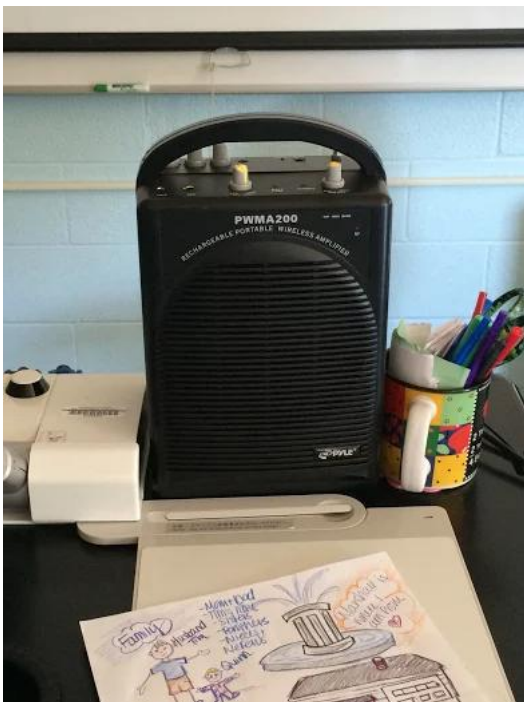


My PSEF Grant Story

Colleen Williams

In the spring of 2015, I was pleased and grateful to be presented with a grant from the Pennfield Schools Education Foundation for an audio system for my classroom. The grant was in the amount of \$94.00. I had done some research on the benefits of having teachers amplify their voices, and found that there were many. The grant I received bought a microphone unit for my classroom. I absolutely love having it, and I use it every single day for every class I teach.

I have noticed many benefits from this amplification system for students' learning. It helps students be more attentive to what I am saying. I also notice that I get their attention much faster during transition times which makes them run more smoothly. I wondered if students would find it strange that I used a microphone to teach, since none of their other teachers do. However, they don't seem to skip a beat when I use it. It does not cause a distraction at all. It also is less stressful for me to teach since I don't have to raise my voice. I can communicate at a normal voice level, but with the amplification, all students can hear me. I definitely feel that other teachers in the district and building could benefit from having an amplification system too.



Survey:

1. Briefly describe your grant:

My grant was for an audio system to amplify my voice for students to hear my lessons better.

2. What was the amount you requested? Did you use all of the money? Did the District contribute any in-kind money? If yes then how much?

I requested the amount to cover the amplification system. The amount I used and was awarded was \$94.00. The district did not contribute any in-kind money.

3. What data that shows this grant was successful. If it was not successful, explain why.

Using formative assessment to gage this, I would say that students are much more attentive. They handle transitions more smoothly and follow my directions. I find that I do not repeat things as often as I used to. Also, the stress on my voice is greatly reduced. I feel better teaching with the microphone than without it.

4. Could this grant be replicated in other classrooms/buildings? Why or why not? What adaptations would you recommend if others were to implement this grant?

Yes, this grant could definitely be replicated in other buildings and classrooms. I think the benefit is universal for students. I would not make any adaptations to this grant.

5. Describe your experience of applying and receiving a grant from the PSEF.

I found the application process to be relatively simple. After I applied, I went to the next meeting and explained my grant in person. This was valuable so that the board members could ask questions about the grant before making their decision. It did not take long to hear back about the acceptance, and communication from the grant board was outstanding. Overall, the process was very user friendly.