

WRITE BRAIN GRANTS



GRANT SUPPORT LANGUAGE FOR WRITE BRAIN PARTNERS 2019

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the WRiTE BRAiN BOOKS grant application support document. We are excited to partner and support you and your amazing students in accessing funds to fully implement WB in your educational setting. This document includes sample language for in-school, afterschool (including summer programs) grant applications, research, and links to WB videos, as well as application information for federal and state grants. For ease of use, a table of contents is linked to each section.

We encourage your team to take advantage of funding opportunities, as every year the federal government spends close to \$50,000,000 on funding grant programs for students in grades K-12. WRiTE BRAiN's curricula and programs qualify for funding through 21st Century, Title 1, and Title III Federal grants.

GRANT IDENTIFICATION

An abundance of grant funding exists for literacy development programs such as WRiTE BRAiN. Listed below are links to some of the most common grants administered by the federal government. Schools, programs, and providers qualify based on student demographics, program design, areas of improvement, professional development, enrichment programs, etc. Please review the eligibility requirements to determine if you can utilize funds for your specific program, as some of the programs provide funding for both in and out-of-school programs.

- ASES: After School Education & Safety (K-8)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ba/as/>
- ASSET: After School Safety & Enrichment for Teens (9-12)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ba/cp/>
- 21st CCLC: Century Community Learning Centers
(Regional Technical Assistance Centers, such as County Offices of Ed)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ba/cp/regntwrkcontacts.asp>
- SES: Supplemental Educational Services
(Underperforming schools/districts are required to apply 20% of their Title 1 funding to additional efforts)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ti//supplemental.asp>
- Title III: Language instruction for English Learners and Immigrant students
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/t3/>
- CTC: Career & Tech Ed (Carl D. Perkins)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/pk/>

After School Alliance

The [Afterschool Alliance](#) has a robust website that is an invaluable hub for free resources. Below are three links to support your afterschool program's grant and fund development:

- [Tips on writing proposals: craft competitive grant applications](#)
- [Afterschool funding tools: grow your program's funding](#)
- [An insider's guide to funding afterschool: tips for prospect research success](#)

Additional Funding Resources Between and Beyond the Bells

There are multiple grant opportunities through private foundations and non-profit organizations whose mission and vision include increasing access to high-quality literacy-based activities in a variety of instructional settings (both in- and out-of-school time).

One example is *Feed Your Brain*, administered by School's Out Washington (SOWA), which provides funding and training to schools, community-based organizations, and tribes running summer literacy programs. For more information on grantmakers whose focus is providing resources to programs and communities that emphasize the importance of building literacy skills and increasing program staff's knowledge and competencies, please contact jillwells@writebrainworld.com.

IN SCHOOL & OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

In School - "Between the Bells"

WRiTE BRAiN is a standards-aligned narrative and creative writing program designed to help students of all ages and learning styles succeed in English Language Arts classes, as well as prepare for academic rigor and tests through evidence-based, engaging curricula that build essential literacy skills. WRiTE BRAiN is the ideal supplemental program to any core literacy-building curricula being implemented with fidelity and is the perfect core program for any schools without an existing one.

Through an engaging, project-based learning environment that ignites self-expression and inventive storytelling, every student becomes a published author of an original storybook, receiving professionally printed copies to prove it!

WRiTE BRAiN's K-12 curricula enhance and develop 21st Century learning skills in young people who are preparing for higher education, community impact, and eventually, career environments, as well as for real-life scenarios that will shape their futures.

The in-depth lesson plans and unique content help student writers gain not only writing skills, but also practical application tools in areas such as decision-making, idea development, problem-solving, task completion, peer-to-peer feedback, diplomacy, collaboration, and much more.

The WRiTE BRAiN program encourages creativity, critical thinking, and as well as both written and verbal language development. As the first ever standards-aligned course in the academic art of children's book authoring, the lessons complement classroom-based Language Arts instruction across all grade levels, with the goal of ensuring that all students successfully communicate in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Students increase their reading comprehension by learning fiction writing for a specific audience of young readers. Students read aloud and listen actively as they **experientially** learn the art of storytelling.

The WRiTE BRAiN curricula also offer opportunities for students to engage with their community outside the classroom. Older students can mentor younger children in short form story-writing activities, while younger students have the opportunity to become book reviewers for students in higher grade levels.

