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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -56,403.45
**A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity**

1. **Project Title:** The WAVE (Warrior Academy of Virtual Education)

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.

   Student Achievement: The WAVE is an on-line blended learning model that provides the following learning options for Eastern students: a) a student may choose to take all courses on line; b) a student may choose to take his or her core classes on line, but take advantage of "brick and mortar" electives; and c) a student may elect to take his or her core classes in the "brick and mortar" venue, but take advantage of electives offered through the A+ curriculum that are not offered by Eastern Local Schools due to limited resources (financial and human). Spending Reductions in the Five-Year Fiscal Forecast: Due to a reduction in force four years ago, our students have been forced to meet their foreign language requirements through the PSEO model; however, students will now have the opportunity to take foreign language through the WAVE curriculum, which will reduce the PSEO expenses of the district. Utilization of a Greater Share of Resources in the Classroom: By utilizing the "group instruction" feature of the A+ curriculum, our teachers will have the opportunity to utilize the entire WAVE curriculum in their classrooms, which includes the tool that can assess a student's ability level and track his or her growth throughout the school year.

   - 1337 3. Total Students Impacted:

3. **Lead applicant primary contact:** - Provide the following information:

   - First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Michele Filon
   - Organizational name of lead applicant: Eastern Brown Local School District
   - Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 046037
   - Address of lead applicant: 11479 US 62, Winchester OH 45697
   - Phone number of lead applicant: 937-695-9030
   - Email Address of lead applicant: michele.filon@eb.k12.oh.us

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

   - First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Kevin Kendall
   - Organizational name of secondary applicant: Eastern Brown Local School District
   - Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 046037
   - Address of secondary applicant: 11479 US 62, Winchester, OH 45697
   - Phone number of secondary applicant: 937-695-9030
   - Email address of secondary applicant: kevin.kendall@eb.k12.oh.us

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.

The WAVE team consists of the following individuals: Tech Coordinator, Jerry Sawyers, who has 20+ years of experience in education and tech support; WAVE coordinator, Rochelle Williams, who also has 20+ years of experience in education and has also been the district coordinator for the Jefferson on-line courses used by our high school in the past; high school guidance counselor, Alana Humphreys; high school principal, Jennifer Grimes; middle school principal, Rob Bauer; and elementary principals, Susan Paetzl and Mike Bick.

**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
    - [ ] 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.**

   The WAVE (Warrior Academy of Virtual Education) is an on-line blended learning model that allows students the following learning options: a) a student may choose to take all courses on line; b) a student may elect to take his or her core classes on line, but take advantage of the district's "brick and mortar" electives; and c) a student may opt to take his or her core classes in the "brick and mortar" venue, but take advantage of the on line electives available through the A+ curriculum that our district would not typically have the resources to offer. The WAVE also provides students the opportunity to recover lost credit, which historically has not been available in our district or region. Therefore, once a student fell behind, it was extremely difficult for him or her to graduate on time. Therefore, once a student fell behind, it was extremely difficult for him or her to graduate on time.

   Also, students who have lost credit due to academic failure or attendance, will be given the opportunity to recover credit through our summer WAVE program. Gifted students will be given the ability to complete the state mandated CORE curriculum while taking advantage of enrichment experiences, such as auditng college courses and visiting local museums. Due to a reduction in force four years ago, any Eastern student desiring to go to college had to take his or her foreign language requirements through PSEO. Although this worked for some students, many individuals did not meet the GPA requirement set by the local community college. Therefore, many Eastern students were entering college without their foreign language requirements met. Students who did meet the GPA requirements often complained that the program was too rigorous because it required students to take two years of foreign language in one school year. Now, students will have the option to fulfill their foreign language requirements while at Eastern High School in a venue that is rigorous, but with a pace that is appropriate for high school aged students. Eastern is typal of many small rural districts in that we do not have the resources to offer electives, such as Art Appreciation and Anthropology. Through the WAVE, Eastern students now have access to courses that typically would have been a part of a rural school's curriculum offerings. Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast: As mentioned earlier, due to a reduction in force which involved the high school Spanish teacher, Eastern students...
C) SUSTAINABILITY - Planning for ongoing funding of the project, cost breakdown

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

56,403.45 * 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.).

This project will be maintained by the District’s general fund and will be reflected in the Five-year Forecast. The project consists of a five-year contract with K12 Management in the amount of $49,476.45 for online learning license, software, support and maintenance. In addition, to this contract, a local teacher would provide support for students enrolled in the online learning program at an annual cost of $6,000 salary and $927 for benefits.

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.

6,927.00 * 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.

Since the initial contract with K12 Management is for five years, there will be no recurring costs for that service until year six. The estimate for year six is $10,000. There is annual recurring costs of $6,927 due to the need for a local teacher to support students with the online program.

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

10,573.00 * 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 District does not have a foreign language teacher due to a reduction in force for financial reasons several years ago. In order for students to earn a foreign language credit that must elect the Post Secondary Option. The cost to the District is approximately $17,500 annually for students to earn this credit through PSEO. The District would save these dollars when students enroll in our online class. This cost savings when combined with the additional costs of $6,927 for the teacher who provides the online support would result in an annual savings of $10,573. In year six the annual savings would be $573, since the District would need to renew the contracted service with K12 Management for approximately $10,000 annually.

