## Budget

**Ironton City (044149) - Lawrence County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (36)**

U.S.A.S. Fund #:

Plus/Minus Sheet (opens new window)

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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -1,544,804.18
The Ironton City School District (ICSD), a small school district located in Southern Ohio home to 1,500 students, is poised to implement the Alternative Learning Project (ALP). This is an innovative solution to use both virtual and recorded lessons to enhance the educational experience for Ironton Middle and High School students. The goals of this blended learning initiative are to incorporate virtual technology into the traditional learning curriculum, and more importantly, to eradicate instructional gaps and serve as a learning and evaluation tool for teachers and school leaders.

768 II. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Dean Nance
Organizational name of lead applicant: Ironton City School District
Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): O41449
Address of lead applicant: 105 South 5th Street, Ironton, OH 45638
Phone Number of lead applicant: 740-532-4133
Email Address of lead applicant: dean.nance@tigertown.com

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

NA

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.

ICSD is comprised of strong leaders from the district's technology team, who will oversee the implementation of this project. The team lead is our Technology Coordinator, Joel Utsinger. Mr. Utsinger has nine years of experience in this position which encompasses Cisco networking, VOIP, Cisco wireless, SAFARI Montage on demand video, and computer implementation and maintenance. He maintains information Technology certifications, including CCNA and CCAI awarded in 2000, ICS3 awarded in 2002, and Security+ awarded in 2013. His previous position from 2001 to 2004 was serving as the Academic Coordinator for the federally funded GEAR UP grant, in which he closely worked with Ohio state officials and the ICSD to aggressively implement and maintain academic programs for student success. Dean Nance serves as the Superintendent of ICSD. He will be overseeing the grant to ensure benchmarks and goals are being met, and consistently evaluates the project. He will ensure that the technology staff is tracking effective usage of the technology (and that they are properly trained), the school building principals are monitoring staff usage of the implemented technology, and the district treasurer properly handling the funds. Mr. Nance has been superintendent for ICSD for 10 years. During this time, he lobbied the State of Ohio for building funds which generated $2 million dollar new facilities district wide completed six years ago. He coordinated with architectural firms and built community support for the construction project. All of the funding for this capital growth were managed effectively, and expended appropriately to over 50 contractors/subcontractors working on the project. In addition to the strength of the project leadership team, for over ten years ICSD has built its capacity to build and participate in large scale projects. The district has also developed an infrastructure to enhance blended learning throughout the district. The following examples illustrate ICSD's commitment to student achievement through innovative learning approaches. - GEARUP - President Clinton established this educational grant during his administration, the primary goal of which was to increase the amount of students moving onto and succeeding in post-secondary education by providing academic and counseling services to faculty, staff, and students. This multi-million dollar award was unique from any other grant as the intended target audience included all students (K-12) with no extra focus on those with special needs or who excelled in the classroom. The grant was awarded to only two school districts in Ohio, Cleveland School District in northern Ohio and ICSD in southern Ohio. ICSD adhered to the strict criteria outlined in the Notice of Award, and resulted in 60% student post-secondary attendance. - Technology Infrastructure - For the past six years, ICSD has installed smart boards, safari montage, Cisco VOIP, and iPads for educational use throughout the district schools. Staff and teachers have been trained to appropriately use the equipment for successful implementation in the classrooms. ICSD maintains a Technology Committee, which is comprised of a core group of highly trained and competent staff with regard to the use of technology. One of the committee's goals is to ensure effective professional development is provided to all staff to ensure technology is being effectively used in the classroom. Teachers will have their classroom lessons recorded, which can be used in a variety of ways for both students and the teachers themselves. Students can live stream the lessons at home and also review the recorded lessons after they have completed. A student survey conducted on 586 Ironton High School and Middle School students in the fall 2013 highlights the prevalence of

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the project 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 relationship

11. Describe the innovative project.

ICSD, located in south central Ohio, is home to 1,500 elementary through high school students. The ALP initiative will be focused primarily on Ironton High School's 422 students and 346 Ironton Middle School students for a total of 768 students, as well as the 57 teachers at both schools. While the primary beneficiary of this project will be the students, the teaching staff will also be positively impacted by the use of the technology. Teachers will have their classroom lessons recorded, which can be used in a variety of ways for both students and the teachers themselves. Students can live stream the lessons at home and also review the recorded lessons after they have completed. A student survey conducted on 586 Ironton High School and Middle School students in the fall 2013 highlights the prevalence of
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. The proliferation of technology in K-12 education has grown rapidly over the past decade. Research has demonstrated that the implementation of new forms of technology can greatly impact long-term student achievement. One study compared interactive streaming video to no interactive streaming video. The online learning environment enabled self-paced, as needed learning. The results indicated that the interactive video could “help students enhance understanding of the material and achieve better performance, while no interactive video may have little effect.” (Eliseev, B. V., Zhang, D. Zhou, L., Briggs, R. and Nunnaker, J., Instructional Video in E-Learning: Assessing the Impact of Interactive Video on Learning Effectiveness, 2005.) Ironton City is being strategic in its approach, which allows for a customized, and creates an environment that supports the different learning styles of each student, and supports teacher-led instruction. The implementation of this comprehensive system will create what is referred to as a Close Loop Instructional System, which has the capacity to greatly impact performance outcomes (Boston Consulting Group Report, Unleashing the Potential of Technology in Education, 2015). This approach is aligned to objectives to goals, and the development of curriculum to support the attainment of these goals. Ironton City will incorporate the virtual environment into its curriculum, thus establishing a comprehensive system that will create an enhanced infrastructure that supports the different learning styles of each student, and supports teacher-led instruction. The implementation of this comprehensive system will create what is referred to as a Close Loop Instructional System, which has the capacity to greatly impact performance outcomes (Boston Consulting Group Report, Unleashing the Potential of Technology in Education, 2015). This approach is aligned to objectives to goals, and the development of curriculum to support the attainment of these goals. Ironton City will incorporate the virtual environment into its curriculum, thus establishing a comprehensive system that will create an enhanced infrastructure that supports the different learning styles of each student, and supports teacher-led instruction. The provision of an immersive learning experience is a critical component of the ALP. The ALP solutions are built on the vendor input and collaborative technology necessary for an innovative approach to personalized learning.” With a Multipoint Control Unit (MCU) aka “bridge” working with a Video Communication Servers (VCS), the project facilitates multi-participant video and audio calls and interoperability between various standards based systems and Firewall traversal. The solutions will allow for video to be unobtrusive and consistent with participants, both inside and outside the network, thus allowing students access to content and resources from anywhere. The TelePresence Content Server is complemented by additional software and is a network appliance that enables ALP students, teachers and staff to share knowledge and enhance comprehension by recording their videoconferences and multimedia presentations for live and on-demand access. Paired with Jabber software, any computer/tablet will also become a distance learning endpoint. For the more traditional environment, the SX20 Codec and Touch devices will enhance the ease of connection and communication by providing teachers with instant access to meeting, contacts, directories, and context. Supplies and Materials (Software): $300,773.43: At the heart of ALP is the Show and Share software, which allows teachers to easily manage videos they’ve created and share them with students in a secure environment. This software, along with Pulse Analytics, facilitates a webcasting and video sharing solution that allows for simple archiving and retrieval of stored video assets throughout the school, regardless of recorded format or the device used to access that replay. This solution allows a student absent from a 4th period mathematics class to visit the Show and Share portal and replay the class lecture/presentation as many times as is necessary to truly understand the message (or to work with an instructor to remediate gaps). Additionally, the software allows students to type “quadratic equation” (as one example) and visit the exact moments in a lecture when that term is used. Equally important are the social features of Show and Share. Student and teachers will be encouraged to engage and contribute to a list server to ask questions, share ideas, and exchange information. The students who will greatly benefit from the ALP initiative are those who do not participate in the 12 sector will work collaboratively with the district to meet the ALP long term outcomes.

13. What is the total cost for implementing the innovation? 1,544,804.18* Total project cost

14. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the project? N/A

15. What new/recurring costs of your innovation program 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 costs included in the budget (e.g. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

There are no recurring costs factored into the project budget. All of the funds allocated towards the ALP initiative are scheduled to take place before the end of FY2014. This initiative will be self-sustaining upon installation of the equipment and implementation of the technology by the teachers and staff. The technology installation will not require additional funding after the grant period.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the project? N/A

0.00* 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.)

There are no expected savings that may result from the implementation of the project.

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 at that equal 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.

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 completed.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning
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): 03/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

The first phase of this project will take place from 1/1-3/1/2014, and involves the acquisition of the virtual technology equipment after an extensive review of the service providers. However, in order to ensure impact to all stakeholders, including parents, school staff, residents, and county leaders are involved in the process; ICSD will implement a marketing plan to use social media, newsletter and its website to announce the grant and its intended usage. They will open continuous channels of communication with the public, as the designated ALP contact person will be available to respond to inquiries. Milestone 1: The ALP leads prepare a bid to acquire the virtual technology equipment from leading service providers Milestone 2: The ALP leads review the proposals, and rank them based on the technical aspects, and the project proposal Milestone 3: A service provider is chosen to implement the system Milestone 4: Parents, community residents, county leaders and other stakeholders will be provided with the details regarding the chosen service provider.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 04/30/2014

* Narrative explanation

The second phase of this project will take place from 3/2-4/30/2014, and involves the actual use of the virtual technology equipment. Prior to implementation, the ALP leads will create a process document to train staff on when to use this equipment, based on the activities outlined in the grant application. This step is paramount to ensure the successful implementation of the technology. The technology will be available for use once the chosen service provider installs and tests the equipment, trains staff on its proper use, and the staff members are provided with an understanding of the technology. The implementation strategy, outlined in the marketing plan, is divided into three steps. Milestone 1: The service provider purchases and installs the equipment, and ensures it is functional within each school Milestone 2: The ALP leads prepare a process document for teachers and administrative staff, which outlines the purpose, intended usage of the equipment, which aligns with the grant activities outlined in Milestone 3: The applicable educators and school leaders at the application level in the middle and high schools are trained by the service providers on how to properly use the equipment Milestone 4: The ALP technology will be used within each school.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 07/30/2014

* Narrative explanation

The final phase of this project will take place from 5/1-7/30/2014, and involves the evaluation of the virtual technology. While the full evaluation of the technology is ongoing, the first assessment will take place by the end of this phase. The ICSD leaders believe strongly in the successful execution of the virtual technology, and will be focused on creating metrics that assess the level of impact. Milestone 1: Data is gathered to assess the benchmarks and outcomes Milestone 2: The ALP leads review the benchmarks and Year 1 outcomes to assess performance Milestone 3: The results are aggregated and reported to applicable school leaders, and the Ohio Department of Education

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

ICSD envisions an increase in student achievement through blended instruction using an alternative educational approach. This focuses on blended learning will increase educational delivery efficiency, and are aggregated and reported to applicable school leaders, and the Ohio Department of Education

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 classrooms.

Enhance Technology Incorporation: ICSD has and will continue to think strategically about investing its own financial dollars to purchase webserver and software such as Blackboard or Moodle. This software is capable of bridging the gap between displayed content provided through the virtual learning technology acquired through the ALP, with a fully functioning online curriculum. This will provide the students in this district with the ability to increase the number of courses taken in the future as a shift toward an afterschool curriculum.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication

B) Long Term Outcome 1: Enhance Technology Incorporation: ICSD has and will continue to think strategically about investing its own financial dollars to purchase webserver and software such as Blackboard or Moodle. This software is capable of bridging the gap between displayed content provided through the virtual learning technology acquired through the ALP, with a fully functioning online curriculum. This will provide the students in this district with the ability to increase the number of courses taken in the future as a shift toward an afterschool curriculum.

