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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -295,196.00
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: Improving Student Outcomes by Strengthening Formative Instructional Practices and the Use of Student Data

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 Jefferson Area Local School District has adopted the use of formative instructional practices and the collection and analysis of student performance data as a primary component of its school improvement process. This is consistent with our goal: 100% of teachers and administrators implement the 50% of the new Jefferson Teacher Evaluation System (JTE) that addresses Student Growth Capacity by directing the grant resources directly to the classroom creating an assessment and data collection and sharing process that is sustained beyond the grant.

1839 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for lead applicant: William Mullane
Organizational name of lead applicant: Jefferson Area Local Schools
Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID): 045872
Address of lead applicant: 207 W. Mulberry St. Jefferson, Ohio 444047
Phone Number of lead applicant: 3307191199
Email Address of lead applicant: william.mullane@neomin.org

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: John Wilson
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Turning Technology Foundation / Turning Technologies, LLC
Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID): 
Address of secondary applicant: 255 W. Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44507
Phone number of secondary applicant: 330.599.4954
Email address of secondary applicant: jwilson@turningtechnologies.com

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

None

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.

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.

John Wilson, Director Turning Foundation: John Wilson served in public education as a teacher and school building and district administrator for 35 years. As director of the Turning Foundation, he has helped Turning Technologies to establish and focus the company’s philanthropy in the local community and also help schools around the country to find and secure resources in support of school improvement efforts using technology. In these difficult times when there are more priorities than resources to go around, the Turning Foundation helps develop funding plans in support of student achievement goals. John Wilson and the Turning Foundation will support our implementation, start up, evaluation and grant reporting as needed. They are sharing an extensive research base to inform our proposal. The Foundation will provide the necessary training to equip the consultants described in the grant to become qualified hardware and software teacher and student trainers embedded in our classrooms from February through June of 2014. William Mullane, Supervisor of School Improvement: Bill Mullane has been an educator for thirty-six years serving as an art educator, asst. principal, principal and supervisor of school improvement. In addition to his work as an educator, he currently is president of the Southside Academy, Board of Education in Youngstown, Ohio and is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Eastern Gateway Community College. Bill has been involved in innovative programming for many years having developed alternative high school schedules, a work to teacher licensure program and a dual credit model for the region’s high schools. Bill will supervise the professional development, selection / hiring of consultants and the grant implementation time-line. Bill will also be responsible for leading the development of the district’s CCIP and professional development plan for the 2014-15 school year. Mark Pickard, Technology Coordinator JALSMD Mark Pickard has been in education for twenty years serving as a math and computer teacher at the secondary level as well as a summer instructor for staff through Ