

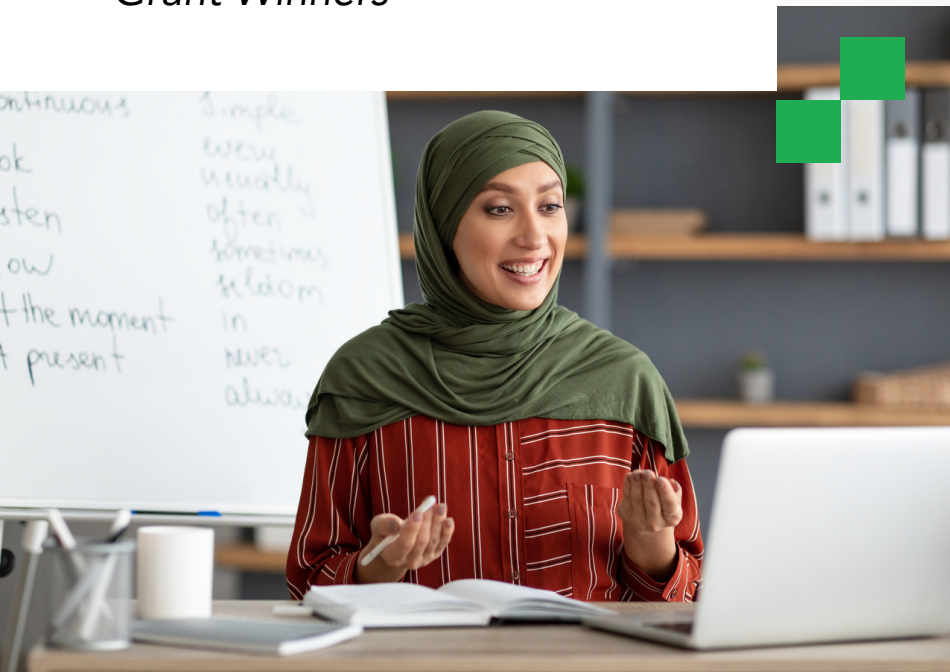


ICNARelief
BACK²SCHOOL

Impact Stories from

ICNA Relief Back2School EMPOWER Grant

*Celebrating Our EMPOWER
Grant Winners*



Educating Minds & Presenting Opportunities
While Endowing Resources.

EMPOWER | a Back2School Grant

Educating Minds & Presenting Opportunities While Endowing Resources



ICNARelief



ABOUT THE EMPOWER GRANT

The EMPOWER Grant program was established in 2020 by the ICNA Relief Back2School program.

\$2,000

grant per year to teachers for
classroom enhancement.

Classroom Enhancement Grants: These grants support teachers in implementing innovative projects or programs in their classrooms.

They can be used to purchase materials, technology, or resources that enhance the learning experience for students.

OUR IMPACT

\$71,305

Dollar Value

78

Recipients

18

States

AISHA KARACHIWALA



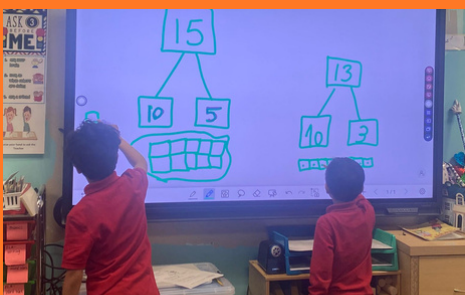
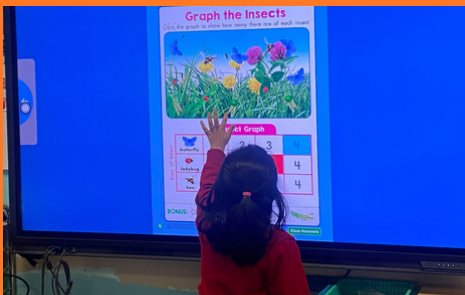
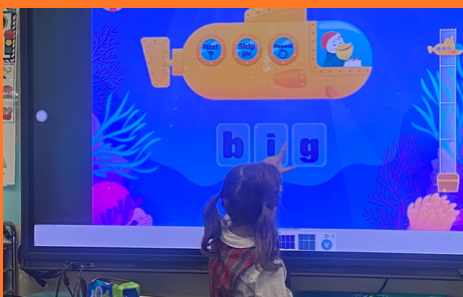
Tarbiyah Academy
Elkridge, Maryland

SMARTboard for the classroom!

