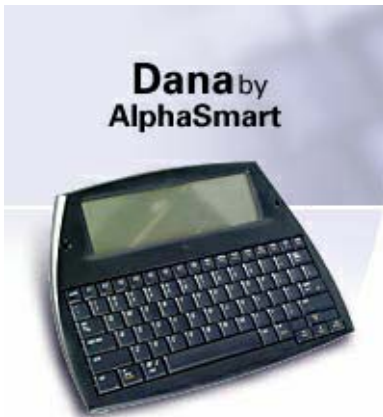




*MiniGrant Initiative #2:  
Mobile Writing Centers*

*Executive Summary*

04/23/2003



**Where do we want to be?**

Make mobile writing labs available to classroom teachers so that they may have easy access to Palm OS-powered. Compatibility with Palm OS allows over 10,000 applications already available, including mClass TPRI software, making this a backup to the handhelds in use in elementary schools.

A study by SRI International found that 96% of those surveyed agreed that handheld computers were an effective instructional tool for teachers and that they promoted student autonomy and responsibility. Teachers also found that use of handhelds transformed learning activities into a more sophisticated experiences by providing students with the means to access data more easily. (study available online at <http://siliconvalley.internet.com/news/article.php/1448951>).

**Where have we been?**

Campuses have found it difficult to foster keyboarding skills, as well as use of laptop technology for projects. As such, teachers and students have not had easy access to technology that students can use that boasts word processing, spreadsheet, and other software in an easy to deploy, inexpensive package.

**Where are we?**

Currently, there is no clear District plan for making laptop-like tools available to students.

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

Instructional Services will make a minigrant available to interested campuses who would like to purchase mobile writing centers. Specifically, the mobile writing centers would take advantage of the Alphasmart Dana, a laptop-like tool that can be easily connected to our existing network (wireless or otherwise).

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

- Solicit minigrant applications in August, 2003. Applications would be awarded in September.
- Based on number of minigrants awarded, obtain Danas by September, 2003.
- Provide staff development for minigrant recipients by Area Cluster.
- Have a formative evaluation occur through implementation of the minigrant by Research & Evaluation Office, especially in regards to frequency of use, administrators' and teachers' perception of applicability to their job, use and attitudinal survey as well as focus group interviews.

**When should we be there?**

Training and deployment will be complete by December, 2003.

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

Hardware: purchasing Danas to match minigrant applications

Professional Development for Campus Staff

Development of Professional Development Materials.

**POLICY CITATION**

Moving towards a paperless environment.

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Not to exceed \$50,000 in Year 1

**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 #2: Mobile Writing Centers</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>			
<b>PROJECT COST ESTIMATE</b>			
<b>ONE-TIME</b>	\$12,400 per mobile cart and per campus, not to exceed \$50,000 for total minigrant purposes.		
<b>RECURRING</b>	Recurring cost 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.		