

## 21st Century Community Learning Center

### Grant Overview

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is designed to distribute funds to qualified applicants pursuant to Title IV, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001 to establish or expand *community learning centers* that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities along with activities designed to complement the students' regular academic program. Proposed programs must serve students that attend high poverty, low performing schools. Approximately \$7 million is available to successful applicants. These funds will be distributed on a competitive basis giving consideration to applications that include schools in need of Improvement under Title I Section 1116, equitable distribution of grants to different geographic regions within the state, including urban and rural areas, and to schools serving elementary and secondary students. Only proposals that meet all eligibility criteria and that are scored by an expert review panel at 76 points or higher on the review rubric will be considered for funding.

### Grant Purpose:

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program is intended to ensure services provided focus on helping children in high-need schools succeed academically through the application of scientifically based practice and extended learning time by:

- (1)** Providing opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students (particularly students in high-poverty areas and those who attend low-performing schools) meet state and local student performance standards in core academic subjects such as reading and mathematics;
- (2)** Offering students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, and recreation programs, technology education programs, and character education programs, that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
- (3)** Offering families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

### Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions:

Any public or private organization is eligible to apply for a five-year 21st CCLC grant. These include, but are not limited to public schools, non-profit agencies, city or county government agencies, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and for-profit corporations. An intermediary unit, such as a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), may apply for and receive a grant. Eligible entities must propose to serve students and the families of students who primarily attend high poverty, low performing schools as evidenced by:

- A Free and Reduced Lunch rate of 40% and above; **and**
- Demonstration of low achievement and low growth on Colorado Model data; and
- Have 40% or fewer students on track to catch up and keep up in both math and reading.

**Focus Areas:**

Professional Development, Reading, Science, Special Education, Social Studies, English / Language Arts, Mathematics, Technology, Assessment, ESL / ELL

**How *Classroom Suite 4* and *Kurzweil 3000* Align with and Support the 21st Century Community Learning Center Objectives**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center has an extensive list of goals that can be categorized into two primary objectives: improvements in the academic performance of struggling, at-risk and failing students, as well as improvements in access to information and programs that will enhance individuals' and families' lives.

*Classroom Suite 4* and *Kurzweil 3000*, in conjunction with a technology acquisition program and along with school leadership and partnerships, can successfully address these objectives.

Following the Overview is a list of key components that when implemented would enable schools and their community partners to achieve the desired outcomes of the grant. Because the main objectives relate to academic improvement, the key components cited are literacy-centric, and are derived from recent publications by literacy experts and practitioners regarding recommended elements that should be included in efforts to help student's master reading, comprehension and study skills.

**Brief Overview of *Classroom Suite* and *Kurzweil 3000***

Literacy goes hand-in-hand with academic achievement. *Classroom Suite* and *Kurzweil 3000* are complementary technologies that go beyond addressing language challenges to provide improvements in literacy across the academic spectrum from social studies to mathematics, while enabling schools and teachers to monitor and assess progress. *Kurzweil 3000* and especially *Classroom Suite* with its optional programmable keyboard are designed for universal access, helping to accommodate the range of physical and learning abilities in the community.

*Classroom Suite*, an award-winning, early intervention tool, combines direct, standards-based instruction with flexible, customizable tools to help students in grades Pre K through 5 achieve mastery in language, reading comprehension, writing and math skills. Its research-based lessons can be sequenced into "intelligent" units to align with district or core curriculum, and its assessment tools ensure supportive data for intervention.

*Kurzweil 3000* is the premier curriculum-independent reading, writing, and learning software, that has been proven to be an effective solution for improving reading, comprehension and study skills.

Together, *Classroom Suite* and *Kurzweil 3000* offer assistive technology for achieving overall academic success particularly for students with disabilities, at-risk students and English Language Learners. Having the combined *Classroom Suite* and *Kurzweil 3000* solution in classrooms, resource centers and outside-of-school programs, enables educators to reach and engage all students and extend their time for learning.

For English Language Learners, and for parents and family members who speak other languages, *Classroom Suite* provides the foundation needed to decode language – from phonemes to phonics – while *Kurzweil 3000* encourages participation, communication and access to information. Material in English can be brought into the software and using built-in language dictionaries, and with Google Translate™ users can look up the meanings of English words in their native language. These same language dictionaries also aid in writing in English.

Lastly, independent research studies have proven that *Classroom Suite* and *Kurzweil 3000* technologies have a lasting impact on the motivation of struggling students to learn both inside and outside of the classroom – a major factor not only in improving academic performance, but also in promoting engagement in learning.

