

Budget

A Children's Academy (013232) - Franklin County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (19)

U.S.A.S. Fund #:

Plus/Minus Sheet (opens new window)

Purpose Code	Object Code	Salaries 100	Retirement Fringe Benefits 200	Purchased Services 400	Supplies 500	Capital Outlay 600	Other 800	Total
Instruction		0.00	0.00	70,000.00	40,000.00	172,000.00	0.00	282,000.00
Support Services		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Governance/Admin		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prof Development		42,800.00	8,200.00	60,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	113,000.00
Family/Community		0.00	0.00	15,000.00	27,500.00	0.00	0.00	42,500.00
Safety		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transportation		0.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Total		42,800.00	8,200.00	195,000.00	69,500.00	172,000.00	0.00	487,500.00
Adjusted Allocation								0.00
Remaining								-487,500.00

Application

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Applicants shall respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.

A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity

1. Project Title: Arts in Motion

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 9 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

A+ Children's Academy's offerings in technology, art, music, movement, and environmental education taught by course specialists support, strengthen, and enrich the standards-based curriculum. A project-based approach provides the learner the opportunity to explore relevant, real-world problems and challenges in small collaborative groups and encourages active and engaged learning. Learners are guided to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects or topics they are studying because they are actively involved in their learning.

110 3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Melinda Hardgrow

Organizational name of lead applicant: A+ Children's Academy Community School

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 013232

Address of lead applicant: 110 Obetz Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207

Phone Number of lead applicant: 614 491 8502

Email Address of lead applicant: mhardgrow@apluschildrensacadmey.org

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Paula Lasley

Organizational name of secondary applicant: A+ Children's Academy Community School

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 013232

Address of secondary applicant: 110 Obetz Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207

Phone number of secondary applicant: 614 491 8502

Email address of secondary applicant: plasley@apluschildrensacademy.org

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

N/A

7. Partnership and consortia agreements and letters of support: - (Click on the link below to upload necessary documents).

* Letters of support are for districts in academic or fiscal distress only. If school or district is in academic or fiscal distress and has a commission assigned, please include a resolution from the commission in support of the project.

* If a partnership or consortium will be established, please include the signed Straight A Description of Nature of Partnership or Description of Nature of Consortium Agreement.

[UploadGrantApplicationAttachment.aspx](#)

8. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project including relevant experience in other innovative projects. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

Melinda Dawn "Mindi" Hardgrow, was raised on the Far South Side of Columbus and graduated from Hamilton Township High School. Mindi has always had a strong connection to her community as a civic leader, neighborhood activist and an advocate for family values. She has worked as a school administrator for over twelve years and understands what is required to lead staff, students, and parents into a 21st century learning environment. As a civic leader, Mrs. Hardgrow was the chair of a task force which successfully created the Far South Columbus Area Commission and has served as the president of this commission for five years. She has also served on the development committee for the Scioto Southland /Area Plan ensuring that the Far South Side of Columbus continues to create progressive objectives and opportunities to prosper all businesses and residents. As a respected leader and community advocate, Hardgrow has formed strong relationships and instituted long lasting partnerships with many benevolent stakeholders in the neighborhood that will enrich the lives of her students at A+ Children's Academy as well as every child and family in the Far South and surrounding areas. Mrs. Hardgrow has worked on several successful grant writing projects that have brought over 3.5 million dollars of community services and resources into the Far South Side of Columbus. Mrs. Hardgrow received an Associate of Arts degree in Equestrian Studies from the University of Findlay. Through a learning initiative and free summer equestrian program that lasted seven years, Hardgrow taught school aged children to ride safely and instilled the importance of including outdoor activities in their daily routines. Hardgrow earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Kaplan University which she has effectively applied to expand and accelerate the community outreach programs she has developed over the last decade. A+ Children's Academy Community School was established in 2012 with Mrs. Hardgrow being the secondary applicant. The contract was approved by The Ohio Department of Education Office of School Sponsorship. Mrs. Hardgrow was the lead writer in the contract and assisted in developing the content ultimately creating a blueprint for an innovative Arts integrated elementary school. In the first year of A+ Children's Academy's existence enrollment increased by 25% and test scores were on the rise. Mrs. Hardgrow has set attainable goals for the school in the five year forecast. The foremost goal is to achieve a Grade A in the state grading scale within three years of the school being established. Paula Lasley has served a long career as an educator in the Central Ohio area. She has been a teacher, principal, supervisor and superintendent in both public schools and community schools in urban and suburban settings at the K through 12 levels. Paula lead as the superintendent at the Arts and College Preparatory Academy raising state rankings to Excellent making it one of the highest performing community schools in the state. She also has licensure in Special Education. Paula served as co founder for two charter schools in the area and continues to be a leader in the areas of innovation and design. She currently serves as teacher leader for A+ Children's Academy and works with staff to create a program infusing the arts in the classroom through collaboration and design. Paula has received over 5 million dollars in grants and donations to support school programming and business partnerships. She has served as a member of various boards to help pursue quality programming for a diverse set of learners. Her willingness to strive to improve education for central Ohio learners has earned her numerous honors and awards.

