Digi-Block, Inc., announces 2009 Annual Grant recipients
Grants will place materials in three Montgomery County VA schools, Buckingham Elementary School, Worcester County, MD

June 2, 2009 *CAMBRIDGE, MA*- Digi-Block, Inc. announces recipients of two grants for $2,000 in Digi-Block materials

Montgomery County Public Schools
Christiansburg, VA

Digi-Block is happy to announce Montgomery County (VA) Public Schools as a 2009 Annual Grant recipient. The proposal, "*Intervention for At-Risk Students in Grades 1 and 4: Developing Student Understanding of Place Value Concepts Using Digi-Block",* identified four classrooms in three schools where the materials received from the grant will be used for targeted intervention for at-risk students. Two first grade classrooms and two fourth grade classrooms will participate in the pilot program.

First grade was chosen because of the recognition that place value understanding is a necessity for success with both whole-number and decimal operations. Montgomery County also saw the opportunity to alleviate a common problem in fourth grade classrooms: "Our fourth grade teachers report that struggling students have great difficulty 'changing the whole' when using base-10 blocks to represent both whole numbers and decimals."

The proposal outlined an Implementation Plan that included opportunities for cross-school collaboration, instructional design and analysis, and implementation support from the County. The Mathematics Supervisor will provide professional development and will cover each teacher's classes four times per year to allow the teachers the opportunity to co-teach.

Pre and post-intervention assessments will be administered after each instructional unit and data will be used to continuously shape and refine the program during the school year.

Buckingham Elementary School
Worcester County Public Schools
Berlin, MD

Buckingham Elementary School's proposal, *Using Digi-Block, to See the Math, Touch the Math, and Understand the Math*, is the recipient of the second 2009 Digi-Block Annual Grant. Also a pilot program, Buckingham will use the grant to expand their planned third grade and fourth grade implementation to include one first grade classroom and one second grade classroom, and become a "Digi-Block Showcase School" for the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland.