



# Technology Funding Alert!

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A publication of the Alameda County Office of Education, Grants Resource Center, Judy Echeandia, Editor, in partnership with California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) Region IV, Bonnie Marks, Executive Director 1 510-670-4168

## TechSETS: Your "Always On" Tech Support Center ([www.techsets.org](http://www.techsets.org))

If you're responsible for planning, installing or maintaining technology in California schools, you need to know about TechSETS, the first project of its kind to focus on all who provide technical support from the district to the classroom level! TechSETS gives you an online discussion with technical experts, a tech support service management system, job descriptions, a skills matrix, and access to comprehensive training resources.

As educators, we are constantly on the lookout for sources of funding to support needed programs and services. Grants, categorical programs, foundations, parent organizations, and community partners are all sought to fill gaps. At the same time, we need to look critically at how we design, implement, manage, and evaluate key support systems. Managing a district's technology hardware, software, network, training, and support requires a wide range of skills and support structures.

TechSETS, funded by the California Department of Education, provides a suite of tools designed to help IT professionals, site support staff, and end users as they use technology to support instruction and learning. The CDE funds three Statewide Education Technology Services (SETS)—the other two being CLRN (California Learning Resource Network: [www.clrn.org](http://www.clrn.org)) and TICAL (Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership: [www.portical.org](http://www.portical.org)). Together they address the curricular, technical, and administrative aspects of technology in education. **Use of these tools is free to all districts and schools in California.**

TechSETS offers the following training, support services, and suite of tools:

### Training

- ▶ *Skills Matrix* provides a roadmap of skills required by a technical support team.
- ▶ *24/7 Online Training* and access to technical manuals is offered through *My Skill-Source*, at a steeply discounted rate. Training resources range from applications such as Microsoft Office to technical courses on network management.

### Support

A forum for technical support professionals—*TechQUESTIONS* and *TechSTORIES* offer access to an intelligent Knowledge Base developed to allow members to search through archived solutions, while also allowing new questions to be posed. Questions are directed to the TechSETS helpdesk staffed by technical professionals across the state.

### Tools

A variety of tools are available to assist technical support professionals in their work. Within the Tools Area, you'll find access to:

- ▶ *TechRESOURCES*—a collection of online resources useful to school technical support professionals. *TechRESOURCES* are intended to comprise a "best-of-the-best" collection of resources available online to help support those responsible for making the technology work in schools. Resources include private and commercial sites offering documentation, support, tools, and information.
- ▶ *TechTIPS*—a simple way to share tips and tricks, *TechTIPS* are user-submitted and capture the innovative and creative work done by school technical support professionals every day.
- ▶ *TechJOBS*—an area to help individuals with finding or recruiting for technical positions includes a:
  - Job Description Builder—Build a job description based on the *TechSETS* Skills Matrix.
  - Job Description Bank—A collection of job descriptions from school districts across the state.

Log onto <[www.techsets.org](http://www.techsets.org)> and become a member. There is no charge to join!

Thanks to the San Diego County Office of Education for sharing this article.

## GRANTS

### Toyota Tapestry

Sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales and the National Science Teacher Association, this grant program funds innovative science teaching projects in Environmental Science Education, Physical Science Applications, and Literacy and Science Education. Projects that apply science to technology are encouraged.

**Contact**—Questions may be directed online and will be e-mailed to the "Expert of the Month."

**Web Site**—[www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/program.htm](http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/program.htm)

**Deadline**—January 19, 2005

**Eligibility**—K-12 science teachers

**Awards**—Fifty grants of up to \$10,000 each and 20 mini-grants of \$2,500 each

### Toshiba America Foundation Grants Program for Grades 7-12 Science & Math Education

The Foundation encourages projects with potential for improving classroom teaching and learning in science and mathematics, including technology. The Foundation strongly encourages projects planned and led by individual teachers for their own classrooms.

**Contact**—Questions may be directed to 212-596-0620, [foundation@tai.toshiba.com](mailto:foundation@tai.toshiba.com)

**Web Site**—[www.toshiba.com/taf/apply.html](http://www.toshiba.com/taf/apply.html)

**Deadline**—February 1, 2005 (for grants larger than \$5,000) Ongoing (for grants of \$5,000 or less)

**Eligibility**—Public or private school teachers of grades 7-12

**Awards**—Two levels of funding are available: grants less than \$5,000 and larger than \$5,000 (See web site for an archive of funded projects.)

### Innovation Grants and Learning & Leadership Grants

The NEA Foundation for the Improvement of Education sponsors these two grant programs:

1. *Innovation* grants support collaborative efforts by two or more colleagues to develop and implement creative and effective project-based learning that results in high student achievement.
2. *Learning & Leadership* grants provide funds for individuals to participate in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research. Grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment.

Grantwriting tips are available on the web site.  
**Contact**—Please direct questions to 202-822-7840 or send an email from their web site.

**Web Site**—

[www.nfie.org/programs/grantguides.htm](http://www.nfie.org/programs/grantguides.htm)

**Deadline**—February 1, 2005

**Eligibility**—Public school teachers in grades K-12, public school education support professionals, or faculty and staff at public higher education institutions

**Awards**—Innovation grant amounts are \$5,000; Learning & Leadership grant amounts are \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups engaged in collegial study

**K-12 HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative**

The K-12 HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative is designed to support innovative and effective uses of technology in the classroom setting. HP will grant awards to K-12 public schools that are using a collaborative, team-based approach to implementing technology integration projects. The activities of the project must be focused on using technology to teach, rather than on teaching students to use technology.

