**Making the Case for Assistive Technology – Mount’n Mover Mounts with COVID Relief Funding**

Dear XX,

The COVID Stimulus Funds available to school districts present an amazing opportunity to enhance the educational opportunities and outcomes for all our students, and particularly for the area of my focus, those students with a disability. I hope you will consider applying for funds that could be used for assistive technology that benefit students with disabilities in both remote and classroom environments.

Students rely on mobile devices, such as speech devices, laptops, iPads and tablets to communicate, access curriculum, develop vocational skills and participate in leisure activities. Access to these devices is essential for student’s academic success as well as physical and psychological well-being. That success and well-being relies on access in all environments throughout the day, often in multiple operating positions. Lack of physical access to these devices can impact learning outcomes. Mounting systems help stabilize and position devices for optimal access on wheelchairs, tables, and floor stands.

I request the following budget for assistive technology:

*alternative 1 – combine options as applicable, may be customized to desired quantities*

I am requesting $5730.00 to cover the cost of a Mount’n Mover mounting evaluation kit. Plus $60.00 for shipping.

A Mount'n Mover Evaluation Kit would make mounting components immediately available for evaluations and trials. With a kit on hand we will reduce the time and cost for utilizing rental programs and shipping fees. The kit allows customized mounting solutions that better meet student’s unique needs.

*alternative 2*

I am requesting $10,000.00 to purchase mounting inventory package (20% cost savings). Includes: Mounting Arms, wheelchair hardware, trays and device plates. Two hours of virtual staff training. Ongoing consultations and support from BlueSky Designs Mounting Experts. Mounting inventory will be used to customize systems for individual students.

*alternative 3*

I am requesting $2085.00 to cover the cost of a Mount’n Mover mounting Table Eval Kit. Plus $45.00 for shipping

**Background**

There are many mounting solutions on the market. Fixed, rigid mounts do not offer the student the independence of moving his/her own device to a different position without help from another person and make it difficult for students to interact with their surroundings. Rigid stationary mounts do not allow for multiple operating positions. It must be removed for students to eat, access materials, transfer, etc. Removing a communication device makes it impossible for students to communicate during these times.  Movable mounts offer an alternative to stationary mounts and trays and provide benefits that go beyond access to the device for both the student and the staff.

Required features of a wheelchair mount in the classroom should include the following:

* Ability to move laterally to access other materials (books, art projects, slant board etc.) while still allowing access to a communication device.
* Always allow communication device to be readily available.
* Has the ability to tilt vertically for visual access to the teacher, the white board or Smart Board, and computer to receive and participate in academic instruction.
* Adjustable for visual access when in transit or driving a powered chair.
* Provide safe, quick and easy repositioning of devices for transferring, eating, toileting, changing devices and pulling up to tables or sinks.

The Mount'n Mover movable mounting system is a unique multi-joint adjustable mounting system. It has multiple operating positions and adjusts without tools. It can be easily re-positioned in any setting to allow for transfers and eating without removing the mount and device from the wheelchair. It can be quickly moved out of the way in case of a health emergency (aspiration, seizure) and adjusted as positioning needs change throughout the day due to fatigue, change of environment or activity.

The height and tilt of the mount is easily adjustable allowing for quick and easy positioning for determining optimal device placement for access during student evaluations. These features support assessing device placement or eye gaze access. Locking joints provide safe access to a device from a reclined position and ensures consistent placement of a device.

Watch this video to learn more about the Mount'n Mover mounting solutions in an education setting: <https://youtu.be/8WFZdgghoRc>

BlueSky Designs – Mount’n Mover website: [www.mountnmover.com](http://www.mountnmover.com)

Thank you for considering requesting funds this valuable tool for our students with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Note: I have no financial relationship with nor will receive any financial gain from the supplier of this device.