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 to at least equal 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 benefits of this online learning program for students is significant and the project is self-sustaining because the annual savings are greater than the costs to run the program. As described in question 16 the expected savings are $10,573 per year. That is a cost savings of $17,500 on PSEO students enrolling in our online class less the annual additional costs of $6,927 for a teacher to support the program. That will still result in an annual cost savings of $573 per year. It should be noted that additional cost savings are possible due to the availability of the online program. It is possible that the District will not have to purchase new textbooks for some courses that are offered online. It is also possible that a reduction in the number of teachers may be an option since some courses could be taught online. These cost savings could be significant.

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): 09/01/2012

* Narrative explanation

During the 2012-13 school year, the superintendent and high school principal visited a district that had successfully implemented the A+ curriculum, and continued to have an on-going dialogue with the implementation coordinator assistant superintendent. We made improvements in the classroom to be ready for implementation at the start of the 2013-14 school year. Throughout the school year, the superintendent met with the various stakeholder groups, such as the Parent Advisory Council, the Board of Education, and the district instructional staff, to familiarize the various groups with the A+ curriculum, brainstorm any possible challenges, and explore possibilities. The identified barriers included: limited bandwidth, traditional mindset, and human resources (program coordinator). The superintendent also reached out to the high school administration to have a student create a logo for the new Warrior Academy of Virtual Education.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 07/01/2013

* Narrative explanation

The WAVE team opted to pilot the program during the summer of 2013 prior to the beginning of school. This provided two critical opportunities: a) students were given the option to recover lost credit; and b) if gave the WAVE team the opportunity to work out the "bugs" in the system with a smaller test population. The WAVE was advertised through the local newspapers, the district Facebook page, the district newsletter, and the district website. A week before the students' first day, we had a meeting for any family interested in the WAVE, at which time we answered all questions, continued with the enrollment process, and assisted with the log-in process. The WAVE was officially implemented on the first day of school, for students August 21, 2013.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/30/2014

* Narrative explanation

At the end of the 2013-14 school year, the superintendent will provide a report to the Board of Education and community including the following: the number of students who enrolled in the WAVE program; the number of credits recovered by credit-deficient students; the number of electives that students were able to take that would not have been possible prior to the WAVE; the number of e-students recovered; and the number of home-schooled students recovered. The WAVE team will also conduct an evaluation of the program including student/parent satisfaction data; student achievement data, including course grades, OGT, and OAA; financial data that outlines the cost/reductions in the five-year forecast; and feedback from the program coordinator and building principals.

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

Eastern students had traditionally excelled academically, but when I was hired in 2011, I heard from students that they were entering technologically unprepared. Simple tasks such as accessing and submitting assignments on line were making the transition from high school to college more difficult than it should have been. Once I surveyed the student population and was able to determine that over 90% of the student body owned a mobile device, we began developing a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program at Eastern Local Schools. We educated staff and students during the first semester of the 2012-13 school year, with full implementation during the second semester. Although many skeptics felt that the walls would collapse, the implementation occurred with very few "road bumps". During the first semester we saw an increase in the number of students immediately. Those teachers were utilized as "in house experts". However, all teachers were told that there was an expectation for every teacher to create a unit on Blackboard by the end of the 2013-14 school year. As we continue with this paradigm shift that will better prepare our students, not just academically, but in all ways, the development and implementation of an on-line academy seemed
### 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.

Today's students are commonly referred to as "digital natives" that are "plugged in" from the time they wake up until they go to sleep at night. Although I feel that the traditional "brick and mortar" model still has a lot to offer our students, I think it is perilous if we fail to acknowledge the opportunities that an on-line model offers. The WAVE allows students the opportunity to create a learning environment that best fits their preferred learning styles. The A+ curriculum is excellent at assessing a student's ability level and determining which lessons best address his or her needs. Plus, for our accelerated students, it gives them the opportunity to take elective courses that typically would not be offered in a small rural district. Since many of our students were forced to rely on PSEO to take foreign language, the district will now be able to reduce the dollars spent on PSEO.

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

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22. If so, how?

Although every initiative needs to have the local "fingerprint" on it in order to be successful, an on-line academy is something that can easily be replicated throughout the state. I encourage districts to visit other districts who are currently implementing such models successfully.

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

Traditionally, our district's OGT and OAA scores have been the best in the region. Our high school students' ACT scores have been typically higher than the state average. Technology, however, was proving to be a stumbling block for our students once they entered college or the work force. It is our district's goal to continue to not only offer an excellent academic curriculum, but also development and hone our students' 21st Century skills by providing on-line learning options for them. Initiatives, such as BYOD, Blackboard, and the WAVE, will allow Eastern Local Schools to keep its roots in its tradition of excellence, while spreading its wings in the 21st century!

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.

**Student Achievement:** Have fewer students enter college with deficits (lack of foreign language), which costs them additional dollars. Allow teachers the opportunity to assess student ability levels and develop lessons to be used in the intervention process, thus resulting in better value added scores. Provide enrichment courses as electives that typically are not offered in small, rural districts for our gifted students. Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast - Reduce PSEO expenses. Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom - by using the "group instruction" component of the A+ curriculum, teachers will have the opportunity to share lessons with an entire class (or multiple groups) - Assess ability levels and develop child-specific interventions that will increase achievement and value added data throughout the district.

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.

Year 1 Mid-Year Evaluation - develop a survey to measure student/parent satisfaction with the WAVE - collect and evaluate student achievement data including course grades, OAA/OGT scores, completion rates, attendance, etc. - collect and evaluate data about how many students opted to do The WAVE who were formerly home-schooled or e-schooled - collect and evaluate data about former PSEO students who now obtain their foreign language requirements through The Wave - determine if the district has adequate seats in the virtual academy - share the data with the Board of Education and community.

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.

*Accept* Michele Filon, Superintendent Eastern Brown Local Schools October 24, 2013