

HOW TO GET FINANCIAL HELP to take a Modeling Workshop

(11/2017 by Jane Jackson, AMTA volunteer since the AMTA began. <http://modeling.asu.edu>)

1) Ask your school district to pay with Federal Title II-A Funds. A Modeling Workshop can be an excellent investment for your school because you can become a valuable resource for teaching science effectively with technology!

FACT: Every school district and charter school in the USA is eligible to get yearly Federal Title II funds, primarily for teacher professional development. These funds must be shared with private schools within the school district boundaries.

FACT: Federal TITLE II regulations in the ESSA (EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT) are that a local educational agency (LEA; i.e., a school district or charter school) shall meaningfully consult with TEACHERS to develop its yearly Consolidated Application to the State Department of Education. (For example, the yearly deadline in Arizona is May 1.)

ACTIONS:

a) At the beginning of the school year, get allies: talk with your principal and your science coordinator/professional development coordinator.

b) Find out who your district's Title II coordinator is. (Look on your school district website for Federal Programs Officer, or Grants & Federal Projects Director, or Title Programs Coordinator...)

c) Collectively, a group of two or more science teachers in your school e-mail or call your district Title II coordinator. Say, “We science teachers want to be part of the ESSA yearly application process.” With your allies (see above), ask him/her to reserve a specific dollar amount of funds for Modeling Workshops next summer: to **build capacity of your science teachers to be effective, and/or to qualify to teach Dual Enrollment**. Say that Modeling Workshops are high-quality, personalized professional development that is evidence-based and focused on improving teaching and student learning and achievement. (Evidence is at the AMTA website: <http://modelinginstruction.org> and at the ASU modeling legacy website: <http://modeling.asu.edu> .)

d) If you didn't get involved in planning this year's use of Title II funds, **ask your principal** to intercede for you and request Title II funds from your district Federal Programs Director. Be courteous; if Modeling Workshops are NOT in your district's yearly plan, then you can be denied Title II funds – in which case, you need to get involved in deciding how your next year's district Title II funds will be used. (**If you are denied Title II funds this year, ask your principal if he has a different source of funds.**)

More facts:

- * The school district has 27 months to use the funds. If unused, they go back to the Feds.
- * Funds are determined by census and poverty (80% by poverty, 20% by population).

* School districts can amend their yearly application; thus, even if the deadline is passed, you can still request funds.

As evidence that teachers **MUST** be involved in developing your school district's yearly application to your state Dept. of Ed, for Title II funds, read the ESSA legislation, Title II excerpts, at <http://modeling.asu.edu/AZ/TitleII-ESSA-SchoolDistrict.htm>

To educate us, in summer 2016 Steve Larson, the AZ Dept. of Education Director of the Federal Title II program, gave a talk to 60 physics and chemistry teachers who were at ASU. I posted his Powerpoint and my notes at the ASU modeling legacy website: <http://modeling.asu.edu>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page, in the section called <Arizona Community>.

2) Rural teachers: ask your principal **NOW** to reserve **Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) funds**. Ref. <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/reaprlisp/index.html>

3) **Apply to your local parent club / booster club**. A science teacher wrote, “The school parent club is usually more than willing to give teachers money -- the teachers just need to apply for it. In the past I have had to first apply for the money, then at the monthly parent club meeting give a little 5-minute presentation on what the money would be used for.”

4) **See if you can apply to your school district foundation**. Look on your district website for their focuses and timelines.

5) **Ask your local service organizations**. Colleen Megowan had great success at this, when she taught 9th grade physics. She wrote, “contact your local chapter of Rotary, Lions, Elks, or Soroptimist International (or other community service organizations) and ask to speak at an upcoming weekly lunch meeting. They need a speaker every week. You might be surprised at how glad they are to have a competent speaker volunteer to be on the program.” Download a 2-page “how-to” at <http://modeling.asu.edu/MNS/ServiceOrgs-financialHelp.doc>

6) **Apply for a grant**. Few exist, unfortunately. The NSTA website has a list. Visit the NEA, AACT (Hach grants), and fundforteachers.org websites.

7) **HOST a Modeling Workshop at your school; and apply for a grant from local utilities, tech companies, and foundations, to pay for 2 Modeling Workshop leaders**. Contact Wendy Heheman for advice. wendy@modelinginstruction.org. Download sample proposals for up to \$30,000 at: <http://modeling.asu.edu/modeling/professdevelop.html> (Independent schools can apply for \$25,000 or more from the Edward E. Ford Foundation <http://www.eeford.org/>)

Sample grant proposals for individual teachers, and more resources, are at <http://modeling.asu.edu/Projects-Resources.html> in the section called <Grants for Instructional Technology, Improved Instruction, Modeling Workshops>.

Arizona-specific funding resources are at <http://modeling.asu.edu>. Scroll down to the bottom of the page, in the section called <Arizona Community>.