Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts and Sciences-Ohio (013994) - Cuyahoga County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (547)

U.S.A.S. Fund #:
Plus/Minus Sheet (opens new window)

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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -250,832.49
Albert Einstein Academy of Letters, Arts and Sciences-Oh (013934) - Cuyahoga County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (54T)

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: Einstein's Vision: A Digital Integration Model to Boost Student Achievement

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.

Albert Einstein Academy of Westlake respectfully submits this proposal requesting $250,840 from the Straight A Fund to support Einstein’s Vision, a twenty-first century educational model designed to improve student achievement through a local- and global-centric approach to learning. The Digital Age has inspired schools worldwide to integrate technology across the curriculum; to motivate learning by meeting learners on the playing field. Our students are equipped with the latest technologic innovations; our teachers are falling behind. Einstein’s Vision will serve as an integration model that infuses technology into the day-to-day curriculum in creative, academic, rigorous, engaging, and relevant ways. Einstein’s Vision seeks to create borderless classrooms; to transform classrooms into learning laboratories for students to explore content and create knowledge; to extend learning beyond the school day through inquiry-based assignments that encourage creativity and critical thinking; to provide students with practical and meaningful learning experiences that are embedded in the social and cultural fabrics of their everyday lives. To accomplish this, Einstein’s Vision sets forth the following goals:

3. Total Students Impacted: N/A

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Bruce, Thomas
Organizational name of lead applicant: Albert Einstein Academy of Westlake
Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): N/A
Address of lead applicant: 3600 Crocker Rd, Westlake, OH 44145
Phone Number of lead applicant: 440-471-4982
Email Address of lead applicant: bruce.thomas@ealas.org

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Danielle, Kimble
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Albert Einstein Academy of Westlake
Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): N/A
Address of secondary applicant: 3600 Crocker Rd, Westlake, OH 44145
Phone number of secondary applicant: 440-471-4982
Email address of secondary applicant: danielle.kimble@ealas.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.

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.

8. 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.

Upload Grant Application Attachment.aspx

9. 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.

Individuals responsible for implementation of Einstein Vision include the following: Dr. Bruce Thomas, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Bruce Thomas has been an educator and administrator for over 30 years. He holds both a Masters and Doctoral degree in education. Over the span of 30 years in education he has served as a teacher, school counselor, building principal, and as a school superintendent. Dr. Thomas has taught across the country in the areas of school leadership, academic improvement and student success. He has published numerous articles focusing on changing the current paradigm in education to focus more closely on meeting the needs of both high and low achieving students. Dr. Thomas is currently on staff at the University of Akron where he has been teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses in the college of education. He has experience managing large grant funds (Title I, Race to the Top, etc.). His background in education will help support the implementation of Einstein’s Vision. Ms. Kristen Elliott-Thomas, Coordinator of Student Services; Kristen Elliott-Thomas has been an educator for over sixteen years. She has served as a teacher and school counselor in various Ohio public schools during this time. Some of her professional goals have been to establish appropriate and accessible mental health and special education services for all students, initiate school-wide programs to foster individualized learning, and to create an environment of diversity, acceptance and community within the school. She has also worked as a private therapist assisting adolescent students and their families who are struggling with the numerous issues that many families are facing today. Ms. Elliott-Thomas’s experience in education will assist with the implementation of Einstein’s Vision. Other individuals responsible for implementation of the model include seven AEA teachers; all of which are highly qualified and certified in their subject area with a wealth of experience and a greater interest in integrating technology into their daily classroom activities. AEA will also hire a Curriculum and Instruction consultant, and a Technology Integration consultant, as well as a full-time Technology Integration Specialist and a part-time Project Manager.

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.

