

Budget

Hamilton Local (046953) - Franklin County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (158)

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		0.00	0.00	58,000.00	0.00	105,120.00	0.00	163,120.00
Support Services		8,290.45	1,280.75	0.00	3,058.80	0.00	0.00	12,630.00
Governance/Admin		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prof Development		0.00	0.00	8,250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,250.00
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		8,290.45	1,280.75	66,250.00	3,058.80	105,120.00	0.00	184,000.00
Adjusted Allocation								0.00
Remaining								-184,000.00

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: Implementation of myON Reader to Support the Common Core and the Third Grade Guarantee

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The personalized web-based literacy environment established by myON reader will disrupt old, outdated models and transform the way Hamilton Local Schools' students access and interact with text, resulting in confident, engaged, and proficient readers. This research-based method will assist the Hamilton Local Schools with implementation of the Common Core standards and the 3rd Grade Guarantee, ultimately preparing every Hamilton Local student with the assurance that they are college and career ready after graduation. For a fraction of the cost of a single, hard copy text, Hamilton Local Schools can provide students with a virtual backpack of enhanced digital titles, matched to their interests, needs and targeted reading level for optimal growth.

1825 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Susan Witten PhD

Organizational name of lead applicant: Hamilton Local School District

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 046953

Address of lead applicant: 775 Rathmell Road, Columbus OH 43207

Phone Number of lead applicant: 614-491-8044 x 1209

Email Address of lead applicant: switten@hamilton-local.k12.oh.us

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: N/A

Organizational name of secondary applicant: N/A

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): N/A

Address of secondary applicant: N/A

Phone number of secondary applicant: N/A

Email address of secondary applicant: N/A

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.

Project Director. Susan Witten, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. She has been a district administrator for 13 years. At Hamilton Local, she has led improvement initiatives such as common, short-cycle assessments and data-based decision-making. She oversees accountability, grants, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and human resources for licensed staff. Under Witten the district has earned a 21st Century Grant, Learn & Serve grants, High Schools That Work grants, a Literacy Initiative grant, a math consultant grant, and foundation grants from Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Columbus Foundation, and VH1. She has led the district in partnerships with The Ohio State University for grant-funded research, with Ohio Dominican University and Otterbein College to provide grant-funded professional development to Hamilton Local teachers, and with the ESC of Central Ohio on a Early Literacy grant. She has served as a grant panelist and panel chairman for the Ohio Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts and as an evaluator for a statewide Javits grant. Lisa Buchanan, Director of Technology, will serve as Technology Coordinator, overseeing and will oversee the purchase and preparation of the technology components of the project grant. Buchanan has an M.A. in educational administration, and in her 22 years with Hamilton Local has served as a middle school math/science teacher, a fourth-4th grade teacher, and instructional technologist. Over last nine years, Buchanan has helped integrate technology into the educational program. All classrooms have, and use interactive white boards and web-based tools and resources; fixed and portable computer labs are available in each building; teachers use teachers are offering blended learning options; and a pilot 1-1 iPad program is for Algebra I students is being piloted this year. Elementary Project Coordinator. Liza Dixon, Instructional Support Teacher has worked in the district for 16, previously as a classroom teacher and team leader. Dixon has an M.Ed. in teaching and helped lead the development of standards-based instruction and related common short-cycle assessments. She supports reading and literacy at the elementary, monitors 3rd grade guarantee progress, creates blind short-cycle assessments for reading, manages AIMSweb and other data, and serves on the response to intervention team. Intermediate Project Coordinator. Kelli Lester, Student Support Services Teacher has worked in the district for 13 years. She has an M.Ed. in education and allied professions and helped lead the district transition to data-based decision-making and data analysis. Lester oversees testing and assessments, manages data and accountability, and is responsible for scheduling and student orientation in the Intermediate School.

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.

myON reader is a web based, personalized literacy environment for PreK-Grade 12 students. The Hamilton Local Schools' poverty rate is 62% and many students do not come to school ready to learn. Many of our parents do not have the academic background or resources to provide learning supports at home. The myON project will provide needed literacy resources for school and home by offering over 4000 titles with access through the web and grant purchased Kindle readers. myON was developed in partnership with MetaMetrics, creators of the scientifically-based Lexile Framework for Reading, the proprietary myON engine matches vetted titles from Capstone and partner publishers with student reading levels and interests, and generates a recommended list of appropriate enhanced digital books from the myON collection for each student. This formula helps ensure engagement, which is a key component in learning to read. Optional scaffolds that support independent reading include naturally recorded audio to model fluency, word and sentence highlighting, and an embedded dictionary that aids vocabulary development. Teachers can create booklists for individual students or groups to support differentiated instruction. Approximately 70% of the myON titles are non-fiction and 10% are Spanish or dual language. Teachers can access myON titles aligned to the Common Core State Standards through a dedicated report or by using the advanced search on the myON portal. Students have unlimited, anywhere and anytime access to the complete myON collection through unique logins and

passwords established by the school district. Whether students are reading during school hours, in before or after school programs, at home or through summer programs, their activity and growth are tracked and reported on a single platform and available through real time, on demand reports. Free mobile apps for iPad, Android, and Kindle Fire HD allow students to download digital books for offline reading, and their data are synched when they log back into myON. Customized professional development for school and program staff, and additional educator resources, help ensure an effective implementation. Parent resources are available to support existing family literacy programs in Ohio and promote parent engagement and reading on myON at home. Assessments developed by MetaMetrics for myON are used to evaluate, track, and project student growth on the Lexile scale, and provide actionable data to inform instruction and intervention. Reports are available at the student, class, building, and district levels. Metrics captured include number and type of books opened and read, time spent reading, scores from optional end of book comprehension quizzes, student reading levels measured by embedded initial placement and regular benchmarking assessments, and a projection of future reading growth once a series of benchmarking assessments has been completed. With myON, there are no limits to the number of times each digital book is read or to the number of students who can read a book at the same time, and no waiting is required for a specific title to become available. Since its launch in 2011, myON reader has been implemented in hundreds of districts throughout the nation, and more than 2.5 million students are currently reading on myON. As case studies and testimonials from early implementers, including Hillsborough County, FL, the Indiana Department of Education, St. Vrain Valley Schools in CO, and many others are proving, myON is helping kids learn to read and read to learn.

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.

Student Achievement: Time spent reading directly impacts student achievement. A child who reads for 1 minute a day outside of school will score in the 10th percentile, while a child who reads for 33 minutes a day will score in the 90th percentile (Source: Anderson, 1988). With myON, students are engaged because they are reading books that are of interest and in their target Lexile range. Engaged readers tend to read more and for longer periods of time. When students and their teachers have access to the appropriate assessments and tools to help track student growth and identify potential problems, students are on the path to becoming proficient, lifelong readers and learners. With myON, students and teachers have these important tools literally at their fingertips. Implementation of the myON: "provides unlimited access to an enhanced digital library that includes over 4,000 titles aligned to the Common Core and state standards; *enables students to read at school, at home, in libraries, community centers, anywhere there is Internet access, and on any Internet-enabled device. Mobile apps for iPad, Android, and Kindle support offline reading, as well; *generates individualized, interest-based digital book recommendations for each reader in their target Lexile range to support engagement, which is a key to maximize reading growth; *supports deep reading of informational text. 70% of the collection is comprised of non-fiction titles, with 10% Spanish or dual language and 20% hi-lo titles. Optional end-of-book quizzes test comprehension in main idea, supporting details, vocabulary, inference, and interpretation; *allows students to take ownership over their learning; the student view includes data on books opened and read, end-of-book quizzes, Lexile assessments, a growth trajectory report, and more; and, *promotes family engagement. Students can read on myON with family members, even those who may not be proficient readers themselves. Parents/guardians can access materials on myON to support their children's reading and view their data to track reading growth, provide encouragement and support, and share in their successes. Spending reductions in the five-year forecast will occur because myON reader: *is a cost-effective method of providing unlimited access to a complete library of digital texts for students and teachers across the curriculum; *reduces costly retention associated with the 3rd Grade Guarantee; *can be used for multiple purposes and across multiple grades with the cost of a single district subscription; *is a cost-effective alternative to more traditional models of providing hard copy and e-books; and, *can provide a complete virtual backpack of over 4,000 enhanced digital titles with unlimited, 24x7 access, to each student and teacher for less than the cost of a single hard-copy text per student. Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom: The unique nature of the myON reader allows all funds to be directed to the student and the teacher in the classroom. The program comes complete with assessments used to evaluate, track, and project student growth and provide actionable data to inform instruction and intervention. Reports are available at the student, class, building, and district levels. Therefore, very little district level oversight is needed or funded. *Teachers can access 4,000 titles aligned to the Common Core State Standards *Students have unlimited, anywhere and anytime access to the complete collection *Customized professional development for teachers *Empowers teachers with real-time, actionable data on individual students, groups, and classes to inform instruction and intervention *Provides tools to personalize learning, create and assign booklists, embed appropriate titles into lessons and project-based learning units, and more *Teachers and students can use myON reader for multiple purposes and across multiple grades.

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?

190,697.70 * 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, RttT 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 total cost of the project is \$190,697.70 combining local expenditures (\$6,697.70) and Straight A funds (\$184,000). \$184,000 Straight A fund grant request: \$58,000 for purchase service contract for instruction with myON reader for 5-year P-6 license (2 buildings x \$5,800 per yr. x 5 years) \$ 8,250 for purchase service professional development for teachers \$66,720 for instructional purchase of student Kindle eReaders (480 x \$139.00) \$14,400 for instructional purchase of cases for the Kindle eReaders (480 x \$30.00) \$24,000 for capital outlay for carts to store/charge instructional Kindles \$ 9,571.20 in salary and benefits for stipends for two project coordinators (1 x 61.92 hr. x 75 hrs and 1 x 65.70 hr. x 75 hrs) \$ 3,058.80 for support service supplies to purchase electronic/technology accessories District expenses from the general fund: \$ 695.00 for Kindles to be used for initial training (5 x \$139.00). \$ 6,002.70 in in-kind salary and benefit support from administrative staff (project director \$65.59 per hr. x 20 hrs; technology director \$59.34 per hr. 25 hrs.) and technology support staff (2 x \$40.10 x 40).

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.

16,600.00 * 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.

Annual cost beginning in FY15 will be \$5,000 in insurance and replacement costs. This expenditure will come from the general fund line 3.030 (Purchased Services). Annual cost will begin in year 6 (FY20) of the program with two yearly licenses for the myON reading program (2 x \$5,800). The district will budget for this additional \$11,600.00 on line 3.030 (Purchased Services) of the five-year forecast.

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

752,400.00 * 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.).

This program has the great potential to reduce costly retention associated with the 3rd Grade Guarantee. It is difficult to determine how many students would be promoted to the next grade level because of the use of this product. However, myON reader will support early literacy development and will help Hamilton Local track efforts to get all students reading on grade level. The Hamilton Local Schools expenditure per pupil is currently \$8,145. Retention and intervention costs approximately \$10,000 per year for each retained child. Estimations on the number of kindergarten through 3rd grade students that may be retained during K-3, due to the 3rd Grade Guarantee, is 228. If this program contributes to the promotion of 33% or 75.24 of these students promotion to the next grade, the potential spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast would be approximately \$752,400 each year of the forecast. Obviously, we can only speculate as to the success of this program. However, research has shown that time spent reading directly impacts student achievement. A child who reads for 1 minute a day outside of school will score in the 10th percentile, while a child who reads for 33 minutes a day will score in the 90th percentile (Anderson, 1988). With myON, students are engaged because they are reading books that are of interest and in their target Lexile range. When students and their teachers have access to the appropriate assessments and tools to help track student growth and identify potential problems, students are on the path to becoming proficient, lifelong readers and learners.

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.

