



**PROPOSAL: POP-UP REMOTE LEARNING SITES FOR CHILDREN OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS, WITH LEARNING SUPPORT AND AFTER-SCHOOL STEAM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Remote learning has created a gap in accessibility, accommodations, and resources for students and their parents. Although some parents have formed peer pods, hired teachers or nannies, or moved their students to private schools, that is beyond the means of many families, whose children risk falling into a learning gap.

Parents who are blue-collar workers, retail workers, restaurant staff, nurses, and hospital support staff need to be physically at their place of work, often while their children are trying to remotely learn. Remote students may be home alone while their parents work, have parents or grandparents who cannot assist them with learning gaps, and encounter internet and technology problems that are difficult to solve without a capable person on-site.

The Midwest Torrance Center for Creativity/The Center for Gifted can help solve this problem. We are a not-for-profit that has been teaching children since 1983. This summer we have successfully run socially-distanced programs at Elmhurst College and our two locations. We are currently running remote learning and in-person programs at both of our locations.

We are seeking funding to expand our programs to run “pop-up” e-learning centers near retail centers, medical complexes, and industrial parks, which will be convenient drop-off sites for the working parents who need them.

The pop-up centers will be open for as long as they are necessary, with the hours, days, and other factors adjusted to meet workers’ needs. We will adjust programs at each pop-up location to meet students’ educational needs.

At e-learning pop-up centers, students will be socially distanced and wear masks as they do remote schooling on their school-issued devices. We plan to have one teacher and one tech-support assistant for every 12 students. Small teacher-to-student ratios are necessary because students will be in different grades, from different districts, have different devices, with different schedules and learning levels. We will provide e-learning support, homework help, and -- after

e-learning is completed -- our creative and talented teachers will run hands-on STEAM programs.

Costs for e-learning pop-up sites will include rent, utilities, internet, teacher salaries, tech assistant salaries, payroll taxes, educational supplies, sanitization supplies, masks, tables, and chairs. We will seek to get as much donated as possible, so that we can utilize funding to reach the greatest number of students possible.

We have the staff and capabilities to help keep these families' students from falling into the learning gap, but we need your help to serve the children of essential workers. Please let us know if we can answer any questions or provide you with additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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