



**MiniGrant Initiative #3:  
Journalism Mobile Digital Media Carts**

Executive Summary

04/23/2003

**Where do we want to be?**

Students enrolled in Journalism will write in a variety of forms for a variety of audiences and purposes. High school students enrolled in this course will plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis, carefully examining their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. These students will become analytical consumers of *media and technology* to enhance their communication skills. Writing, *technology, visual, and electronic media* are used as tools for learning as students create, clarify, critique, write, and produce effective communications.

Students enrolled in Journalism will learn journalistic traditions, research self-selected topics, write journalistic texts, and learn the principles of publishing. For high school students whose first language is not English, the students' native language serves as a foundation for English language acquisition and language learning (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: §110.62. Journalism)

**Where have we been?**

No systematic process has been in place to address the needs of Journalism classes to facilitate students becoming analytical consumers of media and technology, as well as use technology as a tool for learning to create, clarify, critique, write, and produce effective communications.

**Where are we?**

Currently, journalism classrooms in San Antonio ISD high schools are expected to meet the TEKS for Journalism (§110.62), especially the new viewing and representation strand referred to in the TEKS, without the technology tools needed. Unfortunately, Journalism classes at all 8 high schools lack the tools.

**How are we going to get there?**

Instructional Services will make a minigrant available to interested high school campuses who can present an implementation plan for use of the following equipment:

- One mobile digital media carts (8-10 laptops)
- Each laptop would have Macromedia Studio MX loaded on it
- One Alphasmart Dana cart (Specifically, the Alphasmart Dana, a laptop-like tool).
- 20 digital cameras

The implementation plan will need to contain a timeline, curriculum map for the year outlining how the equipment will be used, development of professional development materials detailing how the technology-enhanced journalism curriculum can be replicated. Since Journalism classes typically produce traditional paper yearbooks, the expectation would be that yearbooks be produced on CD-ROM.

In this pilot implementation, only the high school with the most developed plan—to be scored by rubric—will be awarded the minigrant. The campus would also submit a letter of support agreeing to cover replacement/maintenance costs for hardware and software.

**How will we know if we are getting there?**

- Solicit minigrant applications in August, 2003. Applications would be awarded in September, and equipment purchased at the beginning of 2003-2004 fiscal year.
- Obtain equipment in August and deliver by September 15, 2003.
- Provide staff development for minigrant recipient.
- Have a formative evaluation occur through implementation of the minigrant by Research & Evaluation Office.

**When should we be there?**

Training and deployment will be complete by October, 2003.

**What are the resources needs/issues?**

Hardware: Purchasing a mobile digital media cart, and an AlphaSmart Dana cart.

Professional Development for Appropriate Campus Staff

**POLICY CITATION**

**BACKGROUND  
INFORMATION AND  
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES;  
PREVIOUS BOARD OR  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ACTION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Approximately \$40,000

**PROCEDURAL AND  
REPORTING  
IMPLICATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE/CABINET  
TEAM MEMBER(S)  
RESPONSIBLE**

**SAISD Accountability, Technology and Management Information Services Department**

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*Technology Project Information Form*

<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<i>MiniGrant Initiative #3: Journalism Mobile Digital Media Carts</i>		
<b>ATMIS DEPARTMENT SPONSOR</b>	Miguel Guhlin, Director, Instructional Services		
<b>ATMIS PROJECT SPONSOR</b>	Miguel Guhlin, Director, Instructional Services		
<b>POST-IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT OWNER</b>			
<b>VISION 2005 REFERENCE</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By the year 2005, 100 percent of teachers will use appropriate technology-based tools to access data on students, state tests, and other test results.</li> <li>2. By the year 2005, every student will have access to an instructional computer.</li> <li>3. By the year 2005, 100 percent of teachers will use appropriate technology-based tools to access data on students.</li> <li>4. A 3:1 student/computer ratio of one computer per three students.</li> </ol>		
<b>ATMIS STAFF AFFECTED</b>	Instructional Services District Initiatives and Special Projects Network Services Technology Support Services		
<b>OTHER SAISD DEPARTMENT(S) AFFECTED</b>	Curriculum & Instruction's Reading Office		
<b>PROJECT COST ESTIMATE</b>			
<b>ONE-TIME</b>	\$40,000		
<b>RECURRING</b>	Maintenance support is assumed by the campus.		
<b>ADDITIONAL STAFFING REQUIRED</b>			
<b>CRITICAL DEADLINE</b>	May, 2003		
<b>FACILITY REQUIREMENTS</b>			
<b>SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>VENDOR NAME</b>			
<b>BUDGETED FUNDS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
<b>BUDGET CODE</b>			
<b>EXISTING PROJECTS RELATED TO</b>			
<b>CONSEQUENCE OF NON-APPROVAL</b>	Non-approval will result in campuses unable to fully realize the Vision 2005 initiatives.		