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Adjusted Allocation | 0.00 |
Remaining | -337,806.00 |
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: District Wide Wireless
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.

Provide the entire student body with wireless access to the internet. The goal is to bring our Lakeshore Primary Building and Conneaut High School wireless access to the internet. A secondary goal will be to implement a BYOD initiative but with the national number of disadvantaged students this grant would enable us to provide 6 additional mobile computer carts to our four buildings (2 carts) Lakeshore Primary Building, (1 carts) Gateway Elementary School, (1 carts) Conneaut Middle School and (2 carts) Conneaut High School that can be used for our students and staff to access via the wireless connection. This project will meet all 3 goals in section 9.

3. Total Students Impacted: 1803

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:
   - First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Donald Kent Houston
   - Organizational name of lead applicant: Conneaut Area City Schools
   - Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 043810
   - Address of lead applicant: 400 Mill Street, Suite B, Conneaut, Ohio 44030
   - Phone Number of lead applicant: 440-593-7202
   - Email Address of lead applicant: khouston@CACsk12.org

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:
   - First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Kris Mucci
   - Organizational name of secondary applicant: Conneaut Area City Schools
   - Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 043180
   - Address of secondary applicant: 400 Mill Street, Suite B, Conneaut, Ohio 44030
   - Phone number of secondary applicant: 440-593-7298
   - Email address of secondary applicant: kmucci@CACsk12.org

6. List all other participating entities by name: by providing the following information for any 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.
   - 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.

8. 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.

The Conneaut School District was a participant in the Reading First Grant. The Conneaut School District is part of the RTT Grant Kent Houston - Superintendent of Conneaut Area City Schools Kris Mucci - Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Testing for Conneaut Area City Schools Karen Kehoe - Director of Special Services for Conneaut Area City Schools Dawn Zappitelli - Principal Conneaut High School Joel Taylor - Conneaut Middle School Liles Blackwell - Principal Gateway Elementary School Jim Kennedy - Principal Lakeshore Primary School Brian Chase - Director of Technology for Conneaut Area City Schools

**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:

   In order to move forward with our goal of expanding blended learning and interactive classrooms we need to provide the entire student body with wireless access to the internet. The goal is to bring our Lakeshore Primary Building and Conneaut High School wireless access to the internet. Currently the district is unable to fund a project of this size. We are a poor district and focused our limited financial resources on placing wireless in our Gateway Elementary School and Conneaut Middle School because these buildings will rely heavily on internet access with the state mandated testing and allows the use of numerous intervention and enrichment programs to be brought directly into the classroom. BYOD will relieve much of the financial strain of new technology purchases however with the large number of economically disadvantaged students in our district that would be unable to BYOD the district is in need of 6 additional mobile wireless computer carts. The additional computers will bridge that gap between the students able to purchase their own device and those that are unable.

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.

   GOAL 1 - Student Achievement: Unlimited Access to existing programs anywhere in the building whereas now they are limited to labs. Due to our high poverty rate/ high number of economically disadvantaged students having a wireless building would give all students more access to technology, more access to: resources, information, and additional programs which are available online. This would also provide all students a better working knowledge of 21st century skills necessary for success at the post-secondary level and in the workforce. Unlimited access will enhance student learning with electronic textbooks that have interactive features. Potential increase to graduation rate by giving students building wide access for credit recovery. More course offerings for students that would increase their overall achievement/ knowledge in courses we are unable to offer with a staff member. Test prep availability in classrooms ACT/SAT/ ASVAB. Enrichment opportunities for our highest level students who are the most difficult to show a year’s growth. Reinforcement and assistive technology available in every classroom for students who struggle. More differentiation opportunities as wireless devices could be utilized and configured to fit classroom preferences whether learning, co-teaching, or individual. Increased opportunities for online assessments which would increase student experience for online testing. Immediate feedback to teachers regarding the quality of instruction, classroom management, standards based assessments (via walk throughs…) Increase in instructional time through the use of approved wireless devices creates more OAA and OGT testing stations available to students at one time. GOAL 2 - Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast The administrative team will be able to use their tablets throughout the building not just in central office. It would have a greater impact because walk throughs would become immediate feedback. The use of a paper/pencil method for preparing a document for the teachers can be submitted to them electronically. Time is money! A reduction of staff may be possible through increased opportunity in blended learning. - Reduction in textbook
costs and supplies. Virtually paper free classrooms. Use of BYOD to supplement purchased technology infrastructure in the district. Wireless to be used in place of running additional physical data drops within buildings. Reduction in future network switching purchases. GONL 3 -Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom Many resources become immediately available directly into the classroom such as E-Books and e-Textbooks. Electronic collaboration horizontally and vertically for cross curricular planning within buildings and across the district. Webinars, programs, speakers, rationally/internationally can be used for professional development or to supplement instruction directly into classroom. Would provide our students with unlimited access to free programs. All teachers will have unlimited access to existing programs and the advantages of real time online reporting. Staff availability to access OTES, OPES, eTPES, and other state mandates. Tablets and other devices have been investigated for student interventions and enrichment. One reason they have not been completely utilized is because of internet access.

