Budget

Focus Learning Academy of Southwest Columbus (142927) - Franklin County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (16)

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<th>Capital Outlay 600</th>
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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -4,752,578.00
Application

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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: Multimedia 21st Century Literacy College and Career Readiness (MCLCCR)

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.

Focus Learning Academy Southeast, Focus Learning Academy Southwest and Focus North High School have joined forces in a consortium to implement a Multimedia 21st Century Literacy College and Career Readiness program that will integrate all dimensions of various learning styles while including our greatest student interest, multi-media/arts by enhancing our needs for Reading and Writing, while boosting our school-wide literacy endeavors and will fully equip our student with the students with the technologies to not only raise their Reading levels, but to also prepare them technology and academic wise for their greatest interest in Multimedia Arts and ensure they are one step closer to being college and career ready. Focus schools have reviewed many data sets to support our needs and have great support among our Board of Directors, community, staff members and students to raise student achievement and utilize a greater share of classroom resources.

3. Total Students Impacted:

650 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Erin Metzger Scott
Organizational name of lead applicant: Focus Learning Academies and Focus North High School
Unique Identifier (RNN/Fed Tax ID): 142927, 142935, 012529
Address of lead applicant: 4480 Refugee Rd. Suite 201 Columbus, OH 43232
Phone Number of lead applicant: 614-269-0177
Email Address of lead applicant: erin.scott@focuslearn.org

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Dr. Julie Nelson Slagle
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Focus Learning Academy Southwest
Unique Identifier (RNN/Fed Tax ID): 142927
Address of secondary applicant: 190 Southwood Avenue, Columbus, OH 43207
Phone number of secondary applicant: 614-545-2000
Email address of secondary applicant: julie.nelson@focuslearn.org

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

Focus Learning Academy Southeast IRN: 142935 Focus Learning Academy Southwest IRN: 142927 Focus North High School IRN: 012529

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 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.

UpLoadGrantAttachment.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.