The only immediate ongoing costs will be \$5,000 a year for technology upkeep (insurance, repair, replacement). Beyond that, the only costs associated with this implementation will be \$5,800 each for the two buildings per year after the five-year license expires. The district will budget for additional costs on line 3.030 (Purchased Services) of the five-year forecast. myON reader will provide Hamilton Local Schools with a sustainable, multi-faceted solution to challenges that range from assuring that all students are reading on grade level to ensuring that they graduate from high school college and career-ready. Because myON is a personalized, web-based environment that provides enhanced digital materials at varying levels of text complexity, both fiction and non-fiction, it is both a transformative approach to improving reading proficiency and a cost-effective method of providing unlimited access to a complete library of digital texts for students and teachers across the curriculum. myON reader supports early literacy development and helps districts track efforts to get all students reading on grade level, which reduces costly retention associated with the 3rd Grade Guarantee. Research from the Annie E. Casey Foundation has shown that the consequences are costly when students are not reading on grade level by the time they complete third grade: * Millions of American children get to fourth grade without learning to read proficiently and that puts them on the dropout track (2010, Early Warning; The Annie E. Casey Foundation). * Sixty-six percent of America's students who do not read by the end of third grade end up in prison or on welfare (2011, Double Jeopardy; The Annie E. Casey Foundation). myON reader also supports efforts to ensure that all students graduate from high school are college and career-ready, which research has shown to have a direct impact on the economy: * Eighty-two percent of America's prisoners and death row inmates are high school dropouts (The United Way). * More than 40% of the employees in U.S. businesses are functionally illiterate. More than 94 million adults in the U.S. can speak, but not read, the English language (2010, Literacy in the Labor Force Report). Additional considerations include: * myON reader professional development helps educators learn to fully and effectively utilize the resources and tools available to them and their students, so they take full advantage of the investment. * myON reader provides assistance to districts that want to build local capacity to sustain this engagement as both teachers and students progress along their individual paths. * myON reader is easily integrated into multiple initiatives at various grade levels (PreK - Grade 12), including Common Core State Standards implementation, STEM and other content-specific focus areas; grade-level literacy and content focus areas. With the cost of a single district subscription, educators and students can use myON reader for multiple purposes and across multiple grades. * myON reader is a good fit for diverse funding streams and sources covering in-school and out-of-school programs: 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Summer Programs, Family Literacy and more.

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): 01/31/2013

* Narrative explanation

A myON leadership network including the myON state account manager and national program team will work directly with Hamilton Local Schools, from planning through implementation. This leadership network will work closely with district teachers and program coordinators to provide ongoing support throughout the period to ensure a successful implementation. The myON leadership network will facilitate the exchange of successful strategies, lessons learned, emerging tools and engagement strategies, and approaches for avoiding or minimizing pitfalls through communities of practice. Hamilton Local Schools will: * establish key stakeholders and processes for collaborating and communicating; * strategically plan with goals and success indicators, staff development needs, regular meeting/communications expectations, timeline and milestones; * set up data and solution with myON; * provide faculty, staff, and administrator professional development; * communicate the plan, timeline, activities and resources to our stakeholders; * establish regular stakeholder meetings and ongoing communication; * establish family and community involvement; * integrate myON into our existing and planned curriculum; and, * analyze data to monitor and evaluate the myON program.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/30/2013

* Narrative explanation

Program implementation will begin immediately upon grant approval. The contract with myON will be confirmed, teachers will be trained, and technology ordered. Unlimited 24x7 access to myON's digital library of over 4,000 titles from the Capstone will be available to students, teachers, and parents. Each student/reader and teacher/educator will receive an account. Students will complete an interest inventory and the initial Lexile placement assessment and begin reading and learning on myON reader. This web-based literacy environment will disrupt outdated models and transform the way Hamilton Local students access and interact with text, resulting in a school community of confident, engaged, and proficient readers. The largest barrier for our district and community in the implementation of this program is access to technology. The Hamilton Local Schools' poverty rate is 62%. Many students do not come to school ready to learn and many of our parents do not have the academic background or resources to provide learning supports and technology at home. Access to technology is vital to the success of this program. Technology in education can be a "transformational instrument." It has the power to help us transform the teaching and learning environment as well as the overall experience for both teachers and students. To attain this goal, it means redirecting the role of teachers toward becoming facilitators of learning. And, this program will make Kindle eBook readers available to students kindergarten through grade 6. Students will have unlimited, anywhere and anytime access to the complete myON collection through unique logins and passwords established by the school district. A mobile app on the grant provided Kindles will allow students to download digital books for offline reading, and their data are synced when they log back into myON. Two Kindle eBook Charging Carts with 30 - 7" Kindle eBook readers each for each grade level of students and one Kindle Charging Cart with 30 - 7" Kindle eBook readers in each building's media center will be purchased. These Kindle eBook readers will be ordered immediately upon grant approval. The district will purchase sufficient Kindle eBook readers for training purposes, with local funds, in advance of full delivery and preparation. This district purchase will assist in a smooth and expedited implementation of the program. District technology staff will prepare Kindle eBook readers upon delivery. These grant purchased Kindle eBook readers will allow for one eBook reader for every 3.3 students kindergarten through grade 6. These Kindles will allow students to connect to our district Wi-Fi network for easy access to myON's collection of over 4,000 digital titles. They can access to technology at school, at home, in libraries, community centers - anywhere there is Internet access - and on any Internet-enabled device. Teachers begin immediately to access and use student and program data for instruction and intervention.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/30/2013