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.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?
   337,806.00 ** 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, RTT 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).

   Our district goal is to have wireless in each of the four buildings. We have made it a priority to make this happen. We have started this project using RTT funds and District Improvement Levy funding. Just in the 2012-2013 the follow was spent: Spent RTT Funding 2012-2013 $30,500 for hardware. $30,000 for wireless hotspots at Gateway Elementary School and Conneaut Middle School. All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

15. What are new/recurring costs of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.
   40,495.00 ** Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)
   * Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the costs 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.

   Many of the recurring costs will be licensing fees and repairs, upgrades and or replacement of hardware. Aruban NBD Support for IPAPs and Airwave - 89 IAP’s $1,295.00 VDI license $21,000.00 VDI license $15,000.00 Clearpass license $1,200.00. There will be a need for on-going professional development to ensure that teachers remain current in best practice related to mastery learning, the content standards, and instructional strategies related to the use of technology. Professional development funds will come from Title IIA as appropriate and the districts’ general fund as necessary. However those costs will be controlled because the district realigned the instructional day to provide a block of time each morning for professional development and instructional day.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the innovative project?
   50,000.00 ** 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).

   A reduction of staff may be possible through increased opportunity in blended learning. In June of 2013 Conneaut Area City Schools had 11 staff members retire and we replaced 5 of them. Partially this reduction was possible because we used a blended learning model to replace our AP Lab classes. We anticipate being able to expand these offerings using the same model without increasing staffing.

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.

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): 02/23/2013
     * Narrative explanation
     The foundation for this plan has been laid in two of the four district buildings. Providing wireless internet at our elementary and middle school was considered a priority because of online testing mandates. Due to the financial constraints we were unable to continue this process to make the entire district wireless. During the planning phase discussions were held in conjunction with District Leadership Team meetings, Race to the Top (which provided some of the financial basis for beginning this project along with equipment to make this project happen at GES and CMS). Board of Education members, Director of Technology and District Treasurer. Currently the communication is done in several different ways. RTI requires us to complete a Progress Monitoring Tool every other month. A report is presented to the Board of Education. The Board meetings are televised so the community is informed. Finally, the communication report is posted to our district website.

   implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 01/31/2014
   * Narrative explanation
     The status of the project will be updated at the monthly Board Meetings, which provides community and stakeholder communication. The District Leadership Team will provide communication for all Building Leadership Teams and Teacher Based Teams. On-going implementation would require financial assistance. Partnerships? Should monies be made available the project could be completed by June of 2014

   summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/30/2014
   * Narrative explanation
     A summary of the project will be completed at the July 2014 Board Meetings, providing community and stakeholder communication. Parent/community partnerships, technology teacher meeting with parents and providing them access codes and training to allow them to support learning at home with our on-line programs. This will enable parents to take an active role in their child’s education, streaming of events/programs, webinars, simulcast broadcast of parent nights/ educational programs offered.
19. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

If we are successful in obtaining the Straight A Funds that would enable District wide wireless access, Conneaut Area City Schools will be able to develop a BYOD policy that allows students to have access to technology across the district. Due to the economically disadvantaged students in our district we are including in our grant application the purchase of 6 mobile computer labs which are necessary for full implementation to ensure that every student has the resources they need to be successful. Engaging students with the media that they use in their daily lives is critical to further development in the educational environment. From our research, there are a number of changes we will expect: 1. Freeing up teacher time: Using an online medium, teachers are able to save time that is normally taken by activities such as copying, compiling, and stapling. 2. Feedback: By allowing students to create, interact, and review each other's work online, teachers are not the only point of feedback for a student. This frees up the teacher who normally would have been grading stacks of papers. Provides immediate feedback to the teacher and students. 3. Student-Centered: Blended learning creates a collaborative environment that allows students to create work that is valued by others and has "real-world" relevance. 4. One-On-One: Teachers are able to confer with students in an online medium. Messaging, emails, and even media files can be used. Students who are normally anxious about approaching the teacher are able to do so in an online discussion. 5. Standardized Test: A considerable amount of class time is taken in the spring to practice for standardized testing. Collaborative online learning environments can facilitate test practice asynchronously or synchronously from remote locations. 6. Group Work: Teachers know group work can be a huge waste of class time if student-groups don't stay focused. Online groups allow students to work from home or school in their own time. Teachers are able to pull student analyses and really understand which students are contributing to the group's work and which are not. 7. Class Communication: Teachers are able to push messages out to all students and parents so everyone has the same information. How many times do teachers write important information on the classroom white board and the information never reach home or even most students in the classroom. 8. Fun: Teachers are able to access engaging and fun information for their lesson plans in an online environment. Teachers are able to pull the best current resources and organize them in an online learning platform. 9. Student Relationships: Online environments facilitate student relationships. Shyer students are able to contribute and join in a discussion online when they may have not felt comfortable speaking up in class. Students who would normally not become friends are able to engage in a group projects and communicate. 10. Intervention and remediation will become part of the instructional process rather than separate events. 11. Technology and blended learning will be instructional delivery methods that will become part of every student's experience.

