

Cohen – Empowering Mobility - \$589.25 - district

Randolph Foundation for Education
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RFE COMPETITIVE GRANTS APPLICATION

Applicant's name: Lainie Cohen

Email address: cohenl@randolph.k12.ma.us

Applicant's position: Physical Therapist
(Repeat this info for all co-applicants)

Grant Title: Empowering Mobility and Movement

What is the **total budget** for your proposal? \$589.25

Grade(s) affected by the grant: 1-12

School(s) affected by the grant: Potential to affect each school within the district

Total number of students to be directly affected by this grant: Potential to directly affect any student who receives related services within the district. Potential to share items with other related service providers with whom I work.

Please provide a brief (one paragraph) summary of your proposal. You will have an opportunity to provide further details below: I am asking for funds to cover the purchase of equipment that would help with improving the gross motor skills of the student population I service. I am a district wide service provider (whose home school is the Martin E. Young Elementary School), providing physical therapy services to students who face challenges accessing and negotiating the academic environment. Both pieces of equipment I am requesting would help my students strengthen and develop gross motor skills in order to be better able to negotiate the academic environment and participate in gross motor games during recess and physical education classes. Both items are also relatively portable and would be able to be transported to all schools to which I travel.

Describe your project in detail. What are you planning to do? How will you do it? Who will benefit from the project? Why is this project important to the education of your students? What do you hope to accomplish? How will you know if this project is a success? As a district wide physical therapy service provider, I provide services to some of the district's most vulnerable students. Many of my students are developmentally delayed and face significant challenges with accessing the school environment. In addition, their gross motor weaknesses negatively impact their ability to participate in gross motor games with peers during recess and physical education classes. In order to be able to provide a multi-sensory approach to strengthening my students' gross motor skills and increasing their overall

independence, I am asking for funds to cover the purchase of a BlazePod Bundle and a set of Nested Foot Stools.

BlazePod is a smart reaction training platform that uses visual cues that stimulate physical and cognitive activity with small, light up Pods controlled by an interactive app. Training with BlazePod would offer my students a motivating way to exercise functionally and work on valuable developmental skills such as crossing midline. Crossing the midline, or the ability to move one's body or hands across the imaginary line down the center of the body, is crucial for child development, as it strengthens brain connectivity, enhances motor skills, and supports cognitive functions like reading, writing, and problem-solving.

Another significant challenge many of the students I work with face is being able to independently ascend and descend the stairs in a developmentally appropriate and efficient manner. They lack the lower extremity strength, dynamic balance and coordination to go up and down the stairs in a manner comparable to their same age peers. A nested set of stools, arranged in varying heights, would offer a challenging yet safe way for students to practice stepping up and down, strengthening their legs and improving balance.

Randolph Public Schools strives to create an inclusive learning environment, one in which all students are supported to participate to the best of their abilities in all aspects of the educational curriculum. The addition of a BlazePod bundle and a set of Nested Stools to my physical therapy toolkit would provide engaging, dynamic tools to help students develop essential motor skills, improve physical confidence and maximize mobility and independence required for daily school activities and accessibility.

To see additional info and images of the requested items click below:

[BlazePod in Physical Therapy](#)

[Nested Foot Stools](#)


What is the proposed start date? Immediately upon receipt of the equipment

Specifically list all materials and equipment requested along with the itemized cost, and the source of quote:

[Nested Footstools](#): \$266.25: Amazon(only one set left in stock, but can be obtained from alternate sites at a slightly higher price)

[BlazePod Bundle](#): \$323.00: Amazon

I verify that a copy of this application has been submitted to the applicable school principal who has approved its content and proposed expenditures.


Principal

Young School