This project has the ability to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

Yes

No

If Yes, provide details.

This project has the ability to be replicated in Ohio, especially given the high number of school districts with technology infrastructure capacity in place, and is one of the top ranked states (Greenberg, A., The 2009 Update: Taking the Wraps off Videoconferencing in the U.S. Classroom, April 2009). The activities, service provider, and process may vary, depending on the district needs, but the ALP technology itself can be used in almost any middle or high school setting. ICSD can pave the way for successful blended learning curriculum across the state.

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

This project has the ability to be replicated in Ohio, especially given the high number of school districts with technology infrastructure capacity in place, and is one of the top ranked states (Greenberg, A., The 2009 Update: Taking the Wraps off Videoconferencing in the U.S. Classroom, April 2009). The activities, service provider, and process may vary, depending on the district needs, but the ALP technology itself can be used in almost any middle or high school setting. ICSD can pave the way for successful blended learning curriculum across the state.

22. If so, how?

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

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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 buttoned.

The benchmarks (ICSD hopes to achieve in five years are related to its goal of increasing student achievement. They pertain to the specific activities on how the technology will be used. Each benchmark will be reviewed and evaluated to determine if the milestones are met. Further details on benchmarks are outlined in Question 25). If there is progress towards the goals, this will indicate success. A movement towards increased technology usage shows that the project is meeting its intended outcomes. The short- and long-term project benchmarks, as well as the project outcomes are indicated below. Long-term Outcome 1: Create a blended learning environment where technology is integrated seamlessly into the existing educational structure. Long-term Outcome 2: Enhance student, teacher, staff and district capacity through the use of blended learning. Special Needs/IEP students - Benchmark 1a: Year 1 - 50% of special needs students will play more.

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ICSD realizes the importance of accountability and assessment of the ALP to bolster student achievement and reduce costs. The district has successfully implemented and managed programs exceeding $1 million, and is confident the systems and processes required previously can be leveraged for the ALP initiative. In keeping with this approach, we will use a three-pronged Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) method, comprised of research, program evaluation, and quality assurance to maintain the integrity of the ALP. CQI is based on a leading process and program management theory that guides successful business practices, and was developed by leading business management theorists W. Edwards Deming, Eli Goldratt and Stephen Covey. Research - The ALP project team will gather information on whether the short- and long-term project benchmarks are met, based on when the virtual technology was used, and the number of individuals and/or hours it was used, and for what purpose. This review will take place quarterly, beginning on 7/30/2014. The main video equipment servers have the capability of capturing this information. Through this proposal, it will be the responsibility of the district's Technology Coordinator to retrieve this data and provide it to the administrator of the grant for reporting purposes. The ALP team will work with the Technology Committee, comprised of selected school leaders and staff, to meet quarterly and discuss the results of the analysis. Program Evaluation - The data gathered during the research phase will focus on the continuous evaluation of the processes and protocols our team uses to ensure quality, including our quality standards. A component of this evaluation will consist of conducting internal lessons learned meetings following the data analysis (typically a semi-annual basis) and project benchmarks, as indicated in Question 24. This will help inform our approach to improve student outcomes in the future and address areas of weakness. This will be taken to the Technology Committee for further review after the end of each quarterly data analysis review. Quality Assurance - The key driver of the ongoing research and program evaluation is that quality assurance is taking place with regard to program quality. Quality assurance is the process by which we ensure that our program meets anticipated milestones and objectives, and uses valid and reliable data to showcase the success of the project. The Technology Coordinator will lead the assessment of whether the virtual technology delivery to the impacted students and teachers meets the district's quality standards. This ongoing review is critical to highlight problems or challenges to successful implementation.

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. Dean Nance, Superintendent Ironton City Schools 10/24/2013