* Narrative explanation

The three key goals of the Straight A Fund mesh very well into our mission of improving achievement through total accountability and high expectations and our everyday operations. Three questions are key to the successes that we have shown over the past 10 years: 1. Will this initiative significantly advance or improve student learning? 2. Will this initiative significantly reduce spending and help us to live within our means? 3. Will this initiative significantly direct resources to the classroom, student, and teacher? The myON reader project offers multiple and unique methods of measuring all student performance. Student Achievement Each student will complete the initial Lexile placement assessment before they begin reading on the myON program. The summative assessment is generally carried out at the end of the program. However, the summative assessment incorporated into the myON reader program will provide the district with information on the program efficacy throughout the process. This progress monitoring form of summative evaluation is designed to assist teachers with knowledge of the resources and technology so they can monitor and evaluate student learning. Actionable data at the individual student, group, class, grade, building and district levels are used to evaluate, track, and project student growth, and provide actionable data to inform instruction and intervention. Reports are available at the student, class, building, and district levels. The myON program uses a variety of assessment and evaluation techniques to ensure the health and success of the program. These techniques include: book quiz activity; benchmark results; Lexile progress reports; Lexile growth trajectories; and student activity monitoring. Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast Students will have unlimited access to a complete library of 4,000 digital texts across the curriculum. This program has the great potential to reduce costly retention associated with the 3rd Grade Guarantee. It is difficult to determine how many students would be promoted to the next grade level because of the use of this product. However, myON reader will support early literacy development and will help Hamilton Local track efforts to get all students reading on grade level. The Hamilton Local Schools expenditure per pupil is currently \$8,145. Retention and intervention costs of approximately \$10,000 per year for each retained child. Estimations on the number of kindergarten through 3rd grade students that may be retained during K-3, due to the 3rd Grade Guarantee, is 228. If this program contributes to the promotion of 33% or 75.24 of these students promotion to the next grade, the potential spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast would be approximately \$752,400 each year of the forecast. Obviously, we can only speculate as to the success of this program. However, research has shown that time spent reading directly impacts student achievement. A child who reads for 1 minute a day outside of school will score in the 10th percentile, while a child who reads for 33 minutes a day will score in the 90th percentile (Anderson, 1988). With myON, students are engaged because they are reading books that are of interest and in their target Lexile range. When students and their teachers have access to the appropriate assessments and tools to help track student growth and identify potential problems, students are on the path to becoming proficient, lifelong readers and learners. Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom The unique nature of the myON reader allows all funds to be directed to the student and the teacher in the classroom. With myON reader teachers and students have unlimited access to books, anytime and anywhere. The program comes complete with assessments and 4,000 titles aligned to the Common Core. Reports are available at all levels requiring little district oversight and funds.