21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC Select Goals	Classroom Suite and Kurzweil 3000 Alignment
<p>Remedial-education activities and academic-enrichment learning programs, including those which provide additional assistance to students to allow the students to improve their academic achievement</p>	<p>By using a modeling approach of “I do,” “we do,” and “you do,” <b><i>Classroom Suite</i></b> and its standards-aligned activities directly and explicitly instruct students in each foundational step toward language literacy.</p> <p>Sound sorting and sound combinations develop and heighten phonemic awareness and provide practice in phonics and decoding.</p> <p>Auditory and instruction-based feedback enforces proper usage. Constructive and repeated practice at the students’ individual pace promotes and accelerates fluency.</p> <p>In addition, embedded assessments allow teachers to gauge progress and individualize instruction for students, while customizable activity templates help target specific needs and objectives.</p> <p><b><i>Classroom Suite</i></b> provides guided practice through templates and activities. The Comprehension template is specifically designed to provide students with structured instruction on comprehension strategies. Teachers add a paragraph or passage, and pose questions for students.</p> <p>For expository text, teachers might design questions that lead students to distinguishing main ideas and supporting details. For narrative text, questions can focus on vocabulary used for descriptions and imagery. Students develop comprehension strategies by previewing the questions, reading with attention, then answering</p>

	<p>the questions again after reading to demonstrate their understanding of the material.</p> <p><b>Kurzweil 3000</b> aids teachers and schools in direct and explicit instruction in comprehension as well as the systematic and direct instruction of proven study skills strategies. Because of <i>Kurzweil 3000</i> features' ease of use, instruction can be tailored for individuals' specific requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic notes in a variety of accessible forms (footnotes, text notes, sticky notes, bubble notes, voice notes, Bubble and column notes) offer teachers the ability to strategically place embedded explanations of concepts and instructions for students to access as they read and write. Students can use these notes to express learned information or formulate questions for teachers.</li> <li>• Electronic highlighters enable teachers and students to prepare an array of pre-reading material, vocabulary lists and study guides. The Word List feature enables teachers to bring difficult words, as well as topic- or unit-based vocabulary, for students to use while reading and writing in <i>Kurzweil 3000</i>. Outline and Brainstorm features allow for quick creation of study guides or graphic organizers to spur critical thinking.</li> </ul>
<p>Programs that provide after-school activities for limited English-proficient students and that emphasize language skills and academic achievement</p>	<p>Using a multi-sensory approach, both <b>Classroom Suite</b> and <b>Kurzweil 3000</b> reads words aloud to students in clear, human-like, synthetic speech.</p> <p>In <b>Kurzweil 3000</b> a patented dual highlighting feature adds visual reinforcement. Accessible and customizable features that promote repetition and practice put the pace of progress into students' hands.</p> <p>In <b>Classroom Suite</b>, fluency, comprehension and competency are achieved through a <i>Show Me, Practice and Challenge</i> model of instruction. Embedded assessments allow teachers to gauge progress and provide appropriate intervention.</p> <p>In <b>Kurzweil 3000</b>, students can hear the speaker read and reread any word, or unit – phrases,</p>

	<p>sentences, paragraphs – modeling pronunciation, grammar and syntax. Reading settings such as speed can be used to guide students through the levels of reading fluency, increasing the speed as fluency and comprehension improves. Electronic highlighters and a variety of electronic notes enable teachers to model and students to apply study skills such as extracting key concepts as a way of learning and demonstrating comprehension. Brainstorm and Outline tools enable teachers to model and students to emulate the process of synthesizing and organizing thoughts.</p>
<p>Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy</p>	<p><b>Classroom Suite</b> and <b>Kurzweil 3000</b> take advantage of current and portable technologies to broaden access and increase time for literacy beyond classroom-based and one-on-one instruction. Both are available in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand Alone version providing struggling students with access to content, assignments, as well as tools and supports while in class, in resource rooms or information centers.</li> <li>• Web licensing versions for access to content, assignments, tools and supports in outside-of-school or after-school partner programs or other community learning settings.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, <b>Kurzweil 3000</b> offers the ability to save material to audio files (MP3 and WAV) so students can listen to chapters or books on portable devices wherever they go.</p>
<p>Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled to allow them to improve their academic achievement</p>	<p><b>Classroom Suite</b> Creativity Tools, with its Multimedia Presentation, StoryMaker, Make a Book and Writing Tools templates provide fun platforms from which groups of students can work cooperatively to learn, share opinions and demonstrate what they have learned. Teachers can also use these tools to create story starters and sketch summaries from which to spur discussion and participation from a group of students or a whole classroom. Math Tools extend cooperative learning to math-related activities.</p> <p><b>Kurzweil 3000</b> lets teachers or students easily bring all types of reading material into the software, facilitating the participation of students</p>

	who read below grade level in cooperative learning activities and discussions with their grade level peers, ultimately building the students' motivation and sense of achievement.
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