Einstein’s Vision project will create a digital learning model across the curriculum, providing a twenty-first century educational design that is rich in technology integration. Einstein’s Vision will include two components: a teacher-lead digital curriculum and a 1:1 education plan. Both components will connect seamlessly to provide enriching and educational, technology-based learning experiences designed to boost student achievement. Einstein’s Vision will partner with Apex Learning to offer a teacher-led digital curriculum that provides each student with access to a personalized, student-centric learning experience. The digital curriculum provides teachers with the curriculum framework and flexibility to meet the individual learning needs of each child. Integrating this system into classroom instruction allows teachers to track progress in real-time and use data to assess, remediate, and/or accelerate students. Einstein’s Vision will also partner with Google through a one-to-one (1:1) education plan that will provide each student with a laptop: Google Chromebook (GCB) equipped with Google Apps for Education. GCBs are optimized for the web’s vast educational resources. They will replace hard-copy textbooks and printed notes, notebooks, binders, folders, and more. All documents, resources, and class materials will be instantly available and accessible to students and teachers at all times. GCBs allow for more methodological and practical, cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary, hands-on and collaborative learning experiences. For instance, in Science, GCBs enable students to act as professional researchers; to learn by example. GCBs in hand, students can systematically examine a plot of wetlands, logging fish, plant life, and other species into an online spreadsheet using Google Docs. As students log in each year, they will also develop a long-term data set and create a portfolio of work they can be used within AEA’s learning laboratories. While the integration of technology across the curriculum is exciting, AEA understands that technology cannot stand alone. Einstein’s Vision will require all faculty and staff hands on deck to instill best practices and utilize technological tools and techniques that reshape and enhance pedagogical practices. With assistance from Apex Learning and Google, AEA will hire a Technology Integration Specialist that will be responsible for the following: training and supporting AEA teachers in the use of technology to supplement instruction; facilitating technology integration training and professional development opportunities; and managing class materials and 1:1 education plan. Professional Development

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above.

As stated above, Einstein’s Vision initiative goal seeks to: increase student academic achievement through a technology-driven curriculum; provide equitable access to technological resources; empower teachers to utilize technological tools and techniques to advance curriculum frameworks and pedagogical design; and build students’ twenty-first century college and career readiness skills. Goal 1: Increase student academic achievement through a technology-driven curriculum. Participants will demonstrate improved grades, consistent completion of assignments, and participation in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Studies indicate that student engagement is a key factor to academic achievement, and technology-based instruction engages and excites students through pedagogical relevance. The integration of technology across the curriculum, along with access to technological devices, will engage students and boost student achievement. Goal 2: Provide equitable access to technological resources. To do so, AEA will purchase a sizable quantity of GCBs and Google Apps for each student. Goal 3: Empower teachers to utilize technological tools and techniques to enhance curriculum frameworks and pedagogical design. AEA faculty and staff will receive ongoing professional development for the implementation of a school-wide digital curriculum and 1:1 technology plan. Goal 4: Build students’ twenty-first century skills. The use of technology to boost student achievement.

Goal 2: Provide equitable access to technological resources. To do so, AEA will purchase a sizable quantity of GCBs and Google Apps for each student. Goal 3: Empower teachers to utilize technological tools and techniques to enhance curriculum frameworks and pedagogical design. AEA faculty and staff will receive ongoing professional development for the implementation of a school-wide digital curriculum and 1:1 technology plan. Goal 4: Build students’ twenty-first century skills. The use of technology to boost student achievement.

Support Services

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

The total requested for Project Manager is $250,840. The Technology Integration Specialist is responsible for training and supporting AEA teachers in the use of technology to supplement instruction, facilitating technology integration trainings, and assisting with the development, implementation, evaluation, and refinement of Einstein’s Vision. The total requested for Technology Integration Specialist is $42,500. The total requested for Salaries is $63,750. Retirement and Fringe Benefits fringe benefits include: Retirement, Medical Insurance, Medicare, Workers Compensation, and NCOESC Employee Fees. The total requested for Support Services is $21,250. The Technology Integration Specialist will continue to serve as a full-time employee at the salary rate of $43,500 plus benefits. This position will sustain in the subsequent years through an anticipated increase in student enrollment. The total requested for Support Services is $42,800. The total requested for Professional Development is $9,500. The total requested for AEA faculty and staff will receive ongoing professional development opportunities. The total requested for Curriculum Development is $12,000. The total requested for Print Supplies is $3,000. The total requested for Curricular materials / resources: $150. The total requested for Curriculum Development is $12,000. The total requested for Support Services is $21,250. The total requested for Professional Development is $9,500. The total requested for AEA faculty and staff will receive ongoing professional development opportunities. The total requested for Curriculum Development is $12,000. The total requested for Print Supplies is $3,000. The total requested for Curricular materials / resources: $150. The total requested for Curriculum Development is $12,000. The total requested for Support Services is $21,250. The total requested for Professional Development is $9,500. The total requested for AEA faculty and staff will receive ongoing professional development opportunities. The total requested for Curriculum Development is $12,000. The total requested for Print Supplies is $3,000. The total requested for Curricular materials / resources: $150. The total requested for Curriculum Development is $12,000. The total requested for Support Services is $21,250.

Upon funding expiration, the new/recurring costs of the innovative project that will become expenses for Albert Einstein Academy include: Technology Integration Specialist salary and fringe benefits and Professional Development.

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

Total project cost: $250,840

* Please 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, RIT 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.)

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

Yes, there are new/recurring costs. A specific amount of expected savings (annual)

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

18,000 * 0.00 "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.)

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

Yes, there are new/recurring costs. A 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.)

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

101,289.66 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual cost after project is implemented)
The implementation plan for the project involves the development of an integrated technology program that will be deployed across all school grades. The plan includes the following key components:

- **Timeline:** The project will be implemented in phases over the course of the academic year.
- **Communication:** Regular updates and meetings with stakeholders will be held to ensure alignment with project goals.
- **Contingency Planning:** Strategies will be developed to address potential barriers and ensure project success.

The project will be monitored and evaluated to track progress and make necessary adjustments. A comprehensive evaluation will be conducted to measure the impact of the project on student achievement and on school resources. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform future planning and resource allocation.

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

Describe the substantial impact and lasting value of the project on student achievement, spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast, and utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

**Personalized instruction is one of the strongest benefits of technology and one of the most critical factors in twenty-first century education. To help students achieve, it is essential to address their unique needs and learning styles.**
21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

[ ] Yes
[ ] No

22. If so, how?

Einstein’s Vision may be replicated in other districts in Ohio. As schools and districts move towards adopting a digital learning platform, they may consider the integration of both, a teacher-leader digital curriculum and 1:1 education plan. To move towards digital integration, and replace textbooks, schools may adopt a digital curriculum license for each student to ensure a personalized learning experience that meets individual learning needs. The digital curriculum can be used as a teacher’s framework for instruction and activities, as well as to support student credit recovery, remediation, intervention, acceleration, and exam preparation. A digital curriculum provides educators with the flexibility to meet the needs of all students as the models, the blending classroom evolves...Combining face-to-face classroom instruction with online content results in more effective teaching and an increase in student outcomes. (Apex Learning) This integrated instructional approach naturally creates student-centered, project-based learning experiences within the classroom- where the teacher serves a facilitator and lead collaborator role rather than the sole “expert” of knowledge. The 1:1 education plan has been adopted in the past, and deemed successful with clear guidelines, policies, and procedures in place upon implementation. “Chromebooks open up the whole world to students. The collective knowledge of the entire human race is on the line, and that is the best gift any teacher can give to a student.” (Peter Iles, Principal, Wisconsin) More than 3,000 schools worldwide have chosen Google Chromebooks for their affordability, manageability, and scalability. Many schools have also adopted Google Apps for Education. Google Apps includes Gmail (webmail), Google Calendar (shared calendaring), Google Docs (online document, spreadsheet, presentation, and form creation and sharing), Google Sites (team website creation with video, images, gadgets, and documents integration), Google Classroom (team collaboration and grading), Google Drive (Google Apps for Education) (both components: a teacher-leader digital curriculum and a 1:1 education plan within a single digital integration model may be a newer approach to a twenty-first century educational design.