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

Hamilton Local Schools will be redirecting the role of teachers toward becoming facilitators of learning. This allows teachers to maximize their resources to support the diverse needs of their student populations. Hamilton Local Schools will also examine the district's teaching methods, create a student-centered environment that promotes college and career readiness and life-long readers. With today's demanding requirements, technology is often seen as "an addition to the school day." myON provides professional learning opportunities developed by teachers for teachers, which value the teachers' time, experiences and learning styles. This program will help us build local capacity and support sustainability with flexible professional development scheduling to make the best use of our teachers' time and will maximize our community's investment. This program will provide Hamilton Local Schools with hands-on applications, data analysis techniques, and family involvement, all through customized staff development programs that will assist our teachers in attaining their highest levels of competence. A cohort model of identified groups within the district will allow for sharing of best practices and avoiding obstacles during implementation. These cohorts will serve as leads and turnkey to additional staff, thereby building scale and developing in-house coaches and mentors. Professional learning will be designed to assist teachers with knowledge of the resources and technology so they can plan, assess, implement, monitor and evaluate student learning. myON utilizes professional learning strategies that prepare teachers to use multiple assessments to inform instruction, create a personalized learning environment, partner with families, and collaborate with peers to share best practices. Professional development programs will help teachers integrate technology while taking into account their current classroom climate and distinctive professional needs. There is an emphasis on communication, collaboration and active participation in authentic, real-world experiences. Teachers will be encouraged to think critically, creatively and constructively so that they can prepare students to accept the challenges of advanced education and meet the demands of our present technological society and future workplace. Hamilton Local Schools' students will benefit the most from this professional learning. It is essential that our students are educated for knowledge creation, lifelong learning and leadership. These skills will enable them to take on leading roles in their future working environments: directing change, asking important questions, solving problems and developing new knowledge. Personalization leverages strengths and needs to develop an individual plan to help teachers reach greater levels of competency. Every Hamilton teacher has a unique style and instructional approach developed through experience. Professional development will assist teachers to learn to incorporate technology into instruction successfully through in-class mentoring that adapts to the teaching and learning approaches the teacher is most comfortable using. In doing so, teachers apply technology to make their own style and experience even more effective. This just-in-time learning and support separates computer application training from true professional development. Effective, personalized, standards-based professional development will result in individuals that can realize and apply the broad goals of the professional development.

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.

myON reader is a good fit for the Hamilton Local Schools and Ohio's Straight A Fund. The Straight A Fund is designed to promote sustainable, innovative local ideas and programs that help transform and modernize the state's education system to benefit every student. This program will help Hamilton Local Schools implement a sustainable new approach to reading and learning. This program has proved to be forward-thinking, creative, and meets the three key goals of Ohio's Straight A Fund: * It has shown significant advancement in raising student achievement since its launch in 2011. myON reader has been implemented in hundreds of districts throughout the nation, and more than 2.5 million students are currently reading on myON. * It will significantly reduce spending on hard-copy text. For less than the cost of a single hard-copy text per student, Hamilton Local Schools can provide a complete virtual backpack of over 4,000 enhanced digital titles with unlimited, 24x7 access, to each student and teacher. myON will also reduce costly retention associated with the 3rd Grade Guarantee. Research from the Annie E. Casey Foundation has shown that the consequences are costly when students are not reading on grade level by the time they complete third grade: * Millions of American children get to fourth grade without learning to read proficiently and that puts them on the dropout track (2010, Early Warning; The Annie E. Casey Foundation). * Sixty-six percent of America's students who do not read by the end of third grade end up in prison or on welfare (2011, Double Jeopardy; The Annie E. Casey Foundation). * It is

a significant advancement in targeting a greater share of resources to the classroom. 100% of the grant funds for this project will go directly to the students, teachers, and classrooms. myON will assist educators with knowledge of the resources and technology so they can plan, assess, implement, monitor and evaluate student learning. Actionable data at the individual student, group, class, grade, building and district levels help inform instruction and intervention. Outcomes from myON implementations throughout the nation prove that the web-based, personalized literacy environment is helping students learn to read and read to learn. As case studies and testimonials from early implementers, including St. Vrain Valley Schools in CO, the Indiana Department of Education, and many others are proving, myON is helping kids learn to read and read to learn. * St. Vrain Valley School District, CO - Literacy specialist Regina Renaldi, assistant superintendent for Priority Programs, first used myON reader during a summer pilot with her most at-risk students who were reading substantially below grade level. She was amazed at the huge response from the students and their families. "We thought we had a strong reading program prior to myON," Renaldi explained. "But we soon realized that we hadn't fully developed an opportunity for our students to read at home. With myON, students extend their school day and can practice at home." * Indiana Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers - Centers throughout the state began implementing myON reader in 2011 to help them achieve academic goals for literacy, including the state mandate that all students should be reading on grade level by the end of 3rd grade or face retention. Data collected since launch in 2011 confirms that myON is working for the state's 21st CCLCs. By mid-summer of 2013, students at more than 30 sites were using the platform, and the 3,256 participating students had read 265,507 digital books. In the aggregate, their Lexile scores had increased an average of 30%.

