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| Adjusted Allocation | 0.00 |
| Remaining | -109,714.97 |
1. Project Title: Arcanum Virtual Academy

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.

The Arcanum-Butler Local School District will implement a 1:1 student-computer program for students enrolled in the district’s Virtual Academy On-line learning program. The district will increase student achievement by allowing additional access to coursework and on-line teacher support.

3. Total Students Impacted:

69. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: John Stephens
Organizational name of lead applicant: Arcanum-Butler Local School District
Unique Identifier (RN/Hed Tax ID): 046631
Address of lead applicant: 2011 Trojan Avenue, Arcanum, Ohio 45304
Phone Number of lead applicant: 937-692-5174
Email Address of lead applicant: john_stephens@darke.k12.oh.us

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: NA
Organizational name of secondary applicant: NA
Unique Identifier (RN/Hed Tax ID): NA
Address of secondary applicant: NA
Phone number of secondary applicant: NA
Email address of secondary applicant: NA

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 (RN/Hed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number. Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

NA

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 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 partners.

The team responsible for implementation of the 1:1 student-computer program includes Arcanum Virtual Academy Director, Mr. Jim Gray, District Technology Coordinator, Mr. David Baker, Arcanum High School Principal, Mr. Jason Stephan, Arcanum Middle School Principal, Mr. Kirby Tipple, Arcanum-Butler Local District Treasurer, Mr. Matt Huffman and Arcanum-Butler Local Superintendent, Mr. John Stephens. The Arcanum Virtual Academy Director, Mr. Gray, has 15 years of experience in education as a special education teacher and high school principal. As a special education teacher he has worked to meet the needs of individual students’ needs. Mr. Gray has been a high school principal at public high schools and a career technology school. The combined experiences have given him insight into a variety of instructional options for students. In 2010, as principal of Arcanum High School, Mr. Gray implemented dual enrollment courses, becoming the first school in the county to do so. The dual enrollment courses through Indiana University East, provide students of Arcanum High School opportunities to gain college credit without leaving the school campus. Embracing the changing landscape in education, Mr. Gray resigned his position as principal to lead the district in starting an on-line distance learning program. The Arcanum Virtual Academy is a collaboration between the Arcanum-Butler Local School District and representatives from Advanced Academics, Incorporated, an extension of DeVry University. In 2012, Arcanum-Butler Local Schools implemented the Arcanum Virtual Academy. The Arcanum Virtual Academy (AVA) is designed to utilize an online curriculum in a site-based or homeschool learning environment that allows students to work at their own pace, receive immediate support, and ultimately receive an Arcanum High School diploma. Mr. Gray serves as the director and facilitator of the program, linking students and parents directly to curriculum and it is a liaison between Advanced Academics, the on-line teachers and the Arcanum-Butler Local School District. Mr. David Baker has served as the district’s technology coordinator since 2001. Since 2001, Mr. Baker has led the district through several advances in technology. During his tenure, the district has added mobile labs, wireless capabilities, increased use of technology by students and staff. He participated in and helped plan the development of technology-related items in a new, state-of-the-art, K-12 facility for the district. The administrative team has over 30 years of educational experience and has led the staff in various forms of technology integration.

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:

In January 2012, the Arcanum-Butler Local School district implemented the Arcanum Virtual Academy. The Arcanum Virtual Academy or AVA is an extension of the Arcanum-Butler Local School District, where students are able to receive 24 hour support, 5 days a week from on-line instructors. AVA is designed to utilize an online curriculum in a site-based or home school learning environment that allows students to work at their own pace, receive immediate support, and ultimately receive an Arcanum High School diploma. The program includes advanced placement courses, unique electives, credit recovery options and state-of-the-art online curriculum providing a customizable approach to learning. AVA’s current enrollment includes 54 full-time students and an additional 15 part-time students. As the program has grown, so has the need for increased capacity. Currently, the AVA lab houses twenty-one computers, limiting the amount of computer access for students. With over sixty students enrolled, students must either purchase their own computer or sign up for lab sessions. To meet the growing needs of the students, the district will implement a 1:1 student-computer program, increase the number of wireless access points and upgrade student servers to allow AVA students increased opportunities for on-line access and beyond the normal school day. The 1:1 program will provide students with personal laptops that can be used in the AVA lab at school and/or at home. The laptops will increase the amount of time students can access course work, connect with on-line teaching staff, and provide flexibility for students to move at their own pace. Additional access points will increase bandwidth allowing more students to participate in the lab setting. An upgraded server provides additional storage space for student documents, allows students to access the server at home through a virtual private network connection and provides an updated, reliable infrastructure.
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.

The proposed project will meet the goal of increasing student achievement. A 1:1 student-computer ratio will increase student achievement by allowing AVA students access to curriculum beyond the traditional school setting. Providing each student with a computer allows students to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by an on-line learning experience. A larger number of students will have access to curriculum 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and Advanced Academic Instructors 24 hours a day, 5 days a week. AVA combined with 1:1 technology provides increased personalized instructional opportunities for students. With 1:1 computer access, students will be able to progress at their own pace and have access to additional curricular choices that our district is unable to provide in the regular classroom setting. The new technology will also allow the servers to allow for access both at home or school to documents associated with students’ coursework. Additional access points increases the bandwidth so that students can access coursework faster and more reliably.