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.

By having wireless capability throughout our buildings teachers would be able to use blended learning opportunities to differentiate instruction for all students not just the extremely high or low functioning students. Many studies (Bonk and Graham - 2012) have been conducted to compare blended learning models of instruction with traditional face-to-face models of instruction. The results are strongly in favor of blended learning models as a more effective method of instruction. Studies indicate improved test scores, a deeper understanding of content, and higher student satisfaction. Blended learning provides a tailored approach with benefits from face-to-face and e-learning for delivering effective courses and programs by extending the classroom to make learning readily available anywhere and anytime (Tucker -2012).

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

F: No

22. If so, how?

All districts would benefit from the ability to have increased access to the capabilities of the internet and the incorporation of blended learning opportunities.

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

Performance of CACS students with disabilities on state mandated testing - Access to computer technology and online resources can play a key role in promoting the education of children with special needs within the regular classroom. For example, use of computer technology for word processing, communication, research, and multimedia projects can help students with specific learning and emotional disorders keep up with their non disabled peers. Computer technology has also enhanced the development of students with more severe disabilities in overcoming a wide range of limitations that hinder classroom participation—from speech and hearing impairments to blindness and severe physical disabilities. Access to computer technology has the potential to act as an equalizer by freeing many students from their disabilities. 2. 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee - access to intervention on line and exposure to English Language Arts standards (Common Core) 3. Longitudinal Graduation Rate - The use of credit recovery and curricular offering will open another avenue for our students to complete graduation requirements in a timely manner 4. College and Career readiness - High schools face major challenges in ensuring all students are college and career ready. Not only must high schools raise the expectations they place on students and help them set more ambitious postsecondary goals, but they must also provide a wider array of supports to help students meet their individual goals. We can help by offering additional Advanced placement courses and expose our students to on-line and blended learning opportunities similar to what they will experience in college.

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 explicitly benchmarked.

The two most important benchmarks impacted by this grant would be: 1. With the increase of technology students would have access to more complex text. They would also have a larger variety of text available to them- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently. 2. To achieve the goal of being college and career ready students need increased opportunities with technology - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others. The students would also use technology during computer class but also in every other class they are required to write, publish, create projects and collaborate with others. By having more resources available to teachers and students there would be high student achievement in all buildings as rated by the state of Ohio while remaining fiscally responsible. Within the first year the number of teachers trained in using blended learning would increase. The number of activities would be tracked by usage indicators as developed by the CACS technology department. The correlation of the number of blended learning opportunities would be tied to student achievement as indicated by student growth (Value-added, Vendor Assessments, SLOs...) Increase in the number of AP offerings without the need for additional staffing and the total number of students taking AP courses while scoring at a college level on the AP exam. Increase in the number of students ready for the workforce by increasing the graduation rate and providing them technology skills needed to be successful in today's society. Use school day more efficiently: study hall time would become an opportunity for students to access online programs for enrichment, remediation, credit recovery, as well as review of daily lessons.

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 use of wireless would be tracked by district created usage indicators as developed by the CACS technology department. The use of blended learning opportunities and its impact on student achievement would be measured by Student Growth Measures (SGM) as required by the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) The impact on the districts AP courses would be measured in accordance with the AP Exam As with any program an on-going assessment will take place to ensure programs are meeting the needs of all students. A cost analysis and quality assurance evaluation will determine if a program will need to be replaced or if updates need to occur.

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* Donald Kent Houston Superintendent Conneaut Area City Schools 10/14/1013