Students learn keyboarding skills in the final stage of program by typing their storybook into an online interactive Book Builder.

Teachers are provided with a non-graded holistic rubric to measure student growth and development in academic and non-academic skills.

Students struggling with literacy can especially benefit from WRiTE BRAiN. English Learners, students with disabilities, and students for whom Language Arts does not come naturally are often intimidated by the writing process. The WRiTE BRAiN BOOKS curricula are supported by a body of research showing that wordless picture books activate and elevate the thought process in a child's mind. The WRiTE BRAiN program uses colorful illustrations that transcend language barriers and encourage children to take ownership of their own unique stories. Unlike a blank piece of paper, which can be daunting to any child, WRiTE BRAiN Story Mats stimulate creativity and provide a foundation for the student's story to come to life.

Overview of Implementation

The WB curricula are scaffolded for teachers so that heterogeneous groups of students can engage collaboratively to develop not only reading, writing, and language learning skills, but also problem solving, interpersonal and social awareness, and self-management skills, all of which are considered valuable social-emotional learning standards.

- The first part of WRiTE BRAiN implementation consists of a collaborative group process, during which students work in teams of four to five to co-author and publish original children's books, which can then be donated to libraries, shelters, and other organizations in need of literature. Richly-illustrated images provide the inspiration for students as they develop characters, plots, conflicts, and resolutions. With lines on the pages, these wordless illustrated books are designed to inspire creativity and imagination. Younger students, or those who need additional support, will receive it from their peers in a non-threatening group environment.
- The second half of the program is dedicated to the authoring and publishing of students' individual books through a highly scaffolded process. After weeks of active collaboration, planning, short and long-form writing, vocabulary and character development, handwritten storylines, peer-to-peer feedback, and verbal presentations, students type their stories onto the interactive/digital WRiTE BRAiN BOOK BUILDER. Students then receive a bound published copy of their original story, which they can share aloud with others in culminating activities and/or community events.

Instructional Materials

WB provides every teacher with a grade level-specific curriculum guide with learning units and lesson plans aligned to ELA and ELD standards. The curriculum guide comprises in-depth, standards-aligned, narrative and creative writing lesson plans and activities.

All teachers and staff have access to intensive full, half-day, or virtual professional development sessions that incorporate best practices and instructional strategies proven to be effective with students of all learning styles.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME “BEYOND THE BELLS”

WRiTE BRAiN is a narrative and creative writing program designed to help students of all ages write collaboratively and independently in an engaging, project-based learning environment that ignites self-expression and inventive storytelling. Every student becomes a published author of an original storybook, receiving professionally printed copies to prove it!

WRiTE BRAiN's afterschool program enhances and develops 21st Century learning skills in young people who are preparing for higher education, community impact, and eventually, career environments, as well as for real-life scenarios that will shape their futures.

The WRiTE BRAiN program engages students of all ages and encourages creativity, vocabulary and language development, and collaboration. In the age of 24-7 connectivity, WRiTE BRAiN offers young people the opportunity to unplug in expanded learning hours and - in a safe, non-competitive environment - discover their own voices through various stages of story development and creation, which they write by hand in richly illustrated, wordless books.

The activities and unique content empower young people to not only refine and strengthen their writing skills, but also to provide practical application tools in areas such as decision-making, idea development, problem-solving, task completion, peer-to-peer feedback, diplomacy, collaboration, and more.

Students struggling with literacy especially benefit from WRiTE BRAiN. English Learners, students with disabilities, and students for whom Language Arts do not come naturally are often intimidated by the writing process. WRiTE BRAiN's curricula are supported by a body of research showing that wordless picture books activate and elevate the thought process in a child's mind. The WRiTE BRAiN program uses colorful illustrations that transcend language barriers and encourage children to take ownership of their own unique stories. Unlike a blank piece of paper, which can be daunting to any child, colorful scenes depicted on all WB materials stimulate creativity, critical thinking, connectivity, and provide a foundation for each student's story to come to life.

Afterschool Implementation Overview

WRiTE BRAiN's afterschool program is divided into two sections of “disguised” learning activities.