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

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.

13. Financial Documentation - 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.

Project Budget 75 Computers - $84,150 Additional Access Points (3) - $2135.97 Access Point Installation & Wiring - $2500 Mobile Storage/Charging Stations (3) - $6500 Staffing Set-up Cost +benefits $165 - $25 per hour X 40 hrs $1,165 Domain Controllers (main and redundant) (2) - $7032 Server for backup storage +license - $6232

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

109,714.97 * 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, RiT money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), providing a detailed list of items in the budget (i.e. staff costs and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc)

The total project cost is $109,714.97. The district will purchase 75 Intel 14" Ruggedized Laptops for students at a total cost of $84,150. The laptops include Intel i3-2370m 2.4GHz 3MB Cache, 4GB DDR3-1333 RAM Module for Memory, Intel 60 GB SSD 500MBps/450MBps Hard Drive, Windows 7 or higher and Standard 2013 Office Software, a carrying case, 3 year warranty and software imaging.

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.

1,500.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/narrative: Provide details on the cost 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.

New and/or recurring costs associated with the project include service for maintaining the equipment, cost to repair damaged equipment and cost related to purchasing new computers when necessary.

The district is estimating annual service costs at $500 and annual damage/repair of computers at $1000 beginning in FY 2015. Service costs would include server and network maintenance. The damage and repair of computers is a general estimate based on regular wear and tear of equipment.

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

22,700.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

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

The twenty-one computers in the lab are currently outdated and furthermore cannot be used for PARCC testing after 2014-2015. Receiving the grant will allow the district to eliminate the need to purchase 21 AVA computers in FY 2015. The savings associated with the cost to replace the computers would be $20,000. The district could also realize savings by not having to pay for classes that students have to take due to a failing grade. The approximate cost per class is $390. Based on the number of failed classes in 2012-2013, the district projects saving $2700 per year.

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.

The project is self-sustaining because by reducing the number of failing students, the district is reducing expenditures towards paying for the courses. In 2012-2013, the district spent $2700 on courses that students had to take. Each course cost the district $300. There were 9 courses required by students in 2012-2013. The district believes that increased access to the curriculum through the 1:1 project can reduce the number of failed classes. Additionally, the revenue received from the virtual academy program exceeds expenses. The profits will be able to sustain on-going costs associated with the project indefinitely.

For FY2013, the total budget for the project is $109,714.97. For FY2014, the total budget for the project is $109,714.97 divided by 1.06 or $103,278.97. The savings associated with the cost of the computers purchased as services accompanying purchased from Advanced Academics, Inc., and the cost of classroom supplies and other purchased services. The revenue reported in the five year forecast will be used for improving the program.

The district’s 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.

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 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 districts.)

* Proposal Narrative Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 05/08/2014

* Narrative explanation

The district team will begin writing the student-use policy in January 2014. The policy will be drafted by the application grant team with assistance from the District Leadership Team (DLT). The DLT consists of all division representatives, teacher support representatives, teacher support staff, and staff support staff. A rough draft of the policy will be presented to the Arcanum-Butler Board of Education at the March 2014 Board of Education Meeting. The technology coordinator, superintendent, and virtual academy director will meet with vendors in January 2014. Server upgrades will take place in early February with installation of access points and wiring to follow in March. The laptops and carts will be purchased in late February. A spring parent/student meeting will be held for prospective Arcanum Virtual Academy students to give an overview of the program, including the new 1:1 student/computer initiative. Upon completion of the updated student-use policy, the Board will take action to approve a final draft at the May Board of Education Meeting. The technology coordinator will install software and configure computers for the schools’ networks in June. Additional informational student/parent meetings will be held during the summer for prospective AVA students. In late August and prior to the first day of school, training sessions will be scheduled to distribute the computers, present the final policy, and provide instruction for students in the use of the computers. Barriers in the planning phase include developing comprehensive procedures and practices associated with the distribution and student-use of computers. The district must consider monitoring of the plan and use of computers, including proper use of the computers by students. Over 90% of students currently have AVA home internet service. The district must monitor the students who don’t have internet service to make sure they have sufficient lab time to access curriculum.

Implements (MM/DD/YYYY): 08/26/2014

* Narrative explanation

Implementation of the 1:1 student/computer program will begin at the start of the 2014-2015 school year. Students/parents will be asked to complete a baseline survey that will include questions about user satisfaction, the amount of time spent accessing curriculum, amount of time spent using the lap tops and working location (lab vs. home). Virtual Academy Director, Mr. Jim Gray, will regularly monitor student progress on courses through reports available through Advanced Academics’ Administrative Site. Mr. Gray will conduct parent/teacher conferences with parents and students to share progress regarding the AVA program, including 1:1 implementation. Sophomores attending AVA will participate in the Ohio Graduation Test in October, with data results to be used later to evaluate performance. At the end of the first semester, students and parents will complete an additional survey to update user satisfaction and accompanying user data. Mr. Gray will provide a report to the superintendent and Board of Education at the first of the year to share updated data taken from the surveys and regarding student grades/progress. AVA students in grades 6-8 will participate in the Ohio Achievement Assessments taken in the spring. OAA data results will be used in the summative evaluation. Qualifying students will also take the ACT test. Advanced Academics will provide a summary of AVA student participation and performance as compared to district and state results. Barriers during the implementation of the program include any technical
23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

