

International Reading Association
STEVEN A. STAHL RESEARCH GRANT

Guidelines for 2009 Award Year

Purpose of the Grant

This grant is to honor the memory and the work of Steven A. Stahl through encouragement and support of promising graduate students conducting classroom research in reading. This is an annual monetary award of US\$1,000. The grant will be awarded to one recipient annually. The International Reading Association has the right to withhold the awarding of the grant if expectation of high-quality and criteria are not met.

Eligibility

- Graduate students who have at least three years of pre-K—12 teaching experiences who wish to conduct classroom research in reading and literacy instruction. The research must be conducted in the classroom(s), it must be focused on improving reading instruction and children's reading achievement, and it must be empirically rigorous.
- All applicants must be members of the International Reading Association.
- **Deadline.** Proposals must be received by **February 16, 2009; 6:00 PM PST**. Electronic submissions are required. If this presents a hardship, please contact Marcella Moore at research@reading.org.
- The research must be completed within two years.

How to Apply

Complete your proposal online using a web-based grant management system from the IRA website at www.reading.org

- **DO NOT** include the applicant's name, institutional affiliation, or any other personal information that will identify as the applicant on any part of the proposal other than the Profile page. The grant competitions will be conducted as a blind review.
- Do not exceed maximum character requirement. Spaces and punctuation are included in the total count.
- Complete all editing before submitting your proposal. You will not be able to edit your proposal after it has been submitted.

Creating a Profile. All applicants including any co-applicants must create a profile by providing the following information in the system. If you are a returning user, you should view or edit your profile to make sure it's current.

- User name and password
- First and last name
- Mailing address
- Phone number and e-mail address
- Institutional affiliation and position/title
- IRA member number (located on the mailing label of your IRA publications or you can contact customer service at (302) 731-1600 or e-mail at customerservice@reading.org).
- Eligibility profile (to determine your eligibility for the available IRA grant programs). Check only questions apply to you.
 1. Are you undertaking a research dissemination project?
 2. Are you a graduate student?
 3. Do you have at least three years of preK-12 teaching experience?
 4. Have you received a doctorate degree or its equivalent within the past five years?
 5. Do you work outside of the US and Canada?
 6. Are you a preK-12 Teacher?
 7. Are you undertaking a teacher-initiated research project?

Application Data

- Short title
- Short summary (2-3 sentences on purpose, method, significance)
- Requested amount (\$1,000 in U.S. dollars)
- What research methods will be used? (correlational, descriptive research, ethnography, experimental/quasi-experimental, historical, literature review, meta-analysis/quantitative research synthesis, naturalistic/case study, single, subject survey, time series analysis, other)
- What grade/age levels will your research cover?

Co-applicant (if any). Primary will need to provide co-applicant's name, organization, and e-mail address in the application system. Then the co-applicant must log on the system to create a profile and meet eligibility requirements to be considered for this grant. The co-applicants will not be able to edit the application—only to view it.

Research Description

- Full project title (150 characters maximum)
- Abstract- Describe the purpose, method, and potential significance of the proposed research (1,200 characters maximum).
- Proposed support start date (mm/dd/yyyy)

- Proposed support end date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Research Description. The description of the proposed research should be as specific as possible.

- Statement of the Research Question - Identify the research question, problem, or hypothesis to be studied (1,500 characters maximum).
- Rationale - Provide a detailed rationale for the study. Relate the proposed research question to relevant, supporting research literature and data. Indicate how previous research and theoretical frameworks inform and justify the proposed research. The rationale should address the potential significance of the research on reading research and practice (10,000 characters maximum).
- Methodology - Describe the subjects or informants that will be used to answer the identified research questions (10,000 characters maximum). Where appropriate, describe the subjects, materials, and procedures. Consider the following
 1. Sample methods - procedures and description
 2. Data collection or observation procedures including instruments
 3. Data analysis - framework and method
 4. Detailed timeline
- Research Significance - Discuss the potential impact of your work on research and practice in literacy. As answers are found for your research questions, what populations will benefit, and in what ways? (5,000 characters maximum)

References. Please provide complete bibliographic information for all sources cited in the proposal. Use a reference consistent with English bibliographic format such as American Psychological Association (APA) style. To accommodate the blind review process, if the submitter's own publications are cited in such a way as to give away his/her identity, then the submitter should substitute the word "Author" in the citations e.g., Author, 2003. (10,000 characters maximum)

Budget. The following guidelines should be considered when describing and explaining the rationale for each budget line item that will be used for your project. Institutional overhead or indirect costs will not be covered under this grant (200 characters maximum for each item).