Kathy Williams is the Executive Director of Focus Learning Academies Southeast, Focus Learning Academy Southwest and Focus North High School. Kathy graduated from Walsh University in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She worked with Dr. Coletta Musick to form the Focus Learning Academies and Focus North High School in 2006, beginning in June of that year and opening the three schools immediately thereafter. With a lengthy history in a variety of social service agencies targeting the at risk population and with over 10 years in law enforcement, she has been in the education arena for 13 years, having started the educational career path as the Administrator of a charter school. As the Executive Director of the Focus schools, Ms. Williams moves the schools forward by overseeing all operations of the school including but not limited to finance, grant management, employee relations, personnel issues, Board of Director interaction, community relations, facilities management, federal and state compliance and overall student well being. Erin Metzger Scott is the Project Consultant for all three Focus schools. She received her Bachelor's in PreK-3 Education from The Ohio University in 2004 and her Master's in Business Administration in 2009 from Franklin University. As the Project Consultant for Focus, Erin oversees School Improvement committees, functions, and special projects including The Ohio Improvement Process and Race to the Top committees. These initiatives focus on improving the effectiveness of our teachers and administrators by creating a school atmosphere dedicated to bridging the achievement gap through data-driven decision making, team building exercises, and the implementation of 21st Century Skills and Technologies in the classroom. Erin works continuously to manage and control grant budget execution, resources, schedules, time lines and program evaluation. She serves as a liaison between the individual schools and state to ensure that all requirements are being met and best practices are being used. Dr. Julie Nelson Slagle is the Dean of Student Focus Learning Academy of Southwest Columbus and has served in this position since 2007. She received her Bachelor's in History and Political Science from The Ohio State University in 2002. Then she received her Masters and PhD in counselor Education from OSU in 2004 and 2008 and is a Licensed School Counselor in the State of Ohio. Dr. Nelson Slagle is in charge of all student academic endeavors, from scheduling and creating individual graduation plans to assist with post-secondary planning. In addition to working with students, she assists the school director with administrative responsibilities and coordinates the Resident Educator program, CCIP, and graduation for all 3 Focus locations. During the summer of 2013, she served as Interim Curriculum Director for eSchool Consultants. Dr. Nelson Slagle also serves as a Lecturer in the Counselor Education Department at The Ohio State University. Wayne Woods is the Marketing, Communications and Multimedia Director for all three Focus Schools. He has been a consultant and entrepreneur in the audio visual field for the past 12 years working in educational and corporate environments. His educational and work experience provides Focus schools with the ability to maintain a stronghold in the rapidly changing educational environment. Wayne forecasts budgetary costs to develop and maintain a successful and efficient program curriculum. He designs, develops and prepares for print Product, Photographic, Graphics Design, audio Visual production for school, Non-Profit and corporate program publications to include reports, Marketing, newsletters, certificates, commercials, PSAs, logos and electronic slide presentations within an Apple Macintosh OS environment using Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office Suite, iWork Suite, Logic Pro X and Final Cut Pro X. *PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL GRANT APPLICATION FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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.
multimedia program and classroom technologies to meet student needs, interests, learning styles and achievement. Through data analysis and many planning sessions of the Focus consortium grant team, it has been proposed that the grant application include the purchase of advanced technology resources and state of the art media equipment to implement a new Multimedia 21st Century Literacy - college and Career Program. Focus schools do not currently have the resources to provide multimedia based literacy technology tools or equipment for various Arts and Communication fields. Our Students. Our Focus schools have been in existence since 2006 serving students ages 16-22 in a drop out prevention and recovery environment. Our students are 88.67% economically disadvantaged and 83.79% academically disadvantaged. We serve a diverse population with a combined 57.50% African American, 28.34% White, 2.01% Hispanic, 2.10% Asian, 9.51% Multi-Racial, and 55.0% Other Pacific Islander. We serve over fifty ESL students with languages ranging from Somali, Napali, Wolof, Tigrinya, Arabic and French. Our students come to a brick-and-mortar school building; however, their curriculum is delivered online. Our classrooms are set up as lab settings and students are given consistent one-on-one direct instruction, group lessons, and intervention/differentiation support for all of their coursework. We are also a self-paced program so students can finish their courses at their own pace, making it easy for them to hold employment outside of school. Being a charter school, we operate on a much lower budget to provide up-to-date technology equipment and Literacy tools for our students. To further support our needs for this grant, our data shows that our students are reading well below the sixth grade level at a combined percentage of 60%. This percentage is determined through our Diagnostic Online Reading Assessment (DORA) which specifically tests Comprehension, Spelling, Vocabulary, and Word Recognition. Our Ohio Graduation Data shows low passing scores in both Reading and Writing (Southeast: 48%; Southwest: 53%; PNH: 40%) and all students are below the Common Core Standards for Language Arts. Our students are requesting for the full implementation of the reading strategy and focus has been at the heart of all academic goals and strives to make it a school culture. Literacy is therefore the Foundation for all Success. Technology in the Classroom. In order to support the Reading and Writing needs of our students, Focus would like to greatly increase the resources for the classroom to provide Kindles, Smartboards in every lab, updated computers (combination of Macs and PCs) and equipment, Microsoft Office, updated software, headphones, and speakers. Having updated, state of the art equipment will greatly increase the opportunities for students to access more reading materials with individual Lexile leveled books. Teachers will also be able to more efficiently teach their students as the schools are working on minimal capacity resources. Students currently have minimal access to reading materials that are 1) available in hard copy and 2) at their current reading level ability. Having required readings on a Kindle would make a large impact on how our students learn further, having a wealth of instructional literacy materials for staff to share in every classroom within the school. Our computers often run slowly, making it tough for student to complete their online work at an appropriate pace. *PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL GRANT APPLICATION FOR COMPLETE ANSWER

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.

Support and Consortium Partnership. Focus schools are fully supported by the Directors of the Board, community, staff and students to implement this grant. We have full capacity to implement a grant of this size and within the specified timeline. Each of the three Focus schools will be housed in the school building having an emphasized location (Production, Graphics Design, etc.). All housed in Columbus, Ohio, the Focus students have the ability to travel between the three locations to participate in every program. Focus supplies COTA bus passes to ensure this is possible. Each school will work together to provide the administration support and ensuring students have the resources they need to be successful. Focus Learning Academy Southwest, Focus Learning Academy Southeast and Focus North High School will adhere to all the necessary assurances required of grant recipients and use every resource accumulated in a manner that is conducive with federal guidelines and student achievement. The Ohio Improvement Process. Focus Learning Academy Southwest, Focus Learning Academy Southeast and Focus North High School participate in the Ohio Improvement process, but do not currently receive school improvement funds. We are sister schools therefore we implement the same goals together. The aforementioned proposal is directly aligned with the Partnership and Professional Development Focus OP Plans include the following aligned goals: GOAL 1: Full academic year students will increase passage rate on the state Reading and Writing assessment by 10% over previous year. Student Performance Indicator: 75% will maintain or improve reading and writing skills in all core content areas, as measured through a uniform district wide rubric and other data sources. Action Step: Work collaboratively with all teachers to implement the 10 Common Core Standards for Literacy in all course assignments. GOAL 3: Increase graduation rates by 10% over the previous year. The Multimedia 21st Century Literacy and Career Readiness proposed project will advance the improvement plan by increasing the abilities for Focus to greatly increase the resources available to our students; preparing them for state tests, greater course achievement and preparation for interested careers.

13. Financial Data - 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.

c. If subsection (b) is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to the project the Focus schools would demonstrate sustainability and impact.

NA

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

4,752,578.00 * Total project cost

* Provides 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.)

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. 0.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost items of 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.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the innovative project? 23,150.00 * 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.)

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 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.

Focus schools will be able to sustain the proposed projects, as all of the equipment will be purchased during the duration of the funding distribution and will not incur new/recurring costs after the grant is expired. The implementation staff will be hired and trained to purchase, inventory, set up and execute the equipment. Professional development will be given to all staff member at the time of implementation. Focus Learning Academy Southeast, Focus Learning Academy Southwestern and Focus North High School each have a contractual agreement with eSchool Consultants, LLC, who serves as the school's consultant. All teachers, staff and students do not currently have computers that are high speed and current so they can finish their work in a timely manner. Having cutting edge technology also allows for our staff members to have online meetings, allowing for more flexible team time, thus cutting down on travel and mileage costs for Focus. Every year the three Focus schools spend roughly $10,650 in mileage costs. With this new grant, mileage costs for the grant will not be required. Focus schools do not currently have printers for the staff to use with regard to literature for all students. When the grant expires, Focus Learning Academy Southeast and Focus Learning Academy Southwestern will be able to fully sustain this grant with the amount awarded. Staff Costs. After the grant, the schools will continue to purchase electricity and internet for the classroom. Equipment Maintenance and Monitoring. The management company will absorb maintenance services, assuring that the classrooms are functioning as needed throughout the school year. The focus will be on maintaining the technology in a safe and functional manner. The focus will be on maintaining the technology in a safe and functional manner. The focus will be on maintaining the technology in a safe and functional manner. The focus will be on maintaining the technology in a safe and functional manner.
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

