



RAISING THE FLOOR: Quality Education as a Constitutional Right

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal ABSTRACT due **Monday, April 28, 2008**

Proposal APPLICATION due **Monday, May 5, 2008**

Location: Jackson State University • Jackson, MS

Dates: Thursday, July 24th – Sunday, July 27th, 2008

Schedule:

- ❖ **Thursday** Evening Kickoff Event
- ❖ **Friday, Saturday** Interactive Sessions with workshops/action groups
- ❖ **Saturday Evening** People's Dinner
- ❖ **Sunday** Working groups to Raise the Floor Locally & Globally

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

Raising the Floor: Quality Public School Education as a Constitutional Right.

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Algebra Project (AP) national conference seeks to engage youth and adult participants in facilitated small and large group discussions, working sessions, and interactive activities for a rigorous evaluation of the requirements and strategies needed to create a Quality Public School Education for all students. Anticipated outcomes include networking among participants and organizations to mobilize resources for the future work of the Algebra Project and its partners.

ALGEBRA PROJECT 2008 CONFERENCE SESSIONS

1. Beginning to Identify Features of Quality Public School Education:

Our Best and Worst Experiences in our own Education (Fri AM)

- ◆ Small Group Facilitated Discussions on participants' Best & Worst Experiences in Education
- ◆ Each Small Group produces list & enters into online form/database
- ◆ Groups report out their identified key features of a Quality Public School Education

2. Raising the Floor within and outside of the Algebra Project network (Fri PM)

- ◆ Small Group Discussions Highlighting Participant's involvement with the Algebra Project
- ◆ Interactive Workshops on current initiatives: Instructional Materials, Teacher Professional Development, Community Development, Research & Evaluation, Site Development & Coordination, Policy Discussions
- ◆ Flagway™ Tournament facilitated by Algebra Project and Young Peoples' Project students

3. Broadening the Network: Organizing Coalitions around Educational Issues (Sat AM)

- ◆ Interactive Workshops on current education coalitions
- ◆ Interactive Workshops on coalition-building strategies
- ◆ Interactive Workshops on coalitions involving QECR

4. Developing the Resources Needed to Continue the Work (Sat PM)

- ◆ Mapping Program Activities and Goals with Resources Needed (Communications, Financial, Human, Intellectual, Material, Strategic, Technological)
- ◆ Identifying and Connecting with Potential Partners: Universities, Community Based Organizations, Corporations, foundations and donors

5. Acting Locally & Globally to Raise the Floor of Quality Public School Education (Sun AM)

- ◆ Creating Demonstrations of Quality Education that Change National Policy Discussions
- ◆ Educational Equity, Social Justice, and America in a Presidential Election Year
- ◆ Accessing the Power of Decentralized Networks and Coalitions
- ◆ Working Groups with plans for next steps

Session Formats

Applicants may submit proposals to facilitate *Workshops* or *Action Groups*, of approximately 90 minutes in length.

- ◆ *Workshops* are interactive sessions intended for about 30 participants that may utilize a variety of formats including small group work, open discussion, and break-out sessions.
- ◆ *Action groups* provide an opportunity for participants to network, collaborate, and plan future ongoing actions.

Important Dates

- ◆ Proposal ABSTRACT due **Monday, April 28, 2008**
- ◆ Proposal APPLICATION due **Monday, May 5, 2008**
- ◆ Notification by June 1, 2008
- ◆ Accepted Facilitators confirm by registering before June 21, 2008
- ◆ Notification of session date/time by July 1, 2008

Questions/Contact:

Junko Kim at 617. 491.0200, or send email to program@algebra.org.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FORM

Celebrating our 25th Anniversary!
2008 Algebra Project National Conference

The ABSTRACT is DUE **Friday, May 23 2008**.

To complete the Proposal ABSTRACT, answer questions #1 – 4 (pg3-4) and email your application as a Word or PDF document to program@algebra.org.

The COMPLETE application is DUE **Monday, June 2, 2008**.

Please email your completed application (Q#1-10; pg 3-5) as a Word or PDF document to program@algebra.org.

*** Note: Sample proposal response to questions 2-10 can be found on page 6-7. ***

An automated email confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your application

1a. Facilitator Contact Information: PLEASE FILL ALL ITEMS

Last Name

First Name

Preferred Phone Number

Cell Home Work

Second Phone Number

Cell Home Work

Email Address

School/Organization

Affiliation/Title

School/Organization Street Address

City

State

Zip

Home Street Address

City

State

Zip

Co-facilitator's name(s) (if applicable)

Co-facilitator's email address

1b. List or briefly explain your previous experience presenting/facilitating workshops or action groups:

1c. **Facilitator's prior experience with the Algebra Project:** (please provide brief description, if applicable)

- None (no prior experience required to participate)
- 2008-2003 _____
- 2003-1998 _____
- 1998-1993 _____
- 1993-1988 _____
- 1988-1982 _____

2. **Session Title:**

3. **Session Abstract/Summary:** (Please describe your session in 100 words or less. Your session description will be used in the conference program.)

4. **Session Format:** (*check only one*)

- Workshop
- Action Group

Maximum number of participants (if applicable):

[Submit the above portion by May 23, 2008 for consideration]

5. **Conference Session:**

- Beginning to Identify Features of Quality Public School Education
- Raising the Floor within and outside of the Algebra Project network
- Broadening the Network: Organizing Coalitions around Educational Issues
- Developing the Resources Needed to Continue the Work
- Acting Locally & Globally to Raise the Floor of Quality Public School Education

6. **Session Outcome and Goals:** (What will participants will get out of the session? What are your goals for the session? You may include goals that go beyond the scope of this conference, i.e.: create a network of teachers who share lessons and engage in ongoing discussions about teaching math and social justice.)

