

FOUNDATION FOR BELMONT EDUCATION



A CASE STATEMENT

Continuing our mission to *Make a Difference* in Belmont Public Schools:

Belmont's Public Schools have always been a source of town pride and have strived to create excellence in public education. Our teachers have guided, challenged and prepared students to be successful, contributing citizens of the world. In order to maintain this path, our schools must continue to adapt in an era of accelerating change.

To succeed in college or in a professional environment flooded with information, our children must become principled critical thinkers and proficient users of information technology. According to the United States Department of Education, "The challenge for our education system is to leverage technology to create relevant learning experiences that mirror students' daily lives and the reality of their future. We live in a highly mobile, globally connected society in which young Americans will have jobs and more careers in their lifetimes than their parents. Learning can no longer be confined to the years we spend in school or the hours we spend in the classroom: It must be lifelong, lifewide, and available on demand."

With the Technology Tools for Teaching (T3) Campaign (2008-2011), the Foundation for Belmont Education supported the creation of 21st Century Classrooms for Active Learning. This 3 year, \$600,000 campaign helped put SMART Boards in every classroom, grades 4-12.

Today, the Foundation for Belmont Education will expand on this project with a focus on supporting educators as they enhance instruction by leveraging 21st century technology. This will empower Belmont students to take a more active role in their own learning and develop both digital literacy and adaptive learning skills giving them the ability to make connections that cut across domains and allow for deeper understanding of material.

The Innovative Teaching Initiative: Enhancing Instructional Excellence

The FBE, in partnership with the Belmont Public Schools, is excited to announce the Innovative Teaching Initiative, which expands on the success of the T3 campaign. The ***Innovative Teaching Initiative*** has a dual purpose of providing not only the technology tools but also the training they need to help deliver content more effectively to all Belmont's students. The Foundation for Belmont Education will:

- Fund teacher training on innovative instructional methods and project-based curriculum development
- Provide for a new approach to educational technology, iPads for student use. This 1:1 model allows for instruction to be tailored to individual student's needs
- Support teachers seeking more training on how to utilize the SMART Boards capacity in creative and innovative ways.

The Innovative Teaching Initiative is a 4 year, \$450,000 initiative that has two components:

- 1. Support for Innovative Practices:** This will be open to all teachers K-12 to help them learn and hone new teaching techniques as well as use technology, new and existing, in innovative and effective ways.

Requests can include support for:

- trainings and conferences relating to innovative practices (give examples)
- trainings and conferences on utilizing existing technologies, such as SMARTboards, or new tools, such as iPads, to produce innovative classroom instruction
- allowing teachers to work on curriculum and teaching techniques in the summer and/or during vacations
- allowing in-district, expert teachers to share their knowledge with their colleagues, external of their regular teaching duties.

- 2. Support for Innovative Tools:** This will focus on rolling out iPad technology in those grades best suited for implementation (8th-12th grades). The choice of iPads is based on a successful pilot program in grade 10 at the high school that tested out dynamic models of teaching and integrated SMART Board technology with individual iPad use. The students themselves became part of the equation, participating in content delivery, and learning to organize and share their ideas back to their teachers and back to their peers. The iPads interface with the SMART Boards, closing the loop and creating a 21st century classroom for active learning.

Implementation will be as follows:

a. YEAR ONE:

- i. iPads for all 9th grade students
- ii. 80 iPads for honors 10th Grade American Studies, expanding on the successful 2012-2013 pilot
- iii. 3 class sets of iPads for 8th grade science classrooms

b. YEARS TWO, THREE and FOUR

- i. iPads for all 9th grade students

The FBE will fund 100% of the cost of year one. Funding for years two, three and four will be on a descending scale—FBE will agree to pay 75% of the cost for year two 50% for year three and 25% for year four. The BPS will slowly take over funding the purchase of the device so we can spend more dollars on innovative professional development, and in year five, BPS will assume all costs of continuing the iPad program at BHS. (see funding schedule below)

Funding Schedule

	Innovative Practices Professional Development	Cost of iPad leases covered by the FBE	Total Yearly Cost of Campaign
Year 1	\$50,000* [□]	Up to \$116,000	\$116,000
Year 2	\$50,000 [□]	Up to \$112,207.50	\$132,207.50
Year 3	\$50,000 [□]	Up to \$95,805.50	\$115,805.50
Year 4	\$50,000 [□]	Up to \$60,125.25	\$80,125.25

*In YEAR ONE the BPS is spending \$20,000 for PD for this program from an anonymous grant.

[□]\$30,000 each year is regular Professional Development spending granted annually by the FBE to the BPS, thus not incremental to the Innovative Teaching Initiative.

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