Personnel: Salaries of principal investigators or release time for faculty will NOT be funded. Personnel costs may include expenses for research assistants, observers, interviewers, informants, subjects, and transcriber. A consultant for a specific, clearly stated purpose may be appropriate but needs to be justified.

Materials: No permanent equipment may be purchased under this grant. However, rental fees for equipment are an acceptable expense. Materials such as tests, tapes, or consumable materials are reasonable expenses.

Travel: Expenses for travel connected with data collection are appropriate. Expenses *for presenting the research* will be restricted to registration and travel (e.g., plane, auto).

Computer: Expenses for the use of the computer for data collection and data analysis are appropriate. Any cost incurred in writing programs for the computer should be justified.

Office Expenses: Office supplies, rental of office equipment, and duplicating costs may be reasonable expenses.

Clerical Support: Costs for typing of materials, reports, etc., should be within the range of usual typing rates at your institution.

Other: Additional costs for related expenses or sources of outside project-related funding (if any). Be sure to provide explanation of other.

School Official Contact Information. If this is a teacher-initiated research project, provide contact information for the school official who can verify employment status and permission to conduct research

Advisor Contact Information. Provide contact information for the major advisor, dean or department head. IRA will send a letter announcing the award.

References. Attach two letters of academic reference from recognized, experienced reading researchers in support of your application from within or outside the home institution. One letter must be from someone who can speak to your successful completion of at least 3 years of pre-K—12 teaching. The reference letters must include contact information such as mailing address, phone number and email address. Do not use the applicant's name in the letters. *Accepted file types of letters are: doc, xls, pdf, zip, and rtf (4096 KB maximum).*

Curriculum Vitae. Describe your professional experience, education, and publications to date or in preparation. Substitute the submitter's name with the word "Author". (Do not include any identifying information). Also, if co-applicants are included in the application, the primary applicant will need to paste the curriculum vitae in the space provided for the co-applicant's CV. (6,000 characters maximum for each vitae)

Review Your Application. Review and edit your proposal before you click on "Submit". *You will not be able to update or edit your proposal after you submit it.* You will be informed if your application encountered any errors. You will receive an e-mail receipt confirmation of your recent submission for this grant competition. This completes your proposal.

Please refer any questions about your proposal or this grant to Marcella Moore at mmoore@reading.org. Application guidelines, list of frequently asked questions and a help button will be available after you log into the submission database.

Review Procedures and Evaluation Criteria

A blind review will be conducted by members of the International Reading Association Steven A. Stahl Research Grant Committee

Recommendations for funding will be made to the Association’s Board of Directors for final approval. All applicants will be notified of the outcome and copies of reviews in May. The recipient’s dean or departmental head will receive a letter from IRA announcing the award.

Proposal Review

The first step in the review process shall be to determine whether the study is conducted in the classroom(s) focuses on improving reading instruction and elementary children’s reading achievement and whether it is investigating beginning reading, reading fluency, the relationship of vocabulary to reading or reading difficulties. If a proposal is deemed to meet these criteria, it will be blind reviewed using the following criteria:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Weight</u>
a. Significance of the research question	6
b. Rationale for the research	4
c. Appropriateness and adequacy of the methodology	6
d. Clarity and cohesion of the text	4

Completion of Projects

Within in three months of completion of the project the recipient is required to submit two copies of a final report to the International Reading Association.

The Association retains the right of first refusal for a manuscript prepared from the research study, subject to the usual review process conducted by the appropriate Association committee or groups. At the completion of the study the recipient will be asked to present the study at the IRA annual convention.

International Reading Association
Steven A. Stahl Research Grant
Division of Research and Policy
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139
Newark, Delaware 19714-8139 USA
www.reading.org