- The first part of WRiTE BRAiN implementation consists of a collaborative group process, during which students work in teams of four to five to co-author and publish original children's books, which can then be donated to libraries, shelters, and other organizations in need of literature. Richly-illustrated images provide the inspiration for students as they develop characters, plots, conflicts, and resolutions. With lines on the pages, these wordless illustrated books are designed to inspire creativity and imagination. Younger students, or those who need additional support, will receive it from their peers in a non-threatening group environment.
- The second half of the program is dedicated to the authoring and publishing of students' individual books through a highly scaffolded process. After weeks of active collaboration, planning, short and long-form writing, vocabulary and character development, handwritten storylines, peer-to-peer feedback, and verbal presentations, students type their stories onto the interactive/digital WRiTE BRAiN BOOK BUILDER. Students then receive a bound published copy of their original story, which they can share aloud with others in culminating activities and/or community events.

Activities/Materials

WB provides every facilitator (or afterschool teacher) with grade level-specific facilitator's guides, as well as a scope and sequence and pacing plan for the Author's Kit Program, with daily learning activities that culminate in students becoming published authors. The program is highly flexible and can be implemented in a variety of timelines, depending on the program's objectives and timeframe.

All facilitators and staff have access to intensive full-, half-day, or virtual professional development sessions, which incorporate best practices and strategies proven to be effective with children of all learning styles and interests.

STUDENT POPULATIONS AND SPECIFIC SKILL DEVELOPMENT

ENGLISH LEARNERS

WRiTE BRAiN is designed around best practices in English language development, including SDAIE strategies, to grow EL students' vocabulary, writing skills, engagement, and confidence by leaps and bounds. The program helps students prepare for the writing, reading and speaking portion of all state and standardized ELA assessments by making them more confident and fluent writers, able to express their ideas clearly in writing, and to structure essays and narratives with a beginning, middle, and end. Curricular materials are designed to build and reinforce students' basic writing skills and grasp of English grammar, while at the same time developing their higher-order and critical thinking skills.

Every lesson includes scaffolding supports so that students can develop the academic and personal confidence to increase their interest in learning a new language. Instructional materials include words banks, punctuation lesson plans, and peer editing to expand student vocabulary, grammar skills, and precision in writing. More advanced English speakers may be paired with beginners to support second language development.

Students have the option to write first drafts of short stories in their native language, and books can be printed/published in multiple languages.

California & Other Partners With English Language Proficiency Tests:

WRiTE BRAiN's core philosophy of using wordless images to inspire and engage English Learners makes it the perfect program to prepare English Learner students for English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). Preparing for the ELPAC requires educators to incorporate images as prompts for test-takers to identify objects, build vocabulary, and answer comprehension questions.

Additionally, the speaking and presenting components of WRiTE BRAiN are specifically designed to give your English Learners the confidence to express themselves orally with self-assurance and clarity, which will prepare them for the Speaking portion of the ELPAC and other state EL proficiency tests.

Here is a short video of WRiTE BRAiN in action with English Learners:

[WRiTE BRAiN for English Learners](#)

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

There is a tremendous need to improve 21st century skills among ALL students in order to properly prepare them to successfully participate and compete in today's global economy. The development of Common Core and College & Career Readiness standards were partially driven by higher education institutions and corporations, whose leaders and faculty discovered that students are graduating from high school without adequate written and oral communication skills necessary for success in post-secondary education or the workplace.

WRiTE BRAiN addresses this challenging educational deficit with an emphasis on oral and written expression, both collaboratively and individually. Creativity and imagination is the foundational core of WRiTE BRAiN and fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills among students. The program is tailored to support all learning styles to prepare young people to become future leaders, workers, and citizens.

WRiTE BRAiN provides an authentic learning experience where 21st Century essential skills are embedded throughout the program's pathway to published authorship. 21st Century skills emphasized in the WRiTE BRAiN BOOKS authoring process include:

Essential 21st Century Skills Development:

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Creativity and Imagination
- Critical thinking
- Problem Solving

Critical Skills for Success:

- Flexibility and adaptability
- Global and cultural awareness
- Information literacy
- Leadership

Other Skills for Success:

- Civic literacy and citizenship
- Oral and written communication skills
- Social responsibility and ethics
- Technology literacy
- Initiative

Another example of embedded 21st Century learning is the opportunity for high school students to mentor and facilitating WRiTE BRAiN activities with younger students, which directly aligns with social responsibility and ethics skills. This activity also develops and promotes leadership skills, civic engagement, and service learning.

