

**2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program
Abstract**

(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

Sheepshead Bay High School in NYC District 22 and The Brooklyn Blue Feather Elementary School, a non-public school for ages 5-13, seek to improve the academic performance of students in the English Language Arts. We expect to increase student interest in reading to help them become lifelong learners. Project eMAZE, “**E**lectronic **M**edia **A**vailability **Z**one for **E**ducation,” recognizes that the school libraries and classrooms of the future will have a different look.

In Project eMAZE, reading, writing, research and communication are all being done via handheld devices. Students with disabilities will be provided the opportunity to assimilate their use of technology to an equal or equivalent level of their non-disabled peers, thus further integrating communication and socialization with this outside community. As educators we can take advantage of this technology as another avenue for both instructor-assisted and self-guided student learning.

Funding will make it possible for both schools to purchase e-reading devices, SmartBoards and subscription services for school library and classroom use. LTG will provide funding necessary for the professional development (PD) of teachers from both sites on how to structure lessons that will include more challenging reading, writing and research assignments using the greater efficiency and speed of the new educational technology. Library lessons of the past will become the library lessons of today with new emphasis on using the eMAZE. Classroom lessons will be more exciting as lessons are presented with color, sound and all the interactive possibilities of the SmartBoards. LTG funding will also be used for staffing personnel when the eMAZE remains open after school and during the summer.

Project eMAZA will satisfy NYS Learning Standards in reading, writing and listening with audio and video casting capabilities of the new equipment. PD will emphasize the NYS P-12 Common Core Standards and NYS Board of Regents Reform Agenda. The eMAZE will be available to all students from both schools.