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve? - (Check all that apply)

Student achievement

Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast

Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one.)

New - never before implemented

Existing and researched-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments

Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements

Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project.

Families looking for a unique, alternative education program provided in a positive and supportive environment that provides students with an individualized learning plan designed to make each child successful will find it at A+CA. Course offerings in technology, art, music, movement, and environmental education taught by course specialists support, strengthen, and enrich A+CA's standards-based curriculum and state assessment requirements. A+CA will use music and movement classes to support the emotional development of the students and to strengthen the learning curriculum by integrating learning targets from the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics into their music and movement classes. The Jazz Arts Group is also a strong Partner. Judy Shafer, Education Director, has agreed to spend at least a full half day per week working with staff to create lessons and provide musicians for purposeful instruction. Additionally, Ms. Shafer and the superintendent will

arrange multiple field trips so that students are able to attend performances throughout the city. Parents and families will attend information sessions prior to the trips in order to learn about the trip and receive an activity packet that extends the learning into the home. A+ Parents are very active at the school. Besides coming into the school each day to drop off and pick up their children, parents have the opportunity to see the teachers twice daily for communication purposes. Programs that would be provided for students as follows: for grades 1 and 2, the Jazz 4 Kids is residency program offered by the Jazz Arts Group of Columbus which helps students learn sentence structure by using the structure of the 12-bar blues form and the lyric form of a blues poem. Students are involved in composing and performing their own music with a jazz band. Jazz 4 Kids Assemblies introduces the sounds of jazz to students grades K-5 through live performance. The American Jazz Experience is also for grades K-5 and supplements the core subjects of history and social studies. The group plays notable examples from several styles of jazz, ragtime, blues and bebop. The Jazz Is Spoken Here program is intended to continue the school community's conversations regarding the anti-bullying and multi-cultural diversity issues we are facing today. A jazz ensemble is an excellent example for respecting differences while developing personal identity. The Academy will partner with Columbus Ballet Met who offer a program called Moving Into Literacy to area schools. This dance education program infuses English Language Arts learning targets into instruction which impacts literacy. Academy's students will study pieces of literature and create their own works-from dance, art, and writings. The dance teacher, Ballet Met coordinator and the superintendent will meet weekly to plan activities for the students. Staff will also meet weekly to discuss the school wide and classroom implications of the dance program. BalletMet Columbus' DanceReach Residencies connect students, professional artists, classroom teachers and the community through the art form of dance. The Moving Into Literacy Program infuses dance education into English Language Arts education to positively impact literacy. Participating students study pieces of literature and create their own works—from dance to art and writings. BalletMet Momentum is a program that engages students in movement, music, and choreography. WOW! - Window On the World is a multicultural exploration which showcases a variety of dances from different cultures. With the Straight A Funding, A+ Children's Academy can realize the vision of having integration of music and the dance infused into their daily instruction. The full time teachers of dance and music work with students in 2 ways, through classroom integration with the regular education teacher and in pull out classes designed for grade levels at least twice per week.

