

# Grants Key To Former WMS Principal

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Staff Writer

A major source of funding for public education is through grants – specific amounts of money allotted to schools who apply for them.

The money is earmarked for special purposes and cannot be used for anything else. It is accounted for separately and is not counted in with the school district's general revenue.

General operating expenses and base salaries are for the most part supported by local property taxes and state aid based on a district's average daily (student) membership.

The grant funds may come directly from the federal government, or administered through the state Department of Education. Some are from private sources such as corporations and foundations.

All grant funds have to be applied for. They are allocated on the basis of applications submitted by individual school districts or teachers. Most applications have to be turned in by a deadline date to be considered for the next year.

It takes time, persistence and perseverance. Most grant proposal writers are trained in workshops and seminars – and the more they know about what's expected, the faster they can fill out a grant application.

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How does another school district handle the process of applying for grant money?

The principal of Enid's Waller Junior High School, Michael King, is responsible for the acquisition of \$210,000 in new grant funds this year. He did not write all the grant proposals himself but he saw to it that teachers received grant infor-

mation. King stayed on top of deadlines and provided teachers with the material they needed to document their requests.

Most of all, King encouraged teachers to apply for grants and supported their efforts.

King was principal of Woodward Middle School until the summer of 1996.

"He worked us to death, writing grants," said a former middle school staff member. "But we were glad to do it. Mike knew how important it was to go looking for those funds."

"We were approved for grants for the after-school programs, for staff development, for technology – all those things we couldn't afford with local funds."

King told The News that most notices of available grants go to a school district's administration office, where they are then routed to the school buildings and depart-

ments for which they are appropriate.

Among the funding sources for Enid's Waller Junior High this year have been the School to Work project, Southwestern Bell, and Community Education program which has financed the purchase of 23 computers for community access to the Internet after school hours.

Waller was selected to participate in the Aurora Project, another funding source for technology. In the 1999 school year, Enid High School and Waller Junior High will receive \$73,000. Students will set up their own national web page and the ninth grade Oklahoma history class will stock it with historic facts about the state.

King said the computers will be used by classes ranging from basic keyboarding to web page design and

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multimedia presentations.

They will be used in the teaching of all of the core subjects – math, science, social studies and English.

The Enid school also received a Service Learning grant from the state Department of Education. The purpose of that grant is to get the students active in their community, to learn language skills, reading, computation, economics and other

basic skills by taking part in civic projects.

"This is not taking time away from their study of core subjects," said King. "This is to make core subjects applicable on an everyday level, to use the tools of technology to learn the core subjects more thoroughly."

Waller Junior High has 600 students who are in the seventh, eighth

and ninth grades, compared to Woodward Middle School, which has nearly 1,000 students in fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Woodward Middle School has received no new grants this school year, except those to individual teachers by the Woodward Education Association, which averages less than \$1,000. Nor has the middle school been approved for

new grant money in the future. One application was turned down by the state Department of Education for lack of detail, and other applications were not submitted until appropriate material could be developed, said middle school principal Wayne King.

Wayne King – no relation to the Enid principal, Mike King – said more information is needed to fill