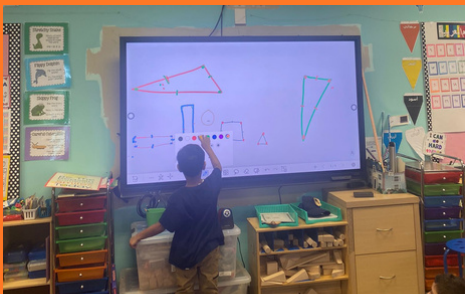
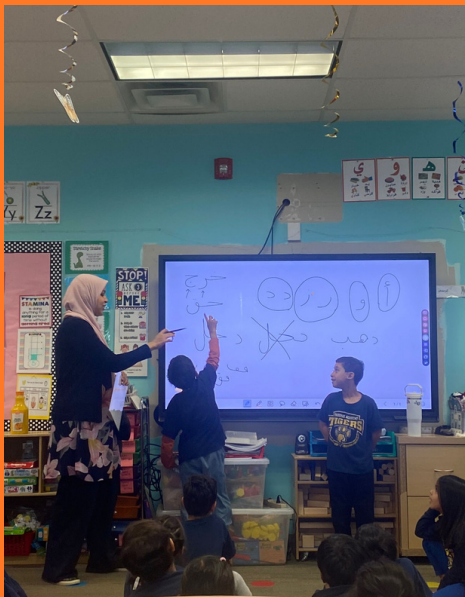
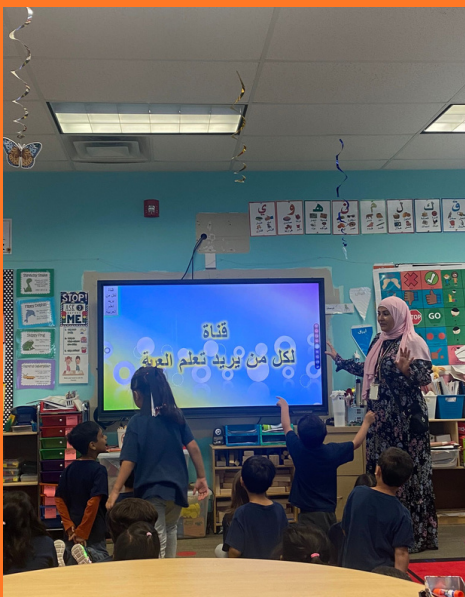
Both the visual and interactive component of the SMARTboard has given my students the opportunity to engage in "hands-on-learning" by "visiting" places around the world through our various units of inquiry. Learning about the economy, students got to "travel" through interactive literature on an application called "epic." The stories of markets around the world came to life for them as the narrator read with expression the pictures. We later used online resources to "travel" around the world to see various types of markets around the world. Students could see and hear these markets, listening to language and expression and how people expressed themselves. They made connections to our learning of how goods and services are traded.

MATH HAS BEEN AMAZING! SCREENCASTING HAS BEEN AMAZING! WORKING WITH NUMBERS AND SHAPES INTERACTIVELY HAS BEEN SOOOO MUCH FUN FOR THE KIDS. WORKING THROUGH NUMBER SENTENCES AND NUMBER BONDS ADDED A STRONGER UNDERSTANDING WHEN THE KIDS COULD SEE AND MANIPULATE THE NUMBERS AND SENTENCES THEMSELVES. COUNTING AND MATCHING GAMES ALLOWED FOR BUILDING STRONGER UNDERSTANDINGS AS WELL.

Ms. Aisha's Smartboard



Ms. Aisha's Smartboard



BOUZELMAT NOUNA MELKHEIR



Nur Islamic School of Louisville
Louisville, Kentucky

The funds were used to purchase PE equipment, including mini soccer nets, corner flags, cones, hula hoops, a coach board, track hurdles, and various agility drill equipment. Additionally, we acquired a tablet for easy use on the field, a first aid kit for physical education classes and after-school sports programs, and an extra social-emotional workbook for students from kindergarten through sixth grade.