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above. - If school/district receives school improvement funds/support, include a brief explanation of how this project will advance the improvement plan. It is important to understand exactly how the goals of the Straight A Fund will be met. Fantastic as it is to receive the funding it is essential that it spurs results and meets the goals of what the dollars are intended. A+CA has a unique ability to reach out to students that need an untraditional school setting. A+ Children's Academy's offerings in technology, art, music, movement, and environmental education taught by course specialists' support, strengthen, and enrich the standards-based curriculum. A project-based approach provides the learner the opportunity to explore relevant, real-world problems and challenges in small collaborative groups and encourages active and engaged learning. Learners are guided to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects or topics they are studying because they are actively involved in their learning. Through the implementation of the Arts, students have the ability to express and thrive in an environment that spawns their creative thinking. Student achievement will be met by expanding their opportunities to think outside the box. When the teachers, staff, families and students share a vision student achievement has a focus that makes sense to everyone. With the utilization of the resources that will be provided from the Straight A Fund dollars excitement will be generated throughout the school community. Opportunities for staff training and parent learning will increase the ability to teach the students at school while continuing the lessons at home. Teachers will have the ability to really dig in and participate in high quality professional development. Workshops, out of the school building events and trade shows, contracted arts professionals, and arts integration specialists will be implemented in staff training and development. By including research based lesson planning and core curriculum implemented materials the teachers will teach smarter not harder. Incorporating the latest development in research based strategies will give the school the needed boost to be on top of a 21st century learning environment. Teachers are not the only individuals in the school building that will have ongoing professional development. Administration and supportive staff will also undergo rigorous training to understand the implementation of the Straight A Fund dollars. As the staff knowledge grows they will be able to train incoming staff effectively reducing spending in the future. High Quality Teacher Leaders that lead professional development is a cost effective way to build comradeship within the educational staff.

C) SUSTAINABILITY - Planning for ongoing funding of the project, cost breakdown

13. Financial Documentation - All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

a. Enter a project budget

b. Upload the Straight A Financial Impact Template forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast resulting from implementation of this project. If applying as a consortia or partnership, please include the five-year forecasts of each school district, community school or STEM school member for review.

c. If subsection (b) is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to how the project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

We understand that if we receive Straight A Fund dollars that we have to be able to sustain the program beginning in Fiscal Year 2019, and we estimate the cost to sustain this program will be approximately \$30,000 annually. We believe that as a result of the increased technology and technology infrastructure that the Straight A Fund will provide that we will be able to: 1. Bring new students to achieve our growth goals each year. The newly enrolling students will enable A+ Children's Academy to use these dollars in the district to sustain the program. Our projected goal has been to increase by 20 students per year. The school will realize spending of \$8,400 per student for each FTE that the Straight A fund will bring to A+CA. 2. In our forecast we have budgeted for Capital Outlay. We know that we annually spend a portion of this on capital outlay for technology purchases, both for equipment and infrastructure. We estimate that \$15,000 of this budget will be saved as a result of the technology improvements provided by the Straight A Fund. School building improvements for soundproofing and flooring will be a one time need. 3. We estimate that the training provided by the Fund will offset some professional development costs we have incurred in the past. We believe all the above items will be more than sufficient to offset more than \$30,000 in sustainability costs.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

487,500.00 * Total project cost

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget. The narrative should include the source and amount of other funds that may be used to support this concept (e.g., Title I funding, RttT money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

A+ Children's Academy Community School would like to use Straight A grant funds to create an integrated learning environment that cultivates student achievement and connects various learning styles in music and dance to meet the needs of our students. In order to cultivate the integrated learning model we will need to invest in instruments, technology, professional development and family and community support. These investments will help ensure that the integrated learning model is not just a stage but embedded into our best practices. In order for integrated learning to be a part of our best practices we would like to have personnel from partner programs work with our staff and students. Additionally, they would supply artists to provide instruction and performance to students and families. Transportation and ticket costs would be necessary to ensure students and families the ability to attend. This would allow families the ability to attend during non school hours, as well as day time performances.