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

Substantial value and lasting impact begins with a plan that is contingent on a timeline that extends Einstein’s Vision beyond the length of the grant, as well as develop students' 21st century skills for which they will apply to college, career, and life endeavors. In subsequent years, digital curriculum licenses will be purchased to replace textbooks, saving the school an estimated of $15,000 a year. The 1:1 education plan follows a rent-to-own model where families agree to pay a payment plan for the GCB. Payments for laptops will replenish funds for additional GCB purchases, equipment and technical support. The Technology Integration Specialist will work with the school to establish a payment plan for the subsequent years to ensure students with disabilities are engaged. This requires the use of technology tools and resources, involvement with interesting and relevant projects, and learning environments-including online environments-that are supportive and safe...In the twenty-first century, educators must be given and be prepared to use technology tools; they must be collaborating in learning-constantly seeking knowledge and acquiring new skills along with their students. (Using Technology to Transform Schools, 2010) Einstein’s Vision will encourage student achievement and college and career preparation among 7th-12th grade students through technology-enriched programming that is engaging, interactive, rigorous, and relevant to the twenty-first century learner profile. The digital integration model will challenge students to think critically and creatively...one of the most important factors in student achievement. The twenty-first century skills- technology supports the learning of twenty-first century skills, including critical thinking and problem solving; communication and collaboration; and creativity and innovation. (Defining Five Myths) Einstein’s Vision hopes to achieve substantial value and lasting impact. The eMINTS classrooms are used...opportunity to use these tools gain a deeper understanding of complex topics and concepts and are more likely to be able to recall information later in life and use it to solve problems in [academic and non-academic] situations.” (Apex Learning)

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 measurable.

Einstein’s Vision sets forth the following benchmarks: Year 1: 7100 percent of AEA students will have a personalized education plan and 24/7 access to a digital curriculum license; 7100 percent of AEA students will be 1:1 with Google Apps for Education; 7100 percent of AEA students will demonstrate an improvement in twenty-first century skills; 70 percent of AEA students will participate in the digital curriculum and 1:1 education plan; 70 percent of students will be on track to graduate on time; 70 percent of AEA students will demonstrate improvement in twenty-first century skills; 70 percent of AEA students will be 21st century learners. Year 2: 7100 percent of AEA students will have a personalized education plan and 24/7 access to a digital curriculum license; 7100 percent of AEA students will be 1:1 with Google Apps for Education; 7100 percent of AEA students will participate in the digital curriculum and 1:1 education plan; 70 percent of AEA students will demonstrate improvement in twenty-first century skills; New AEA students will receive a personalized education plan and 24/7 access to a digital curriculum license; 70 percent of AEA students will participate in the digital curriculum and 1:1 education plan; 70 percent of AEA students will be 21st century learners. Year 3: 7100 percent of AEA students will have a personalized education plan and 24/7 access to a digital curriculum license; 7100 percent of AEA students will be 1:1 with Google Apps for Education; 7100 percent of AEA students will participate in the digital curriculum and 1:1 education plan; 70 percent of AEA students will demonstrate improvement in twenty-first century skills; 70 percent of AEA students will be 21st century learners. Year 4: 7100 percent of AEA students will have a personalized education plan and 24/7 access to a digital curriculum license; 7100 percent of AEA students will be 1:1 with Google Apps for Education; 7100 percent of AEA students will participate in the digital curriculum and 1:1 education plan; 70 percent of AEA students will demonstrate improvement in twenty-first century skills.

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 outcomes and outputs and the place to track the outcomes (e.g. website).

* 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.

Einstein’s Vision is committed to ongoing evaluation and data analysis. Einstein’s Vision impact will be measured both qualitatively and quantitatively, with data gathered regularly through classroom observations, pre- and post- assessments, teacher and parent/ guardian surveys and interviews, student surveys and interviews, and document of student learning through the digital learning plan. Summative data will include: class attendance rates, GPA scores, student report cards, discipline and attendance records, participation, and other school reports. The Project Manager will meet regularly with Einstein’s Vision program committee made up of representatives from the community to discuss data analysis and identify any areas that require modification to Einstein’s Vision proposed plan. The program committee is instrumental in designing program goals and priorities for the continuation of Einstein’s Vision for subsequent years. The Project Manager and Technology Integration Specialist will work collaboratively to review and evaluate the overall program quality and effectiveness and make adjustments to program design as necessary. The consultant will work collaboratively with AEA teachers and administration to assist in the design of assessment tools and standardized evaluation instruments that can be used over a five-year period to determine Einstein’s Vision impact on student achievement. Evaluation results will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program. Program modifications will be made based on the results from the 2014-2015 academic year. Upon public request, evaluation will be made available on the AEA website.

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 consider the design 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 the 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. Bruce Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, Albert Einstein Academy of Westlake, 10/25/2013