

July 31, 2014

Farmers Insurance
Attn: Dream Big Teacher Challenge
4680 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Dear Dream Big Teacher Challenge Committee Members,

Imagine a classroom filled with engaging, interactive learning opportunities, students excitedly sharing with one another how to solve a problem, and hands-on learning projects coupled with technology to open the walls of a classroom. My son was fortunate to be in Ms. Tiffany Hall's classroom this past school year. Ms. Hall opened a new world of learning for him by integrating 1:1 devices into her teaching.

Through a grant, Ms. Hall received interactive technology and 1:1 devices for her classroom. Ms. Hall took part in a project called, "Primary Interactive Inquiry Project", this project involved 4 teachers in our school district collaborating on various ways to integrate technology as a tool into daily learning. The learning my son experienced was robust and allowed him to reach further in the areas he excelled in, such as reading, and to have more opportunities to practice skills in which he needed additional support.

The one area I know Ms. Hall would have loved to provide more opportunities to the students in her class was in science. More importantly, Ms. Hall sees the need in integrating science, technology, engineering, and math across the curriculum for her students. My son had the opportunity to work on an app for coding. He and his classmates gained skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and abstract thinking that I would not have imagined in a first grader.

Our family is excited our son's school, Arrowhead Elementary, has been chosen as a Project Lead the Way school in 2014-15 to pilot the new STEM curriculum for our school district. We know how important this is to support in our community's 17 other elementary schools, especially our lower socio-economic schools where children do not have the same exposure to vocabulary and opportunities as students in other schools do.

We believe by supporting Ms. Hall's grant application to Farmers Insurance Dream Big Teacher Challenge, you will be opening a new world for all of our students in Billings Public Schools. Your investment in Ms. Hall, her teaching partners, and our classrooms will pay big dividends. Please help support my son, his classmates, teachers, and the many students in Billings, MT.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris and Jana Graham