**Contact**—Check the web site FAQs or submit a question online.

**Web Site**—[www.hp.com/go/hpteach](http://www.hp.com/go/hpteach)

**Deadline**—February 15, 2005 (online application required) Online Intent to Submit is encouraged.

**Eligibility**—Teams of five K-12 teachers in a single public school

**Awards**—75 schools will be selected to receive equipment, professional development and support valued at \$30,000 per school. Based on the outcomes of the projects funded through this initiative in 2005, HP will offer some grant recipients additional, higher-value grants in 2006.

**Enhancing Education Through Technology (Formula)**

This program provides fiscal year 2004-05 formula funding to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) to improve student achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools. The funding supports ongoing, sustained, and intensive, high-quality professional development to integrate advanced technologies into curricula and instruction. *Note: This is not an entitlement or apportionment. Applicants must submit their technology plan online for approval in order to receive their award. LEAs receiving awards in 2003-04 do not have to reapply unless their technology plans expire in 2004-05.*

**Contact**—Larry Hiuga, 916-327-4629, [lhiuga@cde.ca.gov](mailto:lhiuga@cde.ca.gov)

**Web Site**—[www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/cf/profile.asp?id=522](http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/cf/profile.asp?id=522)

**Deadline**—April 6, 2005

**Eligibility**—Local educational agencies (public school districts) receiving Title I, Part A funding and/or consortiums that include at least one high-need school district and other local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, educational service agen-

cies, libraries, or other educational entities appropriate to provide local programs

**Awards**—Formula funding from a total of \$4.3 million (See Web site for details)

**PRODUCT DONATIONS**

**SANS 2004 SONY Virtuoso Grant**

This free language lab software valued at more than \$50,000 is offered to senior high schools, colleges, or universities with a language learning program and a networked PC-based lab. Complete an online application ([www.sansinc.com/application.html](http://www.sansinc.com/application.html)), and in 1,000 words or less, describe your school's commitment to language education and the use of technology.

**Web Site**—

[www.sansinc.com/virtuoso\\_grant2.html](http://www.sansinc.com/virtuoso_grant2.html)

**Deadline**—December 31, 2004 (Online application required with signed hard copies)

**Eligibility**—Public and private, state certified Senior High Schools, state licensed schools for the disabled and public and private state certified colleges/universities with language programs and a goal to incorporate technology into their language program are eligible to apply.

**Awards**—Sony Virtuoso Language Lab software package valued at over \$50,000

**AWARDS/CONTESTS/  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**2005 Practical Money Skills for Life Educator Challenge**

Sponsored by Visa U.S.A., Inc. and Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, the purpose of the contest is to promote teacher creativity about personal finance topics in the classroom, promote and measure student financial literacy improvement, and demonstrate online tools and encourage educators to use them. Online entry form required.

**Contact**—Questions may be directed to [info@practicalmoneyskills.com](mailto:info@practicalmoneyskills.com), 1-800-Visa-511.

**Web Site**—[www.practicalmoneyskills.com/english/resources/contest/](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/english/resources/contest/)

**Deadline**—January 14, 2005

**Eligibility**—Grades 7-12 teachers of economics, business education, teen living, math, social studies and life skills.

**Awards**—Educators will compete for personal computers, a school or class computer lab (consisting of 5 computers) and gift certificates for classroom supplies.

**Toyota International Teacher Program**

Now in its seventh year, the Toyota International Teacher Program offers teachers a chance to learn about Japan's culture, history, and education system, as well as its approach to issues such as technology and the environment.

**Contact**—1-877-TEACH-JP, [toyotateach@iie.org](mailto:toyotateach@iie.org)

**Web Site**—<http://iie.org/Template.cfm?&Template=/programs/toyota/default.htm>

**Deadline**—January 10, 2005

**Eligibility**—Secondary school teachers (grades 9-12) with a minimum of three years' full-time teaching experience

**Awards**—60 high school teachers will receive two-week (fully funded) cultural/educational study programs to Japan

**Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards**

This award program honors policymakers, educators, community leaders and administrators who demonstrate vision, innovation, action and transformation in K-12 education, in schools and in other informal learning settings such as after-school programs.

**Contact**—Questions may be directed to 202-775-1040 or by web site submission.

**Web Site**—[www.ciconline.com/leadersinlearningawards/default.html](http://www.ciconline.com/leadersinlearningawards/default.html)

**Deadline**—January 31, 2005

**Eligibility**—Policymakers, educators, administrators and community leaders

**Awards**—12 awards of \$3,000 each across 4 categories

**7th Annual Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning**

Inspiration Software is offering this scholarship program to educators who use graphic organizers and other visual learning tools to help students develop strong thinking and organizational skills and improve their academic performance. Twenty-five of these scholarships will be awarded to educators who champion the integration of visual learning in the curriculum. And, new for 2005, five Rookie Awards will be awarded to educators who are new to the area of visual learning but want to learn more.

**Contact**—Questions or comments may be directed to [scholarship@inspiration.com](mailto:scholarship@inspiration.com).

**Web Site**—[www.inspiration.com/scholarship](http://www.inspiration.com/scholarship)

**Deadline**—January 27, 2005

**Eligibility**—K-20 educators. A minimum of one year of service is required. Technology coordinators, library media specialists, and curriculum coordinators are encouraged to apply, but should demonstrate direct contact with students when completing the application requirements.

**Awards**—30 scholarships of \$750 each

**"Coming Soon"**

**EETT Competitive Grant Request for Application (RFA)**  
(<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/et/ft/eett.asp>)

The Round 3 Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) Competitive RFA is expected to be released at the end of November. Please check the web site frequently. The program targets students in grades 4-8, with legislative priority being given to middle and junior high schools. Districts designated as poverty districts according to census data are eligible to apply. Districts who were eligible to apply in Rounds 1 and 2 will be eligible to apply for Round 3 for any schools not previously funded.