

Budget

Gahanna-Jefferson City (046961) - Franklin County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (462)

U.S.A.S. Fund #:

[Plus/Minus Sheet \(opens new window\)](#)

Purpose Code	Object Code	Salaries 100	Retirement Fringe Benefits 200	Purchased Services 400	Supplies 500	Capital Outlay 600	Other 800	Total
Instruction		22,500.00	3,701.00	15,000.00	0.00	368,100.00	0.00	409,301.00
Support Services		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Governance/Admin		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prof Development		0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Family/Community		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Safety		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transportation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		22,500.00	3,701.00	25,000.00	0.00	368,100.00	0.00	419,301.00
Adjusted Allocation								0.00
Remaining								-419,301.00

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: Digital Learning Initiative

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.

The proposed digital learning initiative seeks to address deficiencies in current instructional strategies and practices. The major goal of this initiative is to increase the digital course offerings provided through the district. This initiative will improve student achievement, increase the utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom and decrease spending over the five year fiscal forecast. With this proposed change we will provide a more individualized educational program designed for student success through online and blended learning options.

700 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Charles Banks, Assistant Principal

Organizational name of lead applicant: Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 046961

Address of lead applicant: 140 S. Hamilton Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230

Phone Number of lead applicant: 614-478-5500

Email Address of lead applicant: banksco@gjps.org

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Tia Holliman, Dean of High School Curriculum

Organizational name of secondary applicant: Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 046961

Address of secondary applicant: 140 S. Hamilton Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230

Phone number of secondary applicant: 614-478-5500

Email address of secondary applicant: hollimant@gjps.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 (IRN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

N/A

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.

Dwight Carter - Principal, Gahanna-Lincoln High School Chuck Banks - Asst. Principal, Gahanna-Lincoln High School Tia Holliman - Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, Gahanna-Lincoln High School Beth Spieth - Executive Director of Secondary Education, Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools Julio Valladares - Treasure, Gahanna-Jefferson Public 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.

The proposed digital learning initiative seeks to address deficiencies in current instructional strategies and practices. The major goal of this initiative is to increase the digital course offerings provided through the district. This initiative will improve student achievement, increase the utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom and decrease spending over the five year fiscal forecast. With this proposed change we will provide a more individualized educational program designed for student success through online and blended learning options. The following goals will be met through this innovative project: - increased instruction provided through digital content (one-on-one) - Purposeful professional development for staff which will be replicated using the "Train the Trainer" model - greater share of resources (greater number of students using our available resources including technology and staff)

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.

These goals will be met through a variety of approaches including the following methods: The initial implementation of an online curriculum provider (Apex) will allow for immediate access to a variety of courses for the students. The digital curriculum provides professional development and training for the staff along with the platform for the courses. This is a temporary measure to initiate a greater use of online learning as the district transitions into the creation of online courses. Existing technology resources, such as Web 2.0 tools and hardware, will be maximized through the digital learning initiative. In addition to the professional development provided through the online content provider, select staff will participate in learning opportunities for online course creation in order to create an original online course catalog. This professional development The "Train the Trainer" model will be utilized for future participation by GJPS staff.

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.

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

N/A

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

419,301.00 * 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.).

The digital learning initiative will require the purchase of 300 laptops with carts and accessories for a total of \$368,100 as well as online content for the first year totaling \$15,000. The amount of the grant budgeted for professional development, \$10,000, will be used to train the core group of teachers in online course creation. A total of \$26,201.00, including benefits, is budgeted for stipends for the core group of teachers who will train and model for teachers creating content in years 2-5.

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.

10,000.00 * 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.

The only recurring cost will be for the online course creation in years 2-5. A professional development plan will be created using the core group of teachers as the trainers in order to support additional staff as they create online courses. This will be for course credit which will be reimbursed through the district tuition reimbursement policy. The digital content purchased from a vendor in year one of the grant is a temporary bridge as the district transitions to providing more online options for students created by staff. This will be a one-time purchase and therefore require no additional funds after the grant period.

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

286,251.00 * 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 digital learning initiative is projected to save the district \$286,251. Much of these savings will come from staffing reductions in the area of alternative instruction and summer school personnel as well as technology purchases. Currently the credit recovery program, interventions provided and summer school is staff by four certified teachers and five alternative instructors. The implementation of online curriculum will reduce the need for as many staff to monitor and assist students because most, if not all, of the instruction will be provided through the program. The plan is to reduce the staffing in those areas to one certified teacher and one alternative instructor which equates to \$85,076 in savings. The amount allocated for professional development will decrease by using the "Train the Trainer" model providing a savings of \$2,500. Finally, the technology will be a one-time purchase through the grant allowing for general funds to be spent in other areas which would save the district \$198,675.

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.

This project will be sustainable after the initial grant with no additional funding or expenditures. This will be achieved through a professional development model of "train the trainer", where select staff will be trained using funding from the grant, and they will in turn be the instructors for further staff development in online course development at no additional cost. The technology purchased with this grant will be a one-time purchase. The funds used for the new technology will not require any future monies as the maintenance will be covered by existing technology funds in the general fund for the district.

