

Grant Application: Math Shelf Startup Funding Program

Research shows that early math skills are critical for a child's long-term success in school and life. However, low-income children start Kindergarten one year behind their peers in math, and the gap widens to 2.5 years by fifth grade.¹ Recent studies suggest that reducing the math achievement gap in, and before Kindergarten is the most promising approach to improving children's future academic outcomes.² Technology can assist teachers in diagnosing student prior knowledge, differentiating math content for each student, and adjusting lesson pacing, sequence and instruction to help young children master foundational math skills.

Introduction to Math Shelf

Math Shelf is a tablet-based early childhood mathematics program that provides over 1,200 sequenced instructional activities rooted in a Montessori, manipulative-based approach. The program is accessible to children as young as three, covers math topics halfway through first grade, and is aligned to both Common Core and state math standards. Math Shelf has been experimentally proven to increase children's math achievement by at least one year. Math Shelf results are published in three, peer-reviewed academic journals (www.mathshelf.com/research).

Startup Funding Program

The goal of Math Shelf's Startup Funding Program is to demonstrate a cost effective, scalable, and easy to implement solution that will improve low-income and English Language Learners mathematics outcomes and eliminate the Kindergarten math achievement gap.

The Startup Funding Program provides funds to help school districts serving low-income Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten children get started using Math Shelf. Funding is limited, and grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to those organizations who qualify and meet the requirements below.

Funds will cover:

- Tablet computers for classrooms (4 per classroom)
- Math Shelf license fees in year 1
- Professional development for educators and administrators (in person & online)
- Free parent-child access to Math Shelf from home and libraries
- A reliable and valid assessment to demonstrates children's mastery of early math skills
- Weekly usage and performance reports to teachers, principals, and administrators

¹ Isaacs, J. B., Starting School at a Disadvantage: The School Readiness of Poor Children, Washington, DC: Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution (March 19, 2012); Jordan, N. C., Kaplan, D., Ramineni, C., & Locuniak, M. N. (2009). Early math matters: kindergarten number competence and later mathematics outcomes. *Developmental Psychology*, 45, 850e867.

² Watts, T. W., Duncan, G. J., Siegler, R. S., & Davis-Kean, P. E. (2014). What's past is prologue: relations between early mathematics knowledge and high school achievement. *Educational Researcher*, 43, 352– 360.

Requirements:

Organizations selected to participate must agree to the following:

- Participate in Training: Educators shall participate in two, 1 hour and 30-minute training sessions. The first training session will be in person, the second online. Districts will also receive on-site coaching and support to assist educators in implementing the program.
- Implement Math Shelf with Fidelity. Participating classrooms will assign each child to play Math Shelf twice a week for 10 minutes each session. Classrooms will implement Math Shelf for 25 weeks beginning October 14, 2019 and ending May 4,2020.
- Analyze Data to Support Implementation: District administrator(s) shall participate in three conference calls (beginning, mid-year, end of year) to review implementation data across classrooms, and use data to support teachers in successfully implementing the program.
- Assess Children: Schools agree to pre- and posttest each child using a reliable and valid tablet early mathematics assessment that takes under 8 minutes to complete. Schools will select an employee to proctor the assessments. The proctor will receive a generous stipend for their work. Schools will receive the results of the assessment to help them understand the benefits of Math Shelf.
- Purchase: At the end of Year 1, the school district-CMO agrees to purchase Math Shelf licenses for classrooms, and implement the program in Year 2. The cost of the program is \$450 per class. If the school district-CMO is not satisfied with the program, and decides not to implement in YR 2, the organization will return the tablets to Early Learning Solutions Inc, the company administering the grant.

Application Form

**Please submit this grant application to schacter@teachingdoctors.com.
For additional information please call 310-779-4165.**

Date of Application: _____

District-CMO name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