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

Yes

No

22. If so, how?

myON reader is a web-based literacy environment that was created to disrupt old, outdated models and transform the way students access and interact with text. myON reader offers Ohio's schools and districts a research-based method to meet the challenges associated with implementation of the Common Core Standards, and key literacy initiatives like the Third Grade Guarantee, ultimately preparing every Ohio student to graduate from high school with the assurance that they are college and career ready. For a fraction of the cost of a single, hard-copy text, Ohio schools and districts can provide students with a virtual backpack of enhanced digital titles, matched to their interests, needs and targeted reading level for optimal growth. myON reader can be customized at the state, consortia, district, building, classroom, and individual student levels - making it a good fit for Ohio's initiatives like the Straight A Fund. myON reader is a cost-effective, digital solution for Ohio districts seeking to guarantee that every student has the tools and opportunities to succeed. myON reader has been implemented in hundreds of districts throughout the nation, and more than 2.5 million students are currently reading on myON. myON reader supports Ohio initiatives, the Common Core Standards, and the 3rd Grade Guarantee. It will: * Provide unlimited access; * Enable students to read anywhere there is Internet access; * Generate individualized book recommendations for each student; * Personalize the reading experience for each student; * Support deep reading of informational text; * Offer readers their choice of titles from the available collections; * Allow a student to take ownership over their learning; * Promote family engagement; and * Empower teachers with real-time, actionable data.

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

This project is a sustainable innovative idea that will help transform and modernize the Hamilton Local Schools to benefit every student and teacher. Implementing myON will help the Hamilton Local Schools meet these three key goals if funded: * Raise student achievement * Reduce spending * Target a greater share of resources to the classrooms This program will transform the way Hamilton Local students access and interact with text, resulting in a community of confident, engaged, and proficient readers. This program is a research-based method that meets the challenges associated with implementation of the Common Core Standards, and key literacy initiatives like the Third Grade Guarantee, ultimately preparing every Hamilton Local student to graduate from high school with the assurance that they are college and career ready. This program is Cost-Effective and Sustainable. It provides our district with a sustainable, multi-faceted solution to challenges that range from assuring that all students are reading on grade level to ensuring that they graduate from high school, college and career-ready. For a fraction of the cost of a single, hard-copy text, Hamilton Local Schools can provide students with a virtual backpack of enhanced digital titles, matched to their interests, needs and targeted reading level for optimal growth. This program will assist teachers with knowledge of the resources and technology so they can plan, assess, implement, monitor and evaluate student learning. It provides actionable data at the individual student, group, class, grade, building and district levels to help inform teaching and learning. Implementations of this program throughout the nation have proven that a web-based, personalized literacy environment is helping students learn to read and read to learn.

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 benchmarks and outcomes our district aims to achieve over five years include: 1. raising student achievement; 2. reducing spending; 3. a greater share of resources used in the classroom; 4. use of a sustainable teaching and learning program; and 5. transformed and modernized teaching and learning approach. With implementation of the program, teachers will: *access myON titles aligned to the Common Core State Standards through a dedicated report. *use assessments developed by MetaMetrics for myON to evaluate, track, and project student growth on the Lexile scale. *access to metrics including number and type of books opened and read; time spent reading; scores from optional end of book comprehension quizzes; and, student reading levels measured by embedded initial placement and regular benchmarking assessments *be provided with real-time, actionable data on individual students, groups, and classes to inform instruction and intervention, along with tools to personalize learning, create and assign booklists, embed appropriate titles into lessons and project-based learning units, and more. *receive professional development, including a train-the-trainer model, customized to their needs. With implementation of the program, students will: *have unlimited 24x7 access, throughout the school year, during the summer and other school breaks, to an enhanced digital library that currently includes over 4,000 titles for PreK-12, aligned to the Common Core and state standards. *be able to read at school, at home, in libraries, community centers - anywhere there is Internet access - and on any Internet-enabled device. *have individualized, interest-based digital book recommendations in their target Lexile range to support engagement, which is a key to maximize reading growth. *have personalized reading experiences with optional scaffolds that include naturally recorded audio, text and sentence highlighting, and an embedded dictionary. *have access to 4,000 titles. 70% of the collection is comprised of non-fiction titles, with 10% Spanish or dual language and 20% hi-lo titles. *take end-of-book quizzes that test comprehension in main idea, supporting details, vocabulary, inference, and interpretation. *take ownership over their learning; the student view includes data on books opened and read, end-of-book quizzes, Lexile assessments, a growth trajectory report, and more. *be able to read on myON with family members, even those who may not be proficient readers themselves. With implementation of the program, parents/guardians will have access: to materials on myON to support their children's reading and view their children's data to track reading growth, provide encouragement and support, and share in their successes; and, to resources to support family literacy programs and parent engagement. Within five years after implementation, students will: score in the 90th percentile; become proficient, lifelong readers and learners; and, exhibit an average increase of 29% in Lexile scores. Within one year after implementation: *kindergarten students will actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding. *grade 1 students will read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity. *grade 2 students will read and comprehend texts in the 2-3 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed. *grade 3 students will read and comprehend texts at the high end of the 2-3 complexity band independently and proficiently, with scaffolding as needed. *grade 4 students will read and comprehend texts in the 4-5 complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed. *grade 5 students will read and comprehend texts at the high end of the 4-5 complexity band independently and proficiently, with scaffolding as needed. *grade 6 students will read and comprehend texts, including social studies and science, in the 6-8 complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed.

