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## EDCompass

## Grants and funding

September 2007

## A note from the editors

Welcome to the funding edition of *EDCompass*™ newsletter. A major part of any long-range education technology plan is developing a strategy to pay for it. In this issue, we'll direct you to grants that can help you bring technology products, such as the SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard and the Senteo™ interactive response system, into your classroom. You'll also read about SMARTer Kids™ programs, tips for writing grants and more.

Thanks for reading and sharing *EDCompass* newsletter. We hope this issue will answer some questions and help point you in the right direction.

## EDCompass newsletter editors

## Start with SMART



Finding funding for your technology wish list isn't easy, but our resources can help. A wide variety of organizations have programs to assist you in purchasing the technology you need. Check out [SMART's education solutions](#) website for tips and information on finding grants, writing grant applications and how to mix and match grants.



## No Stone Unturned

**First of all, happy back to school, everyone!** I have enjoyed reading the many back-to-school articles sprinkled through newspapers and publications all around the world. There is something special about this time of year as school starts anew, and teachers and students are full of hope and promise.

Tens of thousands of classrooms were outfitted over the summer months with our products. We take great delight in hearing from so many teachers about the changes that our products are making in teaching and learning. Lessons come alive, and teachers and students are having fun as they go about the business of learning.

One thing that never seems to change is the need for special sources of funding to acquire technology products for the classroom. Teachers, principals and, indeed, districts are on a search for funds to bring their instruction into the 21st century.

Finding those funds takes both creativity and persistence. At a classroom level, hidden sources of funds are available in many communities. Often it is simply a matter of asking – asking community service organizations, companies and even individuals.

People are looking to make meaningful contributions to their communities, and that often means their local school. I visited one school last year that had “sold” each of its classrooms to community members. Each purchaser got a name plaque outside the room in recognition of the donation. While individual donations were relatively modest, the total was meaningful and allowed the school to meet its needs.

As you start thinking about how you might get the money you need this year, try thinking a little differently. The money you need just might be there.

It was the Rolling Stones who sang, “You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometime, you just might find you get what you need.”

**Nancy Knowlton** is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

# Spotlight

## SMART lesson activities

Created by educators for educators, SMART lesson activities run for 5 to 15 minutes and are correlated to local curriculum standards. To search for activities on the education solutions website, select **United States** or **Canada** on the lesson activities page, and type the word *smart* in the keyword search box. SMART lesson activities in French and Spanish are also available.

Check out the following science, history and math activities for your next lesson.

### Parts of the Eye

Science students in grades 10–12 will learn about the structures in the eye and how they work together to allow sight.

### Inventions of the Industrial Revolution

History students in grades 10–12 will learn about the inventions that sparked the Industrial Revolution.

### Pythagorean Theorem

Math students in grades 7–9 will learn the Pythagorean Theorem and the logic behind it.

## Online technology resources

**The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)** is the pre-eminent voice for K–12 education leaders who improve teaching and learning through their strategic use of technology.

### The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

is the premier membership association for educators engaged in improving teaching and learning by advancing the effective use of technology in PK–12 and teacher education.

### The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)

Many SIIA members develop and deliver educational software, digital curricula, and related technologies and services for use in education. SIIA and its member companies have long collaborated with educators, policymakers and other stakeholders to improve education through the use of innovative learning technologies.



## SMARTer Kids programs

The **SMARTer Kids Foundation of Canada** is a private organization that provides opportunities for students and teachers to learn new skills and grow in self-confidence by placing technology, grants and programs at their service. The Foundation helps equip classrooms with technology products and generates practical research on the impact and effectiveness of technology in the classroom. The challenges and opportunities that teachers and students face in accessing and using technology drive the Foundation to ensure its efforts make a difference in education.

Below is a quick preview of the programs and grants that the Foundation offers.

### National Teacher of the Year program

The SMARTer Kids Foundation has sponsorship commitment to the **U.S. State and National Teacher of the Year** programs worth more than US\$1 million per year, until 2010. The sponsorship includes a classroom technology package for each State Teacher of the Year, technology training for recipients and cash donations to the National Teacher of the Year program.

### Teaching Excellence Awards

Through the **Teaching Excellence Awards**, the SMARTer Kids Foundation recognizes and rewards teachers who have made a significant impact on their students, schools and communities by giving them leading-edge technology to reach their teaching goals.

### The Connections program

The **Connections program** celebrates the multicultural richness of students across North America through a fully funded collaborative learning program for sixth-grade classes in Canada, the United States and Mexico. The selected classrooms are equipped with SMART products to support collaborative learning projects between schools in the program.

### 2007 PREP Grant

The **PREP Grant** is an international grant from the SMARTer Kids Foundation that helps teacher professional development facilities obtain their first SMART products. Specifically, the aim of the grant is to help pre-service and in-service facilities provide technology-integration training that empowers teachers to create more dynamic, interactive learning environments.