- Improved players' and students' soccer skills.
- Enhanced students' and players' physical abilities and fitness.
- Fostered a sense of team unity and brotherhood/sisterhood.
- Established an Islamic environment within the team, where we teach them Islamic behavioral values.
- Helped students and players learn how to manage and cope with their stress and emotions.

DEBBY RASHED

Tarbiyah Academy
Elkridge, Maryland



Specialized Support Services:

We have established and expanded specialized support services catering to the unique needs of students with IEPs and 504 plans. These services include personalized tutoring, counseling, and accommodations to ensure each student receives the assistance required for academic success.

Educational Resources:

A significant portion of the grant has been allocated to acquiring educational resources, including books that provide valuable insights into effective ways of working with students with 504s and IEPs. These resources have not only benefited our educators but have also enriched our understanding of diverse learning styles.

Manipulatives for Enhanced Learning:

The grant funds have been utilized to procure manipulatives designed to enhance our students' reading and motor skills. These hands-on tools have proven to be effective in creating engaging learning experiences, particularly for students with diverse learning needs.

Support for Students with ADHD:

Recognizing the importance of supporting students with ADHD, we have invested in resources and tools to help them focus. This includes sensory tools, fidget devices, and other aids that contribute to a conducive learning environment.

Organizational Tools:

The grant has facilitated the purchase of organizers and tools to assist students in developing effective organizational skills. These resources have proven invaluable in empowering students to manage their responsibilities and succeed academically.

Manipulatives for Enhanced Learning:

Acquiring educational resources, particularly the books secured through the grant, has been pivotal in developing targeted and effective lesson plans. These carefully chosen books, aligned with the diverse needs of students with IEPs and 504 plans, are invaluable tools for enhancing lesson content and structure. Offering in-depth insights and practical strategies for working with students facing various learning challenges, these resources inform the design of individualized lesson plans. As a result, our lessons have become more tailored, allowing for differentiated instruction that meets the unique requirements of each student.

HALA KARAEIN

Grand Rapids Michigan



Because of this grant, we have the much-needed hands - on materials we need to shelter our fiddler crabs and the classroom furniture we need. We got a kidney table to spread our projects and work in small groups. Before the grant, we did not have a carpet or a table to work at. This furniture makes the classroom come to life in many ways! The furniture helps us stay organized and gives us the space to be creative and fully engaged in the classroom activities.

THIS GRANT HAS GIVEN ME MORE SPACE AND HELPED ME DESIGN MY CLASSROOM SO IT IS A POSITIVE LEARNING SPACE!



HALIMA ISMAIL

Islamic School of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids, Michigan



We have purchased an aquarium, added two field trips that supported our science standards, and ensured our students engaged with actual scientists!

Our school board adopted a new science curriculum but was unable to purchase all of the equipment needed for the labs and hands-on learning in science. With the grant, we can ensure the curriculum is fully utilized with fidelity.

For example in third grade 3 gallon aquariums are needed so the students can investigate the life cycle of a frog and in fourth grade, the students will explore energy and waves. They need specific materials to support this innovative curriculum. The materials include beakers, lamps, a burner and a tuning fork - all of these items are reasonably priced and will ensure our students participate in hands-on science investigations which will lead to providing them the much-needed background information they need to pursue higher levels of science in their future.



LULIA SALAMA

Houston Peace Academy
Spring, Texas



BASED ON THE NEEDS A SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING CLASS WAS DESIGNED AND CREATED FOR GRADES 1-7. THE CLASS IS DESIGNED TO TEACH STUDENTS IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS THROUGH ENGAGING CLASSROOM MATERIALS AS WELL AS OUTDOOR EDUCATION.



