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Progress Energy Math, Science, and Energy Education Grant

Project Title Life Science: The Weekly Podcast		Grant Category Science					
Lead Teacher Name Christine Noe							
Class Subject Life Science		Grade Level 6					
School Freedom Middle School		2011 School Grade A					
Phone 407-858-6130		Email Address Christine.No@ocps.net					
Other Project Team Members (Full Names... if any) William Young							
Principal's Name Douglas Szcinski				Principal's Email Address douglas.szcinski@ocps.net			
Grant Application Request Amount:(example 1000) 1836.25							
Estimated Number of Participating Students 110							
2010-2011 Ethnic Distribution:	% White	% Black	% Asian	% Multi-Cultural	% American Indian/Alaska Native	% Non-Hispanic	% Hispanic
School	21	17	8	4	1	50	50

Project description (1,500 characters or less)Value - 25 points

How will the equipment/materials address your classroom needs and student needs as it relates to the grant for which you are applying (math, science or energy education).

The best way to learn and retain something is it to teach it to another person. The podcasting equipment being requested will enable my students to put that theory into practice. With the equipment funded through this grant, I plan to set up a podcasting studio in the back supply closet of my classroom. This studio would enable up to 4 students to have a round-table discussion with their voices being recorded by the equipment. This will allow me to handpick the students who participate in the recording. Students would be tasked with creating a weekly "review" of the material that we are learning in class, using different students each time. Since they will be discussing and re-teaching the material that we have learned in class, it will give those students an opportunity to try and teach their listening audience about the concepts we are covering. Once the students had recorded their podcast, the audio would be converted into an MP3 file by the equipment. This MP3 can be uploaded to numerous locations on the internet so that other students, parents and teachers can have access. My plan is to host these podcasts in 2 locations; my teacher website and iTunes. By hosting it on my teacher website, it will allow anyone to directly download the MP3 file to be played on a home computer. By hosting the podcasts in iTunes, it will allow students to download the podcast files directly into their MP3 players (like iPods) or their web enabled phones.

2. Project objectives (3,000 characters or less) Value - 20 points

- Explain how this project will enhance standard classroom math / science activities or energy education.
- What investigative math and/or science skills will be learned?
- What energy education lessons will be learned?
- How will it achieve academic gain for low-performing students?

Having a round table discussion is a good way for students to share their thoughts and ideas on a topic and also to dispel any misconceptions they may have about the topic. One of the foundational concepts in science is to discuss the results and conclusions that you have found with your peers and reach a consensus regarding what actually happened. Podcasting is a good way to have these discussions live and also to make them available in MP3 format to a wider audience. This audience can then provide additional feedback, though e-mails, phone messages or direct conversations, which can be discussed in the next podcast. With the equipment being requested, I plan to set up an area of my classroom where I can have up to 4 students sit for this round table discussion. My plan is to select one high level student who has mastered the concept, one mid level student who