



ASD

Arkansas School for the Deaf

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Dr. Janet Dickinson, Superintendent

November 1, 2018

Regional Recycling and Waste Reduction District
300 Spring Street Building
Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to offer my support for the Arkansas School for the Deaf's recycling initiatives as presented in this grant application. The staff and students at ASD take seriously the importance of maintaining and growing the school's recycling efforts. The purchase of recycling containers with the \$1,000 from this grant will go a long way toward achieving our goal of being responsible and knowledgeable stewards of the environment.

The ASD administration strongly supports this grant project and I applaud the students, educators, and support staff who have already taken steps to ensure that our school community becomes better recyclers. I hope that you will consider funding our project and helping our students meet our recycling goals.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Dickinson".

Dr. Janet Dickinson

Superintendent

VISION STATEMENT

Arkansas School for the Deaf is an inspired community committed to achievement, innovation, collaboration, and excellence.

2018 Regional Recycling District School Grants Application

Applicant

School Name: Arkansas School for the Deaf

School Address: 2400 W Markham St, Little Rock, AR 72205

School District: Arkansas School for the Deaf

Number of Students Enrolled: 140

Contact

Superintendent: Dr. Janet Dickinson

School Board President: Faith McLaughlin

Principal's Name: Rayburn Boland

Contact Person(s): Kevin Lentz and Bethany Hays

Email Addresses: kevinl@asd.k12.ar.us and bethany.hope.hays@gmail.com

Program Description

Background

The Arkansas School for the Deaf (ASD) has a strong legacy: it is the only school for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in the state of Arkansas and, founded in 1850, is one of the state's oldest schools. ASD has a rich heritage of "empowering Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing children to become highly effective communicators who are educated, motivated, and independent." The staff of ASD supports this mission by providing students dynamic opportunities for learning and delivering more equitable access to the world around them, truly instilling a sense that "the only thing Deaf people cannot do is hear." 100% of ASD's population have special needs. 38% of these students have multiple disabilities. 30% of elementary students reside in the dorms, and 50% of middle and high school students reside in the dorms.

Current Program

While ASD partakes in some recycling efforts already; the school administration is wishing to expand through a new initiative. Dana Lindner, a teacher at Arkansas School for the Deaf specializing in agriculture-business, currently facilitates the project and educates the students on recycling best practices. Roughly 100 students are currently involved with the program; T.E.A.M. Ready students, a class made up of students who have multiple disabilities, lead the project. The school currently is recycling only plastic bottles, some cardboard, and paper at the moment via recycling bins located in a limited amount of classrooms. Students gather recycled plastic bottles from the recycling bins located in a few classrooms, separate the lids, and then crush them so they take up less space. Dana, then, puts all the sorted, plastic water bottles in her car, and she transports the bottles to the recycling center.

Expansion

School administrators, staff, and students believe the program has room for improvement! The Arkansas School for the Deaf's staff and students use a lot of paper, cardboard, and other recyclable materials. Staff wants to have enough containers to recycle aluminum, paper, cardboard, and plastic bottles; this requires containers in the girls and boys dorms, the cafeteria, various administrative buildings, and each of the school buildings.

If ASD had more recycling containers, the school could greatly reduce their carbon footprint as a school. With this funding, staff and students will be given the option to recycle something that has not been widely possible. A long-term goal for the program would be to have better transportation of recyclables and an integrated training for maintenance staff because, unfortunately, the cleaning crew sometimes empties the recycling bins as if they were trash cans. The goal is to have everyone on campus (students, staff, faculty, school administrators, etc.) engaged in the recycling program and know how to recycle properly by Spring 2019. ASD administration plans to implement a formal policy within the next three years to add support to the recycling program.

Continuance

Recycling is something that the Arkansas School for the Deaf is passionate about; the staff and students are already highly involved with current recycling efforts on campus. Dana Lindner is working with other staff to expand the program as its facilitators, so the program may continue in her stead. The Arkansas School for the Deaf is also starting a composting "journey," as Dana relates, through cooperation with the Double Pride café; the Double Pride Cafe is an on-campus, student-run café for the culinary arts program at ASD. Eventually, Dana plans to expand this to include the school's cafeteria. Since the school is only in need of recycling containers to expand its current program, it will not be hard to continue it without the \$1,000 grant funding in the future. ASD staff and students use a lot of paper, cardboard, and other recyclable materials and more bins will ensure that more of the ASD community has access to learn about the ability to recycle and improve the environmental impacts of the school as a whole. With this funding, staff and students will be given the option to recycle—something that has not been widely possible.

Project Timeline

August-September 2018	Dana Lindner created and implemented recycling plan
	T.E.A.M. Ready students educated about recycling
	Recycling of plastic bottles, some cardboard, and paper.
	Assessed program progress
October 2018	Presented ASD administration with recycling expansion plan
November 2018	Applied for grant
	Begin student, faculty, and staff recycling education
	Allocate new recycling bins to the girls and boys dorms, the cafeteria, administrative buildings, and all of the school buildings.
	Assess program and develop new recycling goals
Spring 2019	Entire campus engaged and educated on the recycling plan
	T.E.A.M. Ready students practicing the new recycling strategies
August 2019	Recycling program implemented with quarterly assessments and educated initiatives
2019-2021	ASD administration implements a formal recycling policy