

**To:** Youth Council

**Date:** April 13, 2001

For Action  
 For Information  
 Meeting Notes

**FROM:** Youth Council Staff

**SUBJECT:** Demonstration Project for Local Education Agencies in partnership with the Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

That the Youth Council recommend to the WIB Chair that the WIB support Merced County Office of Education's (MCOE) application for a \$100,000 grant to provide supplemental funds for the expansion and comprehensive delivery of Project Based Learning (PBL) by signing the attached letter of support. Letter will also be sent to WIB Education and Employer Committee for ratification.

**DISCUSSION:**

CA Dept of Education has sent out a Request for Application (RFA) for *Demonstration Projects for Local Education Agencies* and will award grants to successful applicants. MCOE has applied under Project Category I, with goals of (1) improving academic skills through contextual learning; (2) integrating career development into student learning, and/or (3) linking business and industry with education. The funds would be used for Project Based Learning.

PBL is a curriculum development and instructional approach, which places students into active roles of problem-solvers confronted with an authentic, real-world, actual problem or project to be solved. The teacher acts as a facilitator and coach to the students to help them encounter the central concepts and principles of discipline through application to relevant and real-world projects.

PBL completely integrates the goals of the Category I of the Demonstration Project Grant. The funding would be used for (1) completing training for teachers; (2) a conference to explain individual projects to other educators in Merced County and the LWIB; (3) to allow teachers time in the community with their business partners; and (4) allocation of \$10,000 to the WIB Business/Employer Committee to pursue development of the Employability Certificate.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

Support of this grant application could also be beneficial to the Youth Council in involving key education officials to become active Youth Council members.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Letter of Support