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): 12/01/2014-01/02/2014

* Narrative explanation

The planning of the project would take place shortly after the grant approval. Formulation of the professional development schedule, selection of teachers, and organization of instructional space will be completed at this time. Our goal is to provide professional development outside of the regular school day, at time the teachers need it. If this is not feasible, we will provide the necessary release time to ensure the teachers have access.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 01/02/2014-06/30/2014

* Narrative explanation

The implementation of the project would begin at the beginning of the second semester with professional development for staff to train for online course creation. After completion of the professional development they will use time to create the online courses with the expectation of one course complete per content area by the June 30th date. During this time, a professional development plan and schedule will be formulated by Administration and Teachers for future training of additional staff using the "Train the Trainer" model. A barrier to the implementation of the project could be staff identified as initial trainees could be unable to complete the training process or train others after they have been trained. To mitigate this concern, alternate staff members will be identified for possible training, or to take over the role of trainer for other staff.

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

* Narrative explanation

The evaluation process will focus on the success of the initial phase of the digital content delivery, as well as the progress of original online course development including an evaluation of professional development opportunities provided to staff members. A barrier to this phase of implementation could be a deficiency in the number of online courses created by staff. Progress will be measured by how many original online courses have been developed by the staff. Based on that information the schedule for additional course development may be revised to achieve our desired number of online course offerings. The evaluation of the digital content used during this time will be measured using academic data from the participating students. Any necessary interventions and/or changes to implementation will be made to ensure that the students' needs are met.

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

The addition of online course options will provide many alternatives to traditional instruction that are currently offered in the district. These options will allow learning to expand beyond the school building and school day. Online courses will better enable students to gain credits missed in previous years (Credit Recovery) as well as provide additional interventions to supplement curriculum (RtI). The students will have more opportunities to tailor their educational experience to meet specific needs which will provide for more academic success. The flexibility provided by online course options will benefit teachers by allowing more time for differentiation and interventions for individual students, as well as providing time for collaboration among the staff (interdisciplinary work) and students (group work).

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.

The district has utilized a "Train the Trainer" model in situations where the goal has been implementation across grade levels and content areas. For example, the district has had great success in training a core group of teachers to serve as district-wide trainers. The core group of teacher trainers studied a writing process, implemented this process in their classrooms, then modeled and trained the staff in a district-wide writing initiative. The shared educational experiences allows for a deeper level of respect between trainer and trainee. The trainers share the same understanding of the student population and their needs as the staff being trained. The district has also experienced past success with the use of a limited, vendor-produced online course selection for students. The use of electronic "seats" in online courses have provided a flexible alternative to the traditional classroom setting for those students missing credits. In addition to the vendor-created courses, a small number of staff throughout the district has benefited from the creation of original online content and has implemented variations of blended learning in their classes. The digital learning initiative will allow for the expansion of these successes in the district K-12.

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

Yes

No

22. If so, how?

Alternative instruction that utilizes digital content has been utilized by many districts around the State for a number of years. One example that comes to mind is Hilliard City Schools' use of online, digital courses at their Innovation Learning Center where students may engage in a variety of online course work to earn back credits or extend their knowledge with courses that are delivered on a flexible schedule that allows greater utilization of building resources by the students and increases student achievement

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

The value and lasting impact of this type of innovative project can be viewed through the number of students who are able to engage in learning through a new and different environment that better suits their individual learning needs, whether that is flexibility of schedule, variety of course offerings, or non-traditional instruction methods. This project will allow the Gahanna-Jefferson schools to expand our range of educational services to reach even more learners in a productive and meaningful way. With growth of the project, teachers in the district will be able to create their own online courses

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.

The digital learning initiative will create additional opportunities for our district to provide more personalized learning for students. In the next five years of implementation, the number of academic options created by digital learning providing differentiated, individualized learning pursuits will be increased starting with 18 courses in the first year, doubling that number in the following year and continuing to increase the number of courses each year after. This initiative will give the students greater options of how and when they learn which will increase their engagement and achievement in their education.

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.

Professional Development: Evaluation measures will include a review of the number of teachers completing the professional development yearly along with the number of courses created. Rubrics for the development of the digital content will be used to guide the quality of the courses created. In the event that the benchmark goals for course creation are not being met, research will be done to analyze the contributing factors for the delay in meeting the goals. The original plan will be revised to include methods or practices that will facilitate the pursuit of the intent and integrity of the initiative. Student Achievement: During the first year of implementation the evaluation method will include bi-weekly checks on student progress (activity and level of achievement) using online progress monitoring functions of the vendor program. In years 2-5 with the online content created by staff, student growth will be measured using pre- and post-assessments. On-going student achievement will be measured by formative assessments on a daily/weekly basis. The necessary interventions will be provided to support the students as they progress through the online courses. Student data generated from the online courses will be analyzed along with data from students enrolled in the traditional counterpart.

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, Julio Valladares Treasurer/CFO Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools 10/25/2013