### The SMARTer Kids Research program

The **SMARTer Kids Research** program supports action-based research projects conducted by educators. Action-based research allows educators to assess the effects of technology on teaching and learning, explore and test new ideas in the classroom, and investigate and practice new teaching styles. Completed studies may be published on the research page of SMARTer Kids Foundation website.

# New bill supports education technology

**SMART was part of a coalition** of education and industry groups that advocated for a new bill titled Achievement Through Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN). Introduced to the senate and congress in early August, the legislation more clearly defines how funds should be spent and increases state funding from 50 percent to 60 percent. This ensures that the majority of funds go where they are needed most – to low-income, disadvantaged schools as defined under the Title I formula.

The bill targets K–12 math and science, and will increase spending to \$33 billion over the next three years. It builds upon the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program and will focus on the integral role of technology in schools and teacher professional development for core curricular areas. For more information, read the [media release](#).

## Tips on writing grant proposals

**Are you planning to write** a federal or state grant application for school technology? If so, you might want to read the [National Education Technology Plan](#), released in January 2005. The plan includes seven grant-writing recommendations for policymakers and school leaders, as well as case studies and online resources.

In an issue of *i.e.* magazine, the U.S. Department of Education also offered the following tips for tackling grants:

- Allow plenty of time to prepare your proposal carefully and thoughtfully
- Read the application package in its entirety before starting to write
- Follow the formatting guidelines carefully and precisely
- Structure your narrative according to the selection criteria
- Justify your funding request in accordance with project activities
- Check your budget figures for consistency
- Proofread your proposal
- Use the checklist printed in the application process to ensure that all required information is included
- Submit your proposal by the deadline date

You can find more information on grants and fundraising in the [Need Funding edition](#) of *i.e.* magazine. You'll read what leading grant providers look for in a winning grant application, how to make the most of a tight technology budget and more.

## Taking fundraising to the next level

Clothing drives. Bake sales. Walk-a-thons. Fundraising may conjure images of knocking on neighbors' doors or soliciting at the supermarket all day – earning less than pocket change. But many schools are embarking on fundraising activities that are fun and creative and generate tens of thousands of dollars for technology products. These schools are reaping benefits beyond extra income – they are building stronger communities and controlling how they spend their money.

Schools like P.S. 87, Lone Mountain Elementary and Arroyo Elementary have inspirational stories that can help other educators discover innovative ways to fundraise for technology products – ideas that are easy to implement and have successful end results. [Read the full article](#).



**To better accommodate** school districts that purchase SMART products, SMART provides a special education pricing program that provides discounted prices to all accredited, not-for-profit education institutions, including schools, universities, museums and libraries. This program offers you a straightforward purchasing process with less paperwork and less hassle than applying for a product grant. You can receive more information on SMART's education pricing from your local, [authorized SMART reseller](#).



## Best practice

**I use my SMART Board interactive whiteboard** as a method of engaging my students in class. I particularly like to scan homework pages into Notebook™ software and make correcting work an interactive activity. My students enjoy going to the interactive whiteboard and showing their classmates how they solved a particular homework problem. I am able to circulate the room freely and help those who need it while the students work together to correct their work.

Using the SMART Board interactive whiteboard in class, especially during math, has increased participation greatly. Everyone wants a chance to answer a question and show what they learned.

**Tanya Matheson, fifth-grade teacher  
Harkins Elementary, School District 16  
Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada**

## Showcase Schools

**SMART has added 59 schools and 2 districts** to its SMART Showcase Schools network, and there's room for more!

At Showcase Schools, administrators and teachers recognize the benefits of using interactive whiteboards to impact student learning and enthusiastically share the results with the education community. The schools act as references and hosts to other schools or district stakeholders interested in discovering how SMART products can be used to improve teaching and learning.

This is what Sheryl Kremer, technology coordinator at St. Gabriel the Archangel in Louisville, Kentucky, had to say about becoming a Showcase School:

"We are enjoying being a SMART Showcase School.... I learned a great deal from my [SMART] Master's training last spring through the SMART Showcase School benefits, as did six or more other staff members who attended through the Archdiocese of Louisville. Our teachers are so interested in furthering their use of the interactive whiteboards that we have applied for funding for three of our teachers to attend several of the subject-specific training [sessions] to be held in Louisville this October.

Over the summer we were able to share our good fortune with a neighboring school that came to see our SMART products in action (especially the SMART Board 680i interactive whiteboard system) and to ask our opinion of the various models of SMART Board interactive whiteboards and the AirLiner™ wireless slate.

We are happy to be available to share our experiences with our neighboring schools. On behalf of St. Gabriel, thank you again for this opportunity!"

To find a SMART Showcase School in your area, visit **Showcase Schools** on the education solutions website.

### Comments?

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue of *EDCompass* newsletter, please e-mail [education@smarttech.com](mailto:education@smarttech.com).

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