7. **Brief Outline/Agenda:** (Please outline the timing and structure of your session, and describe activities participants will engage in.)

8. **Primary Audience:** (i.e. high school math teachers, middle school teachers, college math teachers, parents, students, community activists, researchers, concerned citizens, etc., or some combination of these categories)

9. **Audio-Visual (A/V) Equipment Needs:** Specify any A/V equipment you will need (overhead projector, digital projector, TV, etc.) Note: We can not provide computers for facilitator or participant use during workshops.

10. **Student Involvement:**

Will students be involved in the *facilitation* of the presentation? Yes No

10a. **How so?**

10b. **Is the session intended for student *participants* (in addition to educators, parents, activists, etc.)? How so?**

[Submit above portion by June 2, 2008 for consideration]

Sample Proposal

2. Session Title:

Team-work in an Algebra Project math class.

3. Session Summary: (Please describe your session in 100 words or less. Your session description will be used in the conference program.)

This interactive, team-working session will explore the use of cooperative group work in an Algebra Project class. Participants will experience group work in various formats to discuss the benefits and challenges of using group work in class. Video will be used to demonstrate some examples of students working together to problem solve and engage in higher order thinking in the math class. Participants will also receive team building activities that can be used in their own classes.

(Note to proposal writers: Notice that the team-work and interactive nature of the session was emphasized right up front in this summary)

4. Session Format: (check only one)

- Workshop Action Group

5. Conference Session:

- Beginning to Identify Features of Quality Public School Education
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- Developing the Resources Needed to Continue the Work
- Acting Locally & Globally to Raise the Floor of Quality Public School Education

6. Session Outcome and Goals: (Describe what participants will get out of the session and what your goals are for the session. You may include goals that go beyond the scope of this conference, ie: create a network of teachers who share lessons and engage in ongoing discussions/suggestions about teaching math and social justice.)

- Allow participants to experience various group work formats and activities
- Discuss how these interactions can promote equity in math class.
- Share research about group work and math class.
- Discuss benefits as well as challenges of group work.
- Create a network to share lesson plans and activities
- Share team work activities with participants to use in their own classes.

(Note to proposal writers: Again, the team-work and interactive nature of the session is emphasized. The bullet format helps organize the goals of the session in an easily readable form for the program committee)

7. Brief Outline/Agenda: (Please outline your ideas and describe activities participants will engage in.)

1. Participants will be seated randomly by cards as they enter the room.
2. Participants will engage in a team builder in their groups, using manipulatives.
3. Introductions; hopefully one by one, depending on the size of the group.
4. Participants will solve the "Road Coloring" problem. As viewers they will look for different aspects of the group work, such as questioning, encouraging effort, team roles, level of cognitive demand, etc. Each group of participants will be asked to look for a specific component of group work. Participants will discuss in a group format.
5. Benefits, challenges, and questions will then be discussed with all participants.

6. Suggestions for team builders, activities, and resources will be distributed to each participant.

8. Primary Audience: (ie. high school math teachers, middle school teachers, parents, college math teachers, students, community activists, etc., or some combination of these categories)

This session is useful for high school and middle school mathematics classroom teachers. This session is also good for parents, students, and community members to learn about and voice opinions about different approaches to math education.

9. Audio-Visual (A/V) Equipment Needs

Specify any A/V equipment you will need (overhead projector, digital projector, TV, etc.)

A digital projector and speakers are necessary for the video viewing and Powerpoint.

10. Student Involvement:

Will students be involved in *facilitation* of the presentation? Yes No

How so?

Is the session intended for student *participants* (in addition to educators, parents, activists, etc.)? How so?

Yes, this is intended to have student participation. Students will have the opportunity to experience a math setting using group work as well as express their opinions about different learning opportunities they are presented with.

PROPOSAL RUBRIC

Note: We particularly encourage sessions with youth facilitators and by members of underrepresented groups, including elementary teachers, people of color, and women.

Category	Score of 4	Score of 3	Score of 2	Score of 1
Title and Summary	Title and summary are clear, descriptive, engaging, and interesting. Summary provides participants with <i>clear and thorough</i> information about intended audience, goals, and follow-up.	Title and summary are clear and descriptive. Summary provides information about intended audience, goals, and follow-up.	Title and summary give an idea of what the session will be about. Summary may lack details and clarity.	Title and summary are vague. Unclear what the session is about.
Outcome and Goals	Session's intended outcomes support conference goals. Facilitator <i>clearly</i> explains how the conference theme is addressed by his/her session. Goals of session include significant participant interaction, concrete follow up action(s) and concrete future steps.	Session's intended outcomes support conference goals. Facilitator explains how conference theme is addressed by his/her session. Goals of session include <i>some</i> follow up action(s) and future steps. Participant interaction involved but not significant	May lack clarity in how session's intended outcomes support conference theme. Goals of session include limited follow up steps and suggestions for future actions. Limited participant interaction.	Unclear how the session supports goals of the conference. Goals of session itself are vague and not well thought out. No participant interaction
Outline and Agenda	Outline of session is <i>clearly</i> organized and details activities, materials to be used. Format includes opportunities for a variety of learning styles. Interaction strongly emphasized.	Outline of session is organized and includes activities, materials to be used. Format provides some opportunities for different learning styles. Interaction is clearly involved.	Outline of session is <i>unclear</i> and does not specify activities, materials to be used. Format is not mindful of different learning styles. Interaction not clearly involved.	Outline is not detailed, unclear, and careless. No interaction for participants.

We will use the scores from the rubric to help inform our decision about which proposals to accept. Our final decisions will be made through a more holistic process to ensure appropriate breadth and balance among the workshops.