district teachers, a proposal is being investigated where district teachers are afforded summer educational experiences with Ashland University, and monthly seminars on a variety of topics administered by Gilder Lerhman. The experience with Ashland University may be used by teachers in pursuit of a Masters degree.

UPDATE: The district has begun discussions with providers regarding professional development opportunities made available through the grant. The intent will be for all opportunities to be made available to teachers outside of the instructional day.

Amount of Award: Up to \$500,000 over three years. Potential for extension for another two years afterwards. No match is required.

Due Date/Notification of Award: Applications are due on March 6, 2009. Notification of award should be in July 2009.

Alternatives if not Awarded: If not funded, the district would abandon the concept for the time being.

WCSD Resources Required: The district would provide a part-time project coordinator, but the position would be covered by the grant. Other resources, such as substitute time, website space, methods of distributing, may prove necessary, but may again be written into the grant budget.

Administrative Recommendation: The recommendation is to apply for funding. The TAH funding provides district instructors with access to professional development delivered by content-area experts. In addition, the district may experience some cost-savings if new teachers pursue the Masters degree option with Ashland University.