

ORIGINAL WORK PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The average cost of school supplies in the United States is \$597 per student. Many first-year teachers pay out-of-pocket to ensure their students will have the supplies they need. Today, there is a teacher shortage that is plaguing America, and many new teachers are quitting the profession. There are many reasons people are leaving the profession, such as low pay, lack of resources and support, disrespectful behaviors from parents/students, and other reasons. Additionally, the public school budget in Texas has not been raised within the past 5 years and due to inflation, the resources schools are able to provide is decreasing.

I plan on collaborating with the Frisco ISD board in order to discuss possible plans of action to raise money to provide supplies for new teachers. I want to create a system for new teachers to request supplies for free/reduced prices throughout the school year. My objective for this project is to help reduce the financial strain new teachers face.

REVIEW OF SKILLS & RESEARCH

Before I can start, I will need to research the pricing of common school supplies and come up with a realistic budget for this project. There is still a lot for me to learn about what material items teachers *really* need right now and how to get them. I will need to look into potential vendors, sponsors, and locations to store donations. I will need to keep track of the pricing and keep in close contact with members of the FISD board and Legislative Leadership Committee to get approved. After this, I'd need to research the most populated schools in Frisco and calculate the number of new teachers who would need support from this project and create a spending plan that fits the budget. When the background information is prepared, I will meet with members of the Plano ISD board and learn more about their *Core Store* which has a similar process and allows teachers to shop for free supplies that they need. After talking with the PISD board and people involved with their store I would meet with members of the Frisco ISD board in order to discuss the way this could be implemented in FISD. During this time I will also talk to people from *Frisco Threads* to learn more about their distribution process. Once these initial meetings are done and I have a better understanding on how to realistically create this system, then I will work to create the process for letting new teachers request supplies from the district.

METHODOLOGY

1. **Background Research:** Look into the logistics of what supplies will be needed and create a realistic budget
2. **Meetings:** Meet with PISD, FISD, Frisco Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations that will help sort out the logistics to create this project.
3. **Contacting Businesses:** Contact businesses who are willing to help donate supplies and provide funding for this project.

4. Creating Distribution System: Hand supplies out to teachers who need them.

MATERIALS

- Google Sheets (track expenses)
- School Supplies
- Storage Unit (to store supplies)
- Internet Access

UTILIZATION OF HIGHER-LEVEL THINKING SKILLS

Throughout my interviews, when I asked what are the most important traits to possess to be successful in policy, two answers frequently came up: being able to build/maintain relationships and make compromises. With my original work, I will have to build relationships with multiple people within FISD such as teachers, board members, and administrators, people in PISD, business owners, and many other people along the way. I will also need to compromise and come up with new solutions in order to make this plan more effective once I meet with all of these people. In order to get funding and donations from businesses and potentially the district, I will need to effectively communicate my vision to others and persuade them to support the cause, all necessary skills for this field. Amongst the financial strain many Texas school districts are facing, I will need to work very closely with people who have power over our budget to create a realistic spending plan, and I will have to constantly adapt with the information I learn along the way. My original work relies heavily on other people and their willingness to collaborate with me, which means I will need to use the soft skills learned in ISM to have an end product that matches my vision.

CONCLUSION

Through this project, I intend to make a system that helps teachers worry less about the way they have to supply their classrooms. I will apply my knowledge about funding issues within education to help create a solution that is realistic and can be enacted to help retain teachers. Using the knowledge I learned from my research assessments about the teacher shortage and teacher retention rates, I will attempt to offset the reasons people are leaving the profession. When I was growing up, I always enjoyed learning because I had such wonderful teachers. Reducing the issues that teachers are facing right now will let them focus more on their students and helping kids succeed.

Research and Logistics

1. Week of 1/27

- a. Find Estimated Costs
 - i. Look into most commonly needed school supplies
 - ii. Figure out average costs first-year teachers spend to supply and furnish classrooms
- b. Look into FISD schools with largest student populations
 - i. To make this project more realistic, the initial system will provide supplies for teachers in the most crowded FISD schools because they have more students

2. Week of 2/3

- a. Research *Core Store*
 - i. Set up meeting with PISD board
 - ii. Draft Potential Meeting Questions
 1. Learn how they started the *Core Store*
 2. How does it fit within their budget
 3. What benefits have they noticed after it was implemented
- b. Look into FISD funding
 - i. Learn why FISD has not started a similar program
 - ii. What limitations does FISD have that is preventing this from happening
 - iii. What is a realistic budget the district can provide
- c. Alternative Funding Methods
 - i. How much money are other businesses willing to contribute
- d. Brainstorm Names
- e. Finalize Names

3. Week of 2/10

- a. Meet with PISD board
- b. Set up meeting with FISD board
 - i. Draft Potential Meeting Questions
 - ii. Where will monetary donations be held?
 - iii. Where will physical donations be held?
- c. Set up meeting with Maureen Johns
 - i. Works for Frisco Chamber of Commerce
 - ii. Can help find businesses willing to provide funds
- d. Set up meeting with *Frisco Threads*
 - i. Talk about methods of distribution
- e. Create Budget for Project

4. Week of 2/17

- a. Meet with FISD board
- b. Meet With Maureen Johns
- c. Meet with *Frisco Threads*

Contacting Vendors & Getting Supplies

5. Week of 2/24
 - a. Draft survey for new FISD teachers
 - i. What supplies do you need the most?
 - ii. What would benefit your classroom
 - iii. What are other material items you need to be successful?
 - b. Send out survey to new FISD teachers
 - c. Analyze data and determine what is needed
6. Week of 3/3
 - a. Contact businesses interested in aiding project
 - i. Talk about funding
 - ii. Providing donations
 - b. Look into places that can store physical supplies
7. Week of 3/10
 - a. Continue contacting businesses
8. Week of 3/24
 - a. Meet with businesses that want to participate
 - i. Discuss how they will contribute
 - ii. Timeline for when donations will be given to FISD
 - b. Create spending plan with the given budget
 - c. Set up meeting with FISD board
 - i. Discuss progress made so far
 - ii. Draft questions

Implementation

9. Week of 3/31
 - a. Meet with FISD board
 - b. Finalize area to hold supplies
10. Week of 4/7
 - a. Create system for teachers to request supplies
11. Week of 4/14
 - a. Organize supplies that have been donated in the storage facility
 - b. Send out initial form to request supplies
 - i. Ask for feedback on the form
12. Week of 4/21
 - a. Look at feedback on the form and refine system
 - b. Finalize system to request supplies
 - c. Finalize supplies and donations made
13. Week of 4/28
 - a. Finished Product