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.

Student Achievement Assessments developed by MetaMetrics for myON are used to evaluate, track, and project student growth on the Lexile scale, and provide actionable data to inform instruction and intervention. myON's reader includes the ability to measure and forecast students' reading growth using data analysis, monitoring & program evaluation. Metrics captured include number and type of books opened and read, time spent reading, scores from optional end of book comprehension quizzes, student reading levels measured by embedded initial placement and regular benchmarking assessments, and a projection of future reading growth once a series of benchmarking assessments has been completed. The myON reader program contains the scientifically based Lexile Framework for Reading to measure the student's reading ability. Embedded online assessments include ongoing benchmarking. Outcomes from myON implementations throughout the nation have proven that the web-based, personalized literacy environment is helping students learn to read and read to learn. Case studies of the myON successful implementations are available online at <http://thefutureinreading.myon.com/research/case-studies-and-white-papers> Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast Students will have unlimited access to complete library of 4000 digital texts across the curriculum. This program has the great potential to reduce costly retention associated with the 3rd Grade Guarantee. It is difficult to determine how many students would be promoted to the next grade level because of the use of this product. However, myON reader will support early literacy development and will help Hamilton Local track efforts to get all students reading on grade level. The Hamilton Local Schools expenditure Per Pupil is currently \$8,145. Retention and intervention costs of approximately \$10,000 per year for each retained child. Estimations on the number of kindergarten through 3rd grade students that may be retained due to the 3rd Grade Guarantee is 228. If this program contributes to the promotion of 33% or 75.24 of these students promotion to the next grade, the potential spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast would be approximately \$752,400 each year of the forecast. Obviously, we can only speculate as to the success of this program. However, research has shown that time spent reading directly impacts student achievement. A child who reads for 1 minute a day outside of school will score in the 10th percentile, while a child who reads for 33 minutes a day will score in the 90th percentile (Anderson, 1988). With myON, students are engaged because they are reading books that are of interest and in their target Lexile range. When students and their teachers have access to the appropriate assessments and tools to help track student growth and identify potential problems, students are on the path to becoming proficient, lifelong readers and learners. Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom The unique nature of the myON reader allows all funds to be directed to the student and the teacher in the classroom. The program comes complete with assessments used to evaluate, track, and project student growth and provide actionable data to inform instruction and intervention. Reports are available at the student, class, building, and district levels. Therefore, very little district level oversight is needed or funded. With the use of myON reader: * teachers can access 4,000 titles aligned to the Common Core State Standards; * students have unlimited, anywhere and anytime access to the complete collection; * professional development is customized for teachers; * empowers teachers with real-time, actionable data on individual students, groups, and classes to inform instruction and intervention; * provides tools to personalize learning; and, * teachers and students can use myON reader for multiple purposes and across multiple grades.

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.

Susan Witten Assistant Superintendent Hamilton Local School District October 25, 2013