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* Narrative explanation

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 08/15/2014-05/30/2015

* Narrative explanation

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

Staff Impact and Lasting Change. Focus Learning Academy Southeast, Focus Learning Academy Southwest and Focus North High School intend to empower our staff members by giving them the technology and resources needed to improve student achievement. Throughout the duration of the grant, Focus staff members will further increase their knowledge of best practices, strategies and techniques for research based, proven skills for raising student achievement using multimedia and literacy foundations. So often we find that teachers struggle to meet every student needs individually. With these classroom technologies, staff can better assist students with appropriate reading texts through the Kindles, upgraded equipment, and Smartboard capabilities, the possibilities are endless. The administration commits all students be college and career ready when they graduate from Focus. The team is committed to provide all necessary professional development so that each teacher can feel fully knowledgeable and equipped to use this technology at the highest levels of implementation. Student Impact and Lasting Value. Students will be directly impacted as we will meet every student where they are. Focus will meet every individual student at the reading level, Multimedia interest level, and learning style. This grant will allow students to have a top notch learning facility where they can truly learn to be college and career ready. They can be given the opportunities and tools to help them prepare for the next level of life after Focus. Overall, Focus hopes to make a large impact on student achievement by giving students the opportunity to work with advanced technology they never had the opportunity to use. We expect to meet the needs of all students with our various new technologies and high their interests in Multimedia as well as their reading Lexile levels. This grant will allow Focus to impact the way a student learns as they view the world as their classrooms and have new opportunities. Rubric based assessments and surveys will be given periodically to evaluate student growth, program effectiveness and overall school impact. The hope of our Focus schools is that these assessments will show additional growth in, state mandated assessments and graduation rates thus improving our overall school improvement goals. Focus Learning Academy Southeast, Focus Learning Academy Southwest and Focus North High School intend to empower students and give them the confidence for being college and career ready. Taking students to a new facet of education by introducing new experiences is a high priority at our Focus schools and aligns with school improvement and strategic planning goals.

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.

Rationale. The rationale for the proposed project is based purely on our students need to1) increase literacy skills and 2) honing in on their greatest career interest all while preparing our students to be college and career ready when they graduate from Focus. Highlighting literacy through the use of multimedia technologies will allow Focus to work with every student individually whether they are EC, ESL, or at Grade level. Supporting Research for Student Achievement and Utilization of a Great Share of Resources in the Classroom. Our grant proposal is fully supported by research, even suggesting that multimedia "environments are designed to address six critical student needs that must be met if students' literacy development is to be accelerated. These needs are: (1) intrinsically motivating activities; (2) cognitive scaffolds for learning; (3) technology-based scaffold and support for teaching at-risk students; and (4) affective connections to home and the community." (Cognition and Technology Group at Vanderbilt University. 1994). Further, it is important for Focus to grow with the future of digital literacy and multimedia. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation study, kids in the United States ages 6-18 spend an average of six hours or more using media each day, it becomes that much more urgent for educators to become fluent in multimedia. Focus Learning Academy Southeast, Barbara. At-Risk Students Make Multimedia, 2008). Research is thoroughly weaved into all facets of our Focus schools. Our schools have participated in numerous professional development opportunities on Common Core literacy which is built on a framework from Fisher and Frey (2012); Schultz and Hull (2008) and Irvin (2006). Each of these theorists has studied adolescent literacy and high school content reading. Fisher and Frey's work has provided us with critical literacy frameworks to build comprehension and foster deeper reading with complex texts; Hoch school culture through technology and multimedia. Long-term Objectives, Focus Learning Academy Southeast, Focus Learning Academy Southwest and Focus North High School will strive to meet the following long-term goals during and after grant implementation. Quantitative 1) Increased passage rates on the state mandated reading and writing assessments 2) Increase in student rubric scores in core courses and multimedia opportunities. Qualitative. 1) Complete student portfolios 2) Large participation with the multimedia program in Music, Video and Graphics. Measurement Periods. Because
Focus is a self-paced schools, teachers are collecting data at different points in courses every day. Courses are individually tailored based on student need; therefore we keep them moving forward in the course by providing individual instruction. Focus Learning Academy Southeast, Focus Learning Academy Southwest and Focus North High School will continue to collaborate through our teacher based teams (TBT's) and district leadership team (DLT) where data will be analyzed through quarterly check points. This data will look different for each student due to our self-paced nature; however teachers will still be able to look for trends in student growth. Focus schools use the Ohio 5 Step Process to look for trends, discuss best practices and make instructional changes. Focus will continue to focus on the use of rubrics for a clear measurement of student progress. Anticipated Success Points. Given the nature of the implementation of the grant, Focus anticipates a large interest in the technology and multimedia that will be integrated in their classes. Even though we will begin collecting data immediately, Focus believes will begin to show a success point within the first six months of implementation.

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.

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. - Erin Metzger Scott, Project Consultant, Focus Learning Academies and Focus North High School. 10/23/2013