

Computerized Sewing Machines

Human Services

Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Name and Description of Project: Advanced Technology for FACS

Computerized sewing machines are considered an improvement for FACS programs provided that the machines purchased meet certain standards which are above those associated with the mechanical or electronic sewing machines currently required for new and existing programs. The computerized machines have many advantages over the manual and electronic sewing machines. The computerized machines have a built-in memory that will retain the designs that are entered. The computerized machines give a very accurate and precise stitching automatically. Though the other machines also give accurate and precise stitching, they involve active involvement and continuous adjustment of all the parameters manually. Computerized machines may be a combination of sewing/embroidery machines, but a computerized machine will include at least the following features:

- Multiple stitch functions and built-in stitches
- Multiple computerized one-step, auto-size buttonholes
- Backlit LCD with sensor-touch keypad
- One-touch function buttons (needle, threading, needle up/down, auto lock stitch, reverse stitch, etc.)
- Stitch design feature to create combinations of multiple patterns
- Automatic feed dog system to feed fabric of any thickness
- Multiple needle positions

Major Activities:

Computerized sewing machines will be used to enhance the construction skills of students in FACS and/or Clothing Management. Because the steps involved in construction and personalization are simplified with these machines, students will be motivated to attempt projects that require higher-level problem solving skills. It will also allow students additional opportunities to apply the principles and elements of design in the projects they attempt. Entrepreneurial potential may also be introduced through the improved hands-on experiences.

Performance Indicator:

CTE Skill Attainment

Measurement:

The success of this project will be measured by the number of students scoring proficient on the end-of-course competency test for the Clothing Management unit in Family and Consumer Sciences or the Clothing Management course.