

OCCS

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10/24/13

Ohio Department of Education

Attn: Straight A Fund Scorers

25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio
43215-4183

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the Ohio Council of Community Schools (OCCS), I am writing this letter to express our full support of our partner, Central Academy and its application for Straight A Funds to make capital improvements, utilize Amplify tablets and a comprehensive data system to enhance the learning environment and reduce budgetary costs over the long-term, as well as provide for greater investment in the teachers through the creation of a sub-grant pool for graduate work.

Initially founded in 1997, OCCS is a not-for-profit organization designated by the University Of Toledo Board Of Trustees to oversee the legal compliance and performance of its portfolio of community schools throughout the state of Ohio. Central Academy represents one of our (52) partner schools whom we have been in contract with since 2007.

Throughout the tenure of our partnership, we have found Central Academy to be consistent in its compliance and communication efforts; so we have confidence that the school will implement the strategies and initiatives outlined in the grant proposal with fidelity. We feel that awarding Central the grant will allow the school to better ensure compliance with Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee requirements, as well as strengthen the school's Response to Intervention (RTI) program through improved personalized instruction, differentiation in the classrooms, data analysis and progress monitoring.

In summation, OCCS strongly supports Central Academy of Ohio's grant request as we believe the initiatives will foster consistent academic performance and reduce spending over the long-term, and thereby allow us to collaborate with other partners in sharing Central's successes.

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If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do hesitate to contact Elisabeth Webb, OCCS Regional Representative for Northwest, Ohio at (419) 349-0138 or Elisabeth@ohioschools.org.

Thank you for your time – we greatly appreciate your consideration of Central Academy's application.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth H. Webb

Northwest Ohio Regional Representative

Ohio Council of Community Schools