One of the main federal funding sources available to foster the development of 21st Century skills in students during out of school time is through grant-funded 21st Century Community Learning Center programs. State education agencies (SEAs), Local education agencies (LEAs), Community-based organizations (CBOs), and Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are all eligible to apply.

21st Century Community Learning Centers National Program Description are defined as follows: "This program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children."

For additional information, application support, budget strategies and suggestions in reference to 21st Century Community Learning Centers, please contact Jayme Simms at jayme@writebrainworld.com.

STEAM

WRiTE BRAiN is integral and complementary to STEAM education. It has been proven that arts integration and education are connected to higher levels of academic achievement and should be incorporated into all learning activities. The skills developed in all types of art coursework - especially discipline, focus, and creativity - are transferable to the classroom. Multiple studies highlight the positive impact and tangible benefits of arts in education

WRiTE BRAiN puts the "A" in S.T.E.A.M. with Artwork & Authoring.

STEM Education Highlights include:

- Collaboration
- Project-Based Learning
- Scientific and Critical Thinking
- Making Real World Connections
- Research
- Technology

These elements are integral to the WRiTE BRAiN BOOKS multifaceted authoring experience, which requires students to develop slow-processing skills and apply big-picture perspectives, which are vital aspects of any STEM learning model.

From Illustration To Investigation

Each WRiTE BRAiN illustration has visual elements that open the doors to deeper DISCOVERY. Our programs offer a unique opportunity to ignite CREATIVITY and CURIOSITY in science through engaging, disguised learning activities and imaginative worlds that students themselves write original stories about. Invite your students to research the SCIENTIFIC features (environmental, zoological, anthropological, biological) of the detailed settings.

Technology: A Balanced Approach: With Wb, Students Can...

- Conduct research to enhance their written narratives and explore scientific topics.
- Type final stories into fields within WRiTE BRAiN's interactive BOOK BUiLDER program.
- Project digital artwork during storytelling presentation.

WRiTE BRAiN & STEM Integration:

Excerpt from the CAN and Bechtel Foundation's STEM Guide

Written by National Education Expert, Dr. Andria Fletcher

"It's also important to keep in mind that STEM learning strategies can and should be integrated into project-based learning content areas that don't directly focus on science, technology, engineering or math. For example, Write Brain Books provides an eight-week project which builds a variety of STEM learning skills including communication, collaboration and problem solving.

Students at all grade levels (K-12) work with each other to edit final drafts of the professionally illustrated books they've written. By the end of the project, they become published authors and receive copies of their hard cover bound books, with their stories also available on the WRiTE BRAiN BOOKS website.

Using programs like these will help your staff move from offering independent activities to facilitating a longer learning process. It will make it easier for them to shift from daily lesson plans to a more fluid student-centered approach. And, it will provide them with the content, resources and materials that they and their students will need. Once your staff becomes familiar with how this works, they'll be able to develop projects on their own."

-Dr. Andria Fletcher

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social and emotional growth is essential for success both in and out of the classroom, but is often viewed as ancillary when it comes to education practices. WRiTE BRAiN's children's book-authoring program is designed to seamlessly integrate a variety of SEL components into otherwise rigorously academic lessons.

Every WRiTE BRAiN guide has a C12 wheel that illustrates key areas of social and emotional learning promoted by the program. These 12 components all beginning with the letter C (e.g., creativity, courage, commitment, etc. – see link below for all 12) enhance a student's ability to cope with challenges in both their academic and personal lives, become flexible thinkers, and behave in an ethical and socially conscious manner in all settings.

Educators use the C12 wheel with students daily to start a discussion where students are encouraged to reflect on the way they integrate a particular component in their daily lives, both at home and in school. Students also develop social-emotional skills during collaboration activities where they improve their communication skills, become better listeners, and gradually become more open to accepting other people's points of view.

WRiTE BRAiN's goal is for students to grow into responsible, caring, and productive members of society while cultivating skills they need to perform in academic settings.



PREVENT SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

WRiTE BRAiN offers a wide variety of fun and engaging programs and activities designed to prevent learning loss over summer. Learning loss has been researched and documented for decades, yet lower-income youth are still losing more than two months in reading achievement and face decreased chances of completing high school when they are not offered enriching summer learning experiences.

