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Title: Exploring Economics

Positions: Classroom Teacher

Grade: 5th

Courses Involved: Math, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, and Economics

Number of Students: 84 (direct instruction) 500 (bookstore experience)

Length of Project: 3 months

District Description: Our district consists of 12 elementary schools, 1 K-7 school, two middle schools, two junior highs, a sophomore campus, a high school for grades 11 and 12, a vocation school, an extended day school for credit recovery and an alternative learning environment for at risk students. It is one of the fastest growing districts in the state. Our total district population is approximately 12,791 students. A large percentage of our population is made up of ESL students.

School Description: Grace Hill Elementary School is a part of the Rogers Public Schools District. Our school was built in 1979, and it became the first conversion charter school in Arkansas in 2000. We have 22 classrooms with approximately 30 certified staff members. We serve a population of approximately 500 students per year. Of our student population, 78% qualify for the Free and Reduced lunch program. Our school qualifies as a Total Title 1 school. Our student population is approximately 54% English Second Language. On average, parent involvement in school activities is low.

Class Description: 84 fifth grade students, divided into 3 classes, participated in the *Exploring Economics* unit. Of the 84 students, approximately 80% qualified for free or reduced lunch. About 55% of the students were boys. We had a very high ratio of ESL students, and approximately 60% of the students speak Spanish at home. We also had a fairly high ratio of special education students.