On-line or distance learning combined with increased access to instruction has shown an increase in student achievement. When surveyed, 52% of current Arcanum Virtual Academy students indicated that they would spend additional time on coursework if they were provided with a laptop, while 29% indicated that they were not sure. On average those students reported spending 3-4 hours a day working on coursework. Roberta McKerlie, Director of Student Learning at Advanced Academics indicates that "students are most successful when they interact with the teacher frequently and work online in their course(s) 30 hours or more and are on pace and on grade at 14% of current Arcanum Virtual Academy students from 2012-2013 shows a positive correlation between time logged in and final course grades. AVA students (all students, all grades of a completed semester course) who spent 2,000 minutes or 33 hours or more working on-line per class, had a 99.5% chance of earning a C average or higher. Additionally, 45% of students who spent fewer than 900 minutes failed the course. As detailed in "Distance Education in Support of Expanded Learning Time in K-12 Schools" reported by Cathy Cavanaugh from The Center for American Progress: "Time is one of the most valuable resources for learning. Early demonstrations of expanded learning time initiatives show success in raising student achievement." Furthermore, Cavanaugh points out that expanding learning time allows for flexible and individualized learning. Because the current lab has only 21 computers for students to use, the district can only guarantee 15 hours a week per student based on two, three-hour lab sessions daily. In addition to positive time-on-task data, students enrolled in the Arcanum Virtual Academy have shown success when compared to students in the traditional classroom setting at Arcanum-Butler Schools and students from around the state. The percentage of AVA students at Arcanum-Butler have scored higher than their traditional counterparts. Districts wanting to replicate the project must first consider the curriculum associated with the program. Fortunately, Arcanum-Butler has already implemented the on-line learning program through Advanced Academics. Having the curriculum and on-line program in place allows our district to expand the program with 1:1 technology. Districts must consider what improvements or additions will be needed for the infrastructure related to the project as well. The planning associated with the on-line learning program occurred over the span of a year and a half that included a pilot program prior to full implementation. The Arcanum-Butler Local School district would like to expand the 1:1 program in the future. Following the implementation of the 1:1 program with our AVA program, the district would study the impact on our students to develop plans to include students in our gifted and talented program initially. Furthermore, we would like to implement a 1:1 program in our middle and high school within the next 5 years.

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.

The implementation of a 1:1 program will increase the amount of available lab time daily from 3 hours to 6 hours during the first semester of implementation. The first benchmark and check would be within the first 5 weeks of implementation in the first semester. The district aims to have 100% of the AVA students spending at least 2,000 minutes per semester on each course for the 2014-2015 school year. Currently, 99.5% of AVA students who spend at least 2,000 minutes obtain a C or higher course grade. The district also hopes to obtain at or above district averages on the Ohio Achievement Assessments for students in grades 6-8 and for high school sophomores on the 2014-2015 district report card. The district also would like to have a 100% passage rate for both tests. In addition to state testing, Arcanum-Butler hopes to see AVA students scoring above state and district averages on the ACT exam, sustaining a 5 point composite average higher than the state composite. Other anticipated outcomes include: high levels of student engagement, parent/student satisfaction, increase in time spent "in class", comfort level with the next generation assessments, and possibly early graduation for some AVA students. The program will be evaluated at the end of each semester and each school year.

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 expected outcomes 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 district will utilize a variety of methods to evaluate the success of the 1:1 program that includes: 1. Utilizing a year-end survey for students and parents that includes questions regarding engagement, satisfaction, interest in learning, time spent using the device. A baseline survey will be used to compare results. 2. Comparing average ACT scores of AVA students to scores of students statewide. 3. Analyzing passage rates on the state Ohio Achievement Assessments and comparing average passage rates per district and the state. 4. Analyzing passage rates on the Ohio Graduation Test and comparing test scores to the Ohio Graduation Test from the 2014-2015 district report card, with close attention being paid to the value added growth. 5. Utilize the Advanced Academics administrative reports available to graph time logged-in vs. semester grade. Overall, summarizing the findings will be presented annually once all the data has been collected. The report will include recommendations for future 1:1 use, including a review of 1:1 policies and practices. The report will be presented to the local Board of Education at a regularly scheduled meeting in the fall of 2014 and posted on the district website for public review. Each year, a summary of the data will be used in orientation meetings with parents/students interested in joining the Arcanum Virtual Academy. Furthermore, the district will work with local media to publish results for school and county residents. The same report will be shared with the Darke County Superintendents at a regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund during 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 all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance Section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter "I Accept" and validate your selection and totaled.

Accept John Stephens, Superintendent Arcanum-Butler Local School District 10/24/2013