WRiTE BRAiN's summer programs, which include improv, rapping, poetry and spoken word, and journaling, are designed to engage your students in creative, 21st skills-building learning experiences that will build on and enhance their school-year education.

With the Author's Kit Program, students will begin the school year as published authors of their own original stories, accomplished through a highly scaffolded process that involves close-reading, critical thinking, peer-editing, drafting and revision.

Authentic and fun project-based learning activities are essential to engage in students in academic and social enrichment over the summer. With each one of WRiTE BRAiN's summer offerings, students will develop social-emotional skills, make genuine connections with their peers, and build the self-esteem to put them on the path to academic success in the new school year.

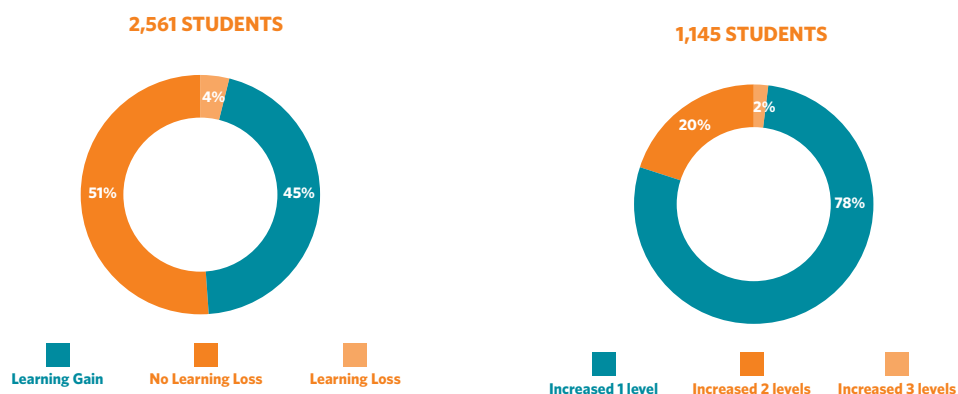
Every WRiTE BRAiN summer program package includes clear and concise program guides for facilitators and colorful student materials.

DATA

WRiTE BRAiN conducted an evaluation study in the spring of 2014, during the pilot phase of the program. The study, led by an independent research team, measured the impact of the program on students' interest and attitudes about writing. Assessments were made through pre- and post-project surveys administered to program leaders, administrators, and credentialed teachers. The data was used to evaluate students' level of improvement and engagement about writing and reading. The data demonstrated that the program was not only helping students build confidence in literacy skills, but that students' 21st Century skills showed vast improvements in the areas of critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving. **More information on the pilot study and supporting research articles can be found here: writebrainbooks.com/education#researchbased**

WRiTE BRAiN also collects both quantitative and qualitative data from schools and programs to inform best practices and continuously refine the curricula.

In a 2016 case study of the Santa Ana Unified School District's Engage 360 Summer Program, researchers from Educational Services collected data showing that 96% of 2,561 students engaged in WB experienced no learning loss, and 45% experienced a learning gain. Of the 1,145 students who experienced a learning gain, 78% increased by 1 level on a 1 to 4 writing assessment tool, 20% increased by 2 levels, and 2% increased by 3 levels. (*Note: Rubrics were designed as assessment tools to apply if pre- and post- measurement of students' creative writing skills and vocabulary development were the desired focus.*)



VIDEO LINKS

See a selection of our videos at the links below to witness WRiTE BRAiN in motion, along with testimonials from educators, administrators, parents, and students:

[WB Channel Link](#)

- [Educators on WRiTE BRAiN BOOKS](#)
- [WRiTE BRAiN for English Learners](#)
- [4th Graders After School with Young Authors Event](#)
- [Dr. Andria Fletcher on the Need for WRiTE BRAiN - After School](#)
- [WRiTE BRAiN in the 2nd Grade Classroom](#)
- [WRiTE BRAiN in Middle School & Young Author's Event](#)
- [High School Students & WRiTE BRAiN in New York City](#)
- [Youth Policy Institute Authors Event](#)
- [Boys & Girls Clubs & WRiTE BRAiN](#)
- [Boys & Girls Clubs Culminating Authors Event](#)
- [WRiTE BRAiN Summer Learning in Santa Ana, CA](#)
- [WRiTE BRAiN in Kindergarten at Warner Public School](#)
- [WRiTE BRAiN Young Authors Event](#)