15. What new/recurring costs of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

5,000.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

Transportation and ticket costs, although discounted, would continue to be needed for continued implementation. Community partners and artist costs would still be incurred. Family and Community support costs would be needed to maintain after school activities. Capital Outlay, although significantly reduced, would still be a priority for incoming students. New costs will arise due to the use of technology and equipment. There will have to be a part time IT person to trouble shoot and repair equipment. The clerical impact will mostly be inventory and record keeping of the new items purchased. With the application of erate funding and the higher enrollment figures, a part time person will easily be salaried in the general fund dollars.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the innovative project?

48,000.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

The expected savings that will result from the implementation of the innovative project are as follows: 1. Teachers will acquire the skill and knowledge to become teacher leaders through the professional development training that they have obtained. These teachers will be able to then create and implement professional development that will be done on an internal basis. Outside sources will be minimized for training of new staff members. 2. All materials, once purchased, will be utilized and not have the need to be purchased again. This includes items such as curriculum based books, movies, and supportive resources. Larger costs such as sound proofing for the musical instruction rooms and the dance floor will not need to be replaced. This is a one time cost occurrence. 3. Once the technology provided by the project is in place it will decrease the need for new technology to be acquired in the five year forecast. 4. Community and family services will be established through neighborhood partnerships. Within these partnerships costs can be shared or services traded. Family members may be trained to teach parenting classes and coordinate community oriented events. 5. Supply costs will be absorbed in to the general funds budget due to the increase of student enrollment as a result of the implementation of the innovative project.

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining. If there are ongoing costs associated with the project after the term of the grant, this explanation should provide details on the cost reductions that will be made that are at least equal to the amount of new/recurring costs detailed above. If there are no new/recurring costs, explain in detail how this project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

Sustainability is essential after the Straight A Fund dollars have expired in Fiscal Year 2019. It is imperative that the programs, materials, and partnerships extend past the five year forecast for it to be a success. Sustainability is estimated at approximately \$30,000 annually. Any new or recurring costs such as transportation and field trip costs will be absorbed into the general budget. As a community school we are able to bring in new students to achieve our growth goals. Families want to have innovative opportunities for their children. We will be able to provide this through the Straight A Fund. With the increased enrollment the program cost will be offset. Capital Outlay dollars have been budgeted into the current forecast and will continue to do so past fiscal year 2019. We believe that these items are sufficient to exceed the sustainability of the costs to offset the Straight A Fund.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation of the timeline for the successful implementation of this project. In each explanation, be sure to briefly describe the largest barriers that could derail your concept or timeline for implementation and your plan to proactively mitigate such barriers. In addition, the narrative should list the stakeholders that will be engaged during that stage of the project and describe the communication that occurred as the application was developed.

Describe the ongoing communication plan with the stakeholders as the project is implemented. (Stakeholders can include parents, community leaders, foundation support and businesses, as well as educational

personnel in the affected entities.)

* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 01/07/2014- 03/30/2014

* Narrative explanation

As members of the Southland Area Association, the Superintendent and her committee will develop a communication strategy to inform area families and community members of the award of the Straight A grant funding. Ms. Hardgrow will request to be on the January agenda to announce A+ Children Academy's grant award and the partnership developed for students and their families. Similarly, she will also speak at the South Side Homeowners Association meeting and attend the luncheon of the Parsons Avenue Business Association. A power-point presentation will be made with time for questions and comments to follow. Additionally, there will be several print materials for dissemination. The South Side News and The Shopper Reporter are two publications eager to print stories about the school Both have done several articles on past activities at the school. The committee will also produce newsletters, flyers and brochures to share with parents, partners and area businesses. The school website will include announcements and video of the award. An assembly will occur to announce the award. Secondly, planning for spring implementation will occur. Jazz Arts, Ballet Met and the staff will begin weekly meetings to assign and report out on tasks necessary for implementation. Each of these groups was active in conversations and development of the initial grant application. Their eagerness to proceed to the planning stage is evidenced in current programming at the school. The dance and music teachers will work with the Education Directors to schedule art previews for students and parents. Two of these events will take place outside the typical school day. One will be infused into the Annual Spring Musical performed by A+ students. Students will be involved in creating invitations for area leaders, families and artists to attend. Additionally, the remainder of the classroom teachers will begin both staff development activities and curricular planning for the last nine week grading period.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 04/01/2014 - 06/30/2019

* Narrative explanation

During the implementation phase, ongoing planning and staff development will occur. Students and parents will immediately notice the integration activities occurring. Two field trips will be taken prior to school ending. Each partner and her team will provide a trip that will give the child and their family and opportunity to experience a dance and a jazz show. Weekly staff meetings will include professional development activities that will enhance classroom instruction. The arts teachers will work both in the classroom and as a pull out for duration of the grant period. With only 7 class room teachers, this will be easily implemented. A barrier that exists is if staff turnover occurs. However, using staff development monies, summer planning will occur for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. Teachers will think differently about integrated instruction and plan accordingly. McGraw Hill texts are used in the all subjects. They have committed to providing teacher training over the summer and throughout the year. Each school year will include multiple staff development days. During the summer months, dance flooring and soundproofing materials will be constructed in the arts hall. Bids for technology, instruments, and electronics will be submitted. In conjunction with the Treasurer, orders for supplies and capital outlay materials will be made. They should arrive and be operational by school opening. A majority of the monies will be expended in the first year of implementation. Continued communication will occur in the community. Parent Volunteer Coordinators will begin enlisting families for planning of events. It is anticipated that during full implementation, dance and music lessons and events will be a weekly occurrence in the evening for families. Parents will also be able to attend all field trips throughout the year with their child(ren). There will be no cost to families for tickets or transportation. Local artists will provide these programs. A+ staff will also rotate attendance at evening and week end events.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/10/2015 - 06/30/2019

* Narrative explanation

Opportunities for staff training and parent learning will increase the ability to teach the students at school while continuing the lessons at home. Teachers will have the ability to really dig in and participate in high quality professional development. Workshops, out of the school building events and trade shows, contracted arts professionals, and arts integration specialists will be implemented in staff training and development. By including research based lesson planning and core curriculum implemented materials the teachers will teach smarter not harder. Evaluation sessions will be held with the primary planning committee. Stakeholders, including parents, staff, students and partners will have the opportunity to complete anonymous surveys throughout the course of the grant. Input is crucial in planning to enhance the experience for all. This information will be used for continued planning and implementation. The true test of success will not only positive feedback but the emotional support received by engaging in a life rich in the arts. State Report Cards, student achievement, teacher job satisfaction, robust attendance at events are a few of the indicators of success. It is anticipated that there will be a wait list of students wanting to attend A+CA. The school will be a flagship in the Southside that shows the pride of those that live and work in the area. The overall impact of the integration of the arts will be the starting point of many happy and productive students. It is with this solid educational foundation, that important changes can and will be made within the community. Included in these are increased graduation rates and a plethora of activities for families to engage in the community.

19. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

A+ Children's Academy is in its second year of operation. It's vision fulfills every student's intellectual, ethical, social, emotional and physical potential by integrating an unsurpassed arts curriculum with superior academic programs to prepare life long learners with a passion for the arts, respect for others and an active commitment to diversity. In addition to core academic subjects, classes are offered in music, dance, theatre and visual arts. This grant will allow students, families and faculties opportunities to work with professional artist to expand their arts experiences through curricular ties. The partnerships expand their art experiences and knowledge base to make the connections. A+CA expects to grow each year and be rated and A school by the Ohio Department of Education. It is expected that the Ohio Association of Public Charter Schools and local leaders will take notice of the top performing Charter School in the area. Becoming a School of Promise would enhance the ability to teach all children regardless of background, income level or race. Creative students find a welcoming artistic environment that challenges them and celebrates the world around them. The school community hopes that parents, teachers, administrators, and students become partners in the educational process. The school and home must form an alliance to provide quality educational programs for youth. A quality educational program works in partnership with families and community and ensures that students gain optimal academic experiences to prepare them for the next academic pursuit. Academic excellence blends with an emphasis on art instruction as the two become one for the overall growth and achievement of the student. Discipline and excellence in academics correspond with discipline and excellence in arts. Using a curriculum consistent with the Ohio content standards, A+CA promotes consistently high standards to help students excel to high levels and maximize their personal potential. Parental involvement in the educational process is a critical part of each student's success. - A+CA will strive to become an amazing place for our students! The next best thing to being a student is to be a parent! The Parents' Organization will play an important part in the schools success. The Parents' Organization coordinates the volunteer efforts of the parents.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication

20. Describe the rationale, research or past success that supports the innovative project and its impact on student achievement, spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast or utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

It would be hard to find anyone who disagrees with the thought that music and the power of the arts integrated in the general classroom is a great idea in theory or that we need to teach the whole child. So what stops us as educators? Many times it is the lack of communication, a lack of resources, and the lack of time. A+CA recognizes all of these factors and works diligently to make sure that the communication between collaborators is thorough and consistent. Professional Development and team building will open the door for opportunities for teachers and support staff to learn how to integrate their classrooms with the arts and manage that time into their daily schedules. Lack of resources will be greatly taken care of through the Straight A Fund. Several published experts in the area of creating interdisciplinary approaches involving the arts have started pilot programs or worked in special settings where they have had the opportunity to integrate the arts into core curriculum. The results have been overwhelmingly positive. Arts allowed the students to learn more and they remembered more than in a traditional classroom. A+CA's standards-based learning curriculum is based on the Reggio Emilia approach, a project-based child-centered approach to learning. Learning curriculum at a Reggio Emilia school takes the form of projects that may come from children or teachers and are intensive constructions of knowledge. A project-based approach provides the learner the opportunity to explore relevant, real-world problems and challenges in small collaborative groups and encourages active and engaged learning. Learners are guided to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects or topics they are studying because they are actively involved in their learning. Research indicates that students are more likely to retain the knowledge gained through a project-based approach more readily than through a traditional textbook-centered learning. Learners develop confidence and self-direction as they move through both collaborative and independent project-based work which many times are lacking in students who have not performed well in school. The lighting, acoustics, and interior design of each classroom will provide comfortable work stations and freedom for movement which supports a child-centered individualized approach to learning. Rigor and relevance in the core academics, creative problem solving, critical thinking, collaborative learning and communication will be achieved through the integration of the performing arts and because of the relationship the teachers will have with their students. Meeting 21st Century skills is about both the core academics and the other skills mentioned. When teachers know who their students are at a very personal level they are able to provide instruction and information that is relevant/interesting to the learner. And when it is relevant teachers can get to rigor. The practices at A+CA are about closing the opportunity gaps for children which will result in closing the academic achievement gaps. Teaching students in a cross curriculum and collaborative manner just makes sense. When a music teacher can approach a social studies teacher and ask what they are studying in their class and pull that to the arts the subject is going to be absorbed in different ways. This year the 4th grade class will learn about the Civil War and the impact in Ohio. The music teacher will collaborate with the other teachers to bring the civil war alive in every subject area. Kids with an arts-based curriculum are going to outperform traditional textbook learners by 90% according to Norma McClellan, professor emeritus of music education at Missouri State University.

21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

Yes

No

22. If so, how?

A+ Children's Academy is excited about the opportunity to share the implementation of Arts In Motion with other school districts throughout Ohio. Through our website we will link resources and lesson plans. With social media and youtube we will be able to share innovative ideas and communicate with other schools to see what is working for them as well. We plan to hold weekend and/or summer workshops for teachers and administrators from around Ohio to attend. Presenting at local and state conferences such as the Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) will allow us to extend the professional to a larger group at one time. All materials such as brochures and flyers will also be available for others to implement. The amount of time and effort it would take to implement in another district will solely be up to that particular group. We will make the resources available to them.

