



IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AND YOUTH GRANT SUMMARY

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

4.18.13

The School District of Fort Atkinson has applied for the Immigrant Children and Youth Grant which is a competitive grant offered through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) intended to improve the academic achievement, English language development, native language support, and/or parent training for immigrant students. Students eligible for this grant have to be born in a foreign country and have been attending US schools for three years or less.

The School District of Fort Atkinson's proposal for the 2013-2014 covers two main goals. First, we are seeking to implement programming and services that would help immigrant students maintain and hone their native language (especially Spanish). One of the trends that we frequently observe in our learning community is that immigrant students often lose their native language while trying to assimilate to our culture and learn English. In a sense, they trade their native language for the English language. By doing so, they lose a major asset that could assist them in their post-secondary life: the ability to be both bilingual and bi-literate.

The second main goal of Fort Atkinson's proposal calls for the creation of an immigrant parent advisory group. The primary purpose of this group would be to increase our immigrant families' awareness of resources within the School District of Fort Atkinson and the community and how to access these services. By doing so, we hope to see an increase in participation of immigrant students in our extra-curricular activities (both school- and community-based). Another goal related to the immigrant parent advisory group is to see an increase in immigrant parent participation in school-related committees and activities. We clearly see that parents of immigrant students are rarely represented on our PTO's or other school advisory boards. Our hope is that this grant results in increased representation of these families within our learning community.

Our proposal was recently submitted to DPI. We are seeking a total of \$39,207 for the 2013-2014 school year. This total covers additional hours for our District Community Liaison, translation costs, speakers for both the immigrant parent advisory group and for our immigrant students, outings to post-secondary institutions of higher learning, and other purchased services that enhance and promote bilingual and bi-literate education.