

Special Education Project Proposal

Title Page

Project Title: Enabling Success: Special Education Enhancement Initiative

Submitted By: Pathways to Learning Foundation

Submission Date: February 28, 2025

Project Duration: 3 years (April 2025 – March 2028)

Executive Summary

The Pathways to Learning Foundation proposes the Enabling Success Initiative, a comprehensive project designed to support students with special needs by integrating advanced assistive technologies and providing specialized training for educators. This initiative targets elementary and middle schools in underserved districts, aiming to improve accessibility, engagement, and educational outcomes for students with disabilities. We are seeking \$600,000 in funding to implement this program in 20 schools over the next three years.

Project Context

Students with special needs often face significant barriers in traditional learning environments, which can hinder their academic progress and social integration. Many schools in underserved areas lack the necessary resources and training to effectively support these students, leading to disparities in educational outcomes.

Project Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Improve educational access for students with special needs through technology.

Objective 1.1: Equip 100 classrooms with assistive technologies such as speech-to-text software, touch screen devices, and adjustable furniture by the end of the first year.

Objective 1.2: Increase the engagement and participation of students with special needs in learning activities by 40% as measured by teacher assessments and student feedback.

Goal 2: Enhance the capability of educators to teach students with diverse learning needs effectively.

Objective 2.1: Train 200 educators and support staff in specialized instructional strategies, including differentiated instruction and behavior management, by the second year of the project.

Objective 2.2: Establish a peer-support network for ongoing knowledge sharing and problem-solving among special education teachers.

Project Methodology

Phase 1: Needs Assessment—Conduct a detailed assessment of the specific needs of students and the current capabilities of schools to address those needs.

Phase 2: Technology Implementation—Purchase and install assistive technologies in classrooms and train staff on their use.

Phase 3: Educator and Staff Training—Implement comprehensive training programs focused on modern special education techniques and personalized learning approaches.

Phase 4: Monitoring and Evaluation—Regularly assess the impact of technology and training interventions on student learning outcomes and adjust strategies as needed.

Budget

Total Funding Request: \$600,000

Breakdown:

- \$250,000 for assistive technology equipment and installation.
- \$200,000 for professional development and training.
- \$100,000 for project management and coordination.
- \$50,000 for evaluation and assessment activities.

Evaluation and Assessment

The initiative will use both qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods, including:

- Pre- and post-intervention assessments to measure improvements in student engagement and academic performance.
- Regular feedback sessions with educators and staff to evaluate the effectiveness of training programs.
- Surveys and interviews with students and parents to assess changes in student satisfaction and overall well-being.

Sustainability

Strategies to ensure the program's long-term sustainability include:

- Developing partnerships with technology providers for continuous support and updates.
- Integrating successful practices and tools into the schools' regular budgets and operational plans.
- Creating a mentorship program within schools to foster an ongoing culture of support and professional development among educators.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Detailed descriptions of assistive technologies to be used.
- Appendix B: Curriculum for educator training programs.
- Appendix C: Assessment tools and evaluation schedules.
- Appendix D: Letters of support from school districts and community organizations.