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February 24, 2013

Straight A Fund Application Committee
Ohio Department of Education

Re: Letter of Support for Clinton-Brown-Highland Consortia Technology Initiative

Dear Straight A Fund Application Committee,

I would like to express my overwhelming support for Clinton-Brown-Highland (C-B-H) Consortium efforts to meet the unique needs of Southwest Ohio children through their one-to-one computing initiative. The Consortium plan to address all aspects of one-to-one initiatives, to include an aggressive approach to professional development, demonstrates full consideration of good technology practices and planning. Consortium members understand that access to electronic media in today's classrooms and homes is essential in the development of technology skills that allow students an opportunity to perform well academically. Both children and teachers in Clinton, Brown, and Highland Counties will benefit from expanded use of technological tools and educational resources through the C-B-H initiative because of the hard work put forth in the planning phases of their project.

As an Information Technology Center (ITC) and part of the Ohio Education Computer Network, The Miami Valley Educational Computer Association Regional Council of Governments (MVECA) has been fully engaged in strategic planning to address online testing requirements. While we know that we can continue to serve school districts and the Ohio Department of Education through the development of shared-services and infrastructure that will ensure the success of initiatives like PARCC, plans such as those of the C-B-H Consortium's go even further to address a fundamental need for access to technology, both inside and outside the classroom, by children in economically disadvantaged regions. Additionally, the implementation of blended learning strategies that would be made possible by the C-B-H Consortium's efforts would foster both independent and collaborative learning experiences for students while improving the overall use of technology as an instructional tool.

I look forward to opportunities to support the C-B-H Consortium as they continue to build stronger partnerships and sustainable programs that have a lasting impact on teaching and learning.

Sincerely,

Thor Sage
Executive Director
Miami Valley Educational Computer Association