23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

The planning team recognize that there is much work to be done during the upcoming year. We are confident that the tools we have perfected to create positive school cultures are transferable to any school, anywhere. However, the development of a curriculum that has an embedded arts integration theme throughout the core curriculums and is specifically designed for K-6 school students will require significant planning and implementation work. The staff and partners have set out an ambitious, but achievable agenda to create a curriculum that will serve to engage students in a manner that supports

21st Century skill development. Providing a foundation for the arts and educational curriculum to blend will be an assessment driven, standards-based approach to education that focuses on mastery of benchmarks. For each student an Individualized Student Portfolio will be developed to specifically tailor instruction to each individual student's needs. Professional development will serve to keep teachers current on the best practices being utilized in other successful schools that are working with a similar demographic population. Professional development will also serve to help teachers, leaders and support staff in the ongoing process of growing and developing as a team, united in a singular objective to provide relevant education to youngsters to help them prepare to be successful in their lives. Equal attention is being directed to the development of a marketing strategy that will serve to both raise awareness of the program and also to begin the process of recruiting new students. We recognize that the best laid plans of school designers will fail if the important work to introduce, market and advertise the school and recruit students is overlooked. Even now, through the work of the planning team and our parents, friends and supporters in the South Side and elsewhere, a buzz is growing concerning the success of students that have traditionally failed in traditional public schools. Through A+CA's ever-evolving partnerships with the Jazz Arts Group and Ballet Met, discussions are taking place concerning ways to include others in our partnership endeavors. Beyond these partnerships, the integration of the arts opens new doors for potential partnerships with community centers, area businesses, educational institutions and governmental entities. We believe that the school we are designing within our working group, founded and grown from within our community, will serve as a model for other schools in Ohio and beyond. We seek support from the Straight A Fund to help push our vision forward to fruition.

24. What are the specific benchmarks related to the fund goals identified in question 9 that the project aims to achieve in five years? Include any other anticipated outcomes of the project that you hope to achieve that may not be easily benchmarked.

Benchmarking will bring accountability to A+CA to measure the areas of success within the frame of the Straight A Fund. Benchmarks allow for teachers and administration to evaluate how well students are absorbing the lessons. A+CA also recognizes that children must receive intentional instruction in the core academic areas as outlined in the Ohio Department of Education Academic Content Standards. Therefore, McGraw-Hill will be used as the curriculum for Reading, Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. The curriculum materials are research-based and aligned to the ODE Core Academic Content Standards and the scope and sequences in each of the academic content areas will be used to guide instruction in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. This curriculum was selected because it provides clear directions for teachers on how to differentiate instruction based on the needs of the learner and provides for examples of how the arts can be integrated in the core academic areas. The publisher will provide the teachers with professional development on how best to use, integrate the arts and modify the curriculum based on the needs of the students. The formative assessments provided in the curriculum will be used from progress monitoring. This data, along with standardized assessment data will be used by the teaching staff to determine how students are performing and if changes are needed in the curriculum and instruction. A balance will be achieved by integrating a child-centered emergent curriculum with scope and sequenced outlined in a commercial curriculum. Children's Academy will analyze the results of an array of assessments to evaluate students. Some of the assessments to be used for student evaluation are the following: standardized tests, performance assessments, rubrics, student portfolios, classroom assessments, and teacher observations. A+ Children's Academy will administer federal and state- required assessments, including the Ohio Academic Achievement Testing starting in grade three. Understanding the importance of assessment alignment, the developers of the school will investigate which criterion referenced tests are currently being used in the schools of the targeted student population to select one for use at the Academy. Results from state assessments, screening tools and diagnostic assessments will be used to develop a personalized learning plan for each student which will be used to track and evaluate students to monitor student progress on a regular basis. AIMSweb will be used as the progress monitoring tool because of the importance of analyzing multiple sources of data to make informed decisions regarding student performance. A+CA will implement a comprehensive assessment plan that will inform instruction. Through professional development, A+ CA teachers will know WHY they are giving an assessment, WHAT it is that they are assessing, and WHAT are the criteria for success. A+ Children's Academy will use the first year of operation to collect baseline data on the Academy's students to inform the development of performance standards and learning targets. The performance index and other measures on the Local Report Card will be used as indicators of school and student success. A+CA will establish performance standards and learning targets for the following areas: reading; math; student attendance; student behavior; social and emotional development; and performing arts. Student performance will be measured by individual student growth and improvement in specific content areas.