- Emotional intelligence curriculum focuses on self-awareness, self-regulation, internal motivation, empathy, and social skills.
- The executive functioning curriculum focuses on task initiation, impulse control, task completion, time management, working memory, cognitive flexibility, emotional self-control, auditory attention, self-regulation, and organization.
- Outdoor gardening reinforces lessons learned in the classroom including science, math, social studies, and Islamic studies, and provides hands-on engaging activities.

MARIAM SABAAALAZAB

Madinah Academy of Madison
Madison, Wisconsin



I WAS THRILLED TO ORGANIZE A SESSION FOR BOTH PARENTS AND STUDENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH A MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE. THIS SESSION AIMED TO OFFER VALUABLE INSIGHTS AND STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING MENTAL WELL-BEING.

The introduction of fidget toys and other resources has positively affected the classroom environment, particularly for students diagnosed with autism and ADHD. These tools have contributed to a more inclusive and supportive learning atmosphere.



MICHELLE SANDOVAL



St. John the Baptist School
Baldwin Park, California

**The funds that were
given to my third-grade
classroom were used to
purchase 5 new math
textbooks**

I am now able to plan my math lessons from the math book that was given to us from the grant. I do not have to look for outside resources. My students are able to use a math textbook for their math classwork.



NOURJAN ABDO

Islamic School of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids Michigan

A photograph of a preschool classroom. In the foreground, there is a wooden sensory table with a pink cushioned stool. To the left, there is a wooden storage unit with yellow and green bins. A large orange rug is on the floor. In the background, there is a basketball hoop and a yellow ball hanging from the ceiling.

" The purchase of the sensory table was a very positive addition to our classroom - the students love creating towers and other shapes and we love seeing the lights with the sensory table. "

In preschool students have to explore with shapes and the sensory table helps us cover many math standards. The kitchen allows us to explore and develop language in both Arabic and English.

OYKIZ NAJIMOVA

Universal Academy of Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh



I strategically utilized funds to introduce a diverse range of hands-on activities in my Arabic language classes, aiming to create an immersive and enjoyable learning environment. The selected resources not only facilitated language acquisition but also transformed the educational experience into an interactive and engaging journey. Through the integration of puzzles for the Arabic alphabet and numbers, blocks, playdough mats, busy books, board games, foam mats, tracing worksheets, wood sets, stamps, and other materials, my students were able to not only learn but visually grasp the Arabic language. This innovative teaching approach extended beyond conventional methods, allowing students not just to read but also to write and pronounce Arabic letters with increased proficiency.



The students were able to visualize the Arabic alphabet and numbers, and in turn write, speak, and read Arabic more fluently. This has also allowed me as a teacher to teach my students with more ease, without the pressure and stress of worrying if my students are really grasping the material or not.

STUDENTS' TESTIMONIALS



" This Journal is so relaxing"

A student from another class said, "**Can we also have coloring books and journals?**"

- Madinah Academy of Madison



"The focus tools from the grant are like magic. I used to get so distracted, but **now I can concentrate better in class.** It's like having my own secret superpower to be a better student."

- Tarbiyah Academy



"Alhamdulillah, The **new gym equipment** is so nice! We finally get to have opportunities like this and were very thankful for it."

- Nur Islamic School of Louisville



Student asked excitedly,
"**After naptime is it Arabic next?**"

- Universal Academy of Pittsburgh

STUDENTS' TESTIMONIALS

"Yay!!! We got new math books!" - from all of the third grade students

- St. John the Baptist School



"I like it because, we can play more games/ activities" - **Meriam**

"It has improved our class a lot and now PE is so much more fun" - **Omar**

- Nur Islamic School of Louisville



"Those cool manipulatives we use in class make learning so much fun. **It's not just about reading from a book anymore**; it's like we get to play and learn at the same time. Thanks to the grant for making school awesome!"

- Tarbiyah Academy



"The new equipment allowed me to step up my sports skills" - **Amir**

- Nur Islamic School of Louisville





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EMPOWER - A BACK2SCHOOL GRANT

\$2K

EMPOWER

EDUCATING

MINDS &

PRESENTING

OPPORTUNITIES

WHILE

ENDOWING

RESOURCES

EMPOWER: A CLASSROOM GRANT FOR TEACHERS

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