



Working with the Virtual Schools Initiative



Writing the Grant

Procuring funding for virtual reality-based instruction is not merely a request for equipment or writing exercise. Competition for grants is acute, and it is important to understand how funding agencies and foundations should be approached to secure financial support. Building and maintaining relationships with funding agencies is key to success in obtaining grants. Those who are successful approach grant seeking as a highly personal process that involves ongoing communication with funding sources.

Two important things to remember:

- 1) Grant applications must be highly tailored to a foundation's focus and funding priorities.
- 2) Problems must be framed in a way that will benefit a particular foundation.

A sample grant has been included for your information and reference. The sample grant was written for a particular low-income school district. Writing the grant is a collaborative effort between SUNRISE and your school district. To facilitate this process, your district will be working with SUNRISE grant writers with a national database of grant information.



Grant Responsibility Matrix

Your School District	SUNRISE
-Demographic Information -Socioeconomic Information -Letters of Support -Supporting Information about District -Community Support -Faculty Biographies	-Identify Grant Sources -Grant Structure -Cost Breakdowns -Technical Information -Virtual Schools Initiative member cooperation/private industry support



Helpful Hints

- Identify interested faculty
- Create a small grant team of industrious and persistent faculty
- Develop clear guidelines
- Provide ample administrative support
- Build in special "perks" to promote success
- Alert everyone about your interest in virtual reality and obtaining grants
- Obtain supervisory approval early in the process