On December 16, 2008, Debra Robinson requested additional information G1-Mini Grant for Breakthrough to Literacy Program

REQUEST:

1. A literacy program with math consumables?  2. Is balanced literacy in all elementary schools?  2. How does this program mesh with the balanced literacy program?

RESPONSE:

1. A literacy program with math consumables? The main purpose of the grant was to obtain funds to assist the school in continuing two very important programs that has assisted the students in literacy and math. *The Breakthrough to Literacy* is a research based program that Washington Elementary has been using for approximately ten years. The consumable material (Take-Me-Home Books) are essential to bridging the gap between home and school literacy. The District has implemented the *Breakthrough to Literacy* program this year in SAI programs to supplement the Reading materials. The materials have to be purchased yearly and the cost is more than what the school could afford within the regular budget. Therefore, the grant was applied for.

The Math program referenced is “Acaletics”. This is the second year the school has used this program. After last year’s implementation, the total math points earned on the FCAT increased by 14. The school's belief is that if a child can not read he/she can’t succeed in math either. Therefore, the math (reading problems, etc.) is allowable in the literacy grant.

2. Is balanced literacy in all elementary schools? The Elementary Curriculum Overview Guide outlines the balanced literacy framework for all elementary schools. The balanced literacy framework was also part of the Macmillan Core Reading Program training provided to all elementary teachers in the district at the beginning of the year.

3. How does this program (Breakthrough to Literacy) mesh with the balanced literacy program? All balanced literacy components are incorporated within the program. There is a teacher-directed whole group component using a featured text (read aloud and shared reading), a small group instruction component (guided reading), and student independent practice (independent reading and application).