25. Describe the plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used.

* Include the method by which progress toward short- and long-term objectives will be measured. (This section should include the types of data to be collected, the formative outputs and outcomes and the systems in place to track the program's progress).

* Include the method, process and/or procedure by which the program will modify or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

The instructional philosophy is an unrelenting commitment to achievement combining three interrelated components: Needs-based, grade-specific instruction, arts integrated learning within an environment that is welcoming, nurturing, engaging and rewarding. Daily formative assessments will drive daily lesson planning that will be directly tied to Common Core and state of Ohio benchmarks. Mastery of specific benchmarks is the objective. Through our relationship with McGraw Hill and its digital curriculum, the means and modalities of new media expression and literacy will be seamlessly integrated throughout the curriculums to ensure students' competency with these tools while also serving to more thoroughly engage students in the education process. Collaborative projects with an arts focus will help students acquire and master 21st Century skills. The leadership and staff will undertake the creation and nurturing of the school's culture as the initial and primary challenge. Much of this work will be completed during intensive, wide-ranging professional development on an ongoing basis. The staff's experience is that the school's climate must reflect mutuality of respect, accountability, responsibility, support, and encouragement between and among the adults and the students. Teachers will be encouraged to be creative in forming relationships of respect and trust with their students, parents and guardians. A singularity of purpose - academic achievement and school readiness - will always drive what we do. The creation and maintenance of a school climate that supports our singular purpose must remain constantly within our thoughts and actions. The statistics cited about the neighborhood point to the need for a school with purpose. Parents and students who live and attend school in our target area have few choices for quality education. The only open enrollment school in the area is rated at a "C" by Ohio's Department of Education and no school is rated either as "A" or "B." There are no available schools offering school instruction in the targeted neighborhoods. If given a choice, parents in Columbus appear to be willing to trust under-performing charter schools where their children will at least be safe over under-performing city schools that carry a reputation of being places of sometimes indiscriminate violence and bullying. The founders of A+CA understand and appreciate the importance of carefully developing a comprehensive marketing strategy that will enable the school to meet its student population projects. If the grant is approved, the management team will invest in the creation of a comprehensive branding, marketing and advertising strategy to raise awareness of the pending opening and mission of the school throughout the community and to meet or exceed our projections for enrolled students. A key component to the building of a cadre of teachers that will enable the school to achieve excellence will be an extensive and intensive dedication to professional development. The most effective professional development is specifically tailored to address recognized staff weaknesses, to highlight proven and emerging methods to move students toward excellence, and to helping teachers become masters of their crafts. Finally, the faculty will need to be culturally aware enough in order to recognize and intervene early with obstacles that can impede the academic achievement of students. The school must provide easy access to summative assessment data cross-linked to individual student performance benchmarks; parent contact information; be data import and export friendly so that data can flow from and into other applications that the school uses and include a sub-application to allow parents to be able to securely log in and check their child's progress. The planning team is open to make changes, as needed, during any phase of the grant.

By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund for the duration of the evaluation timeframe. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct evaluation of the plan and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and any other related data to the legislature, governor, and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant agency and/or all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter "I Accept" and indicate your name, title, agency/organization and today's date.

I Accept Melinda Hardgrow, Superintendent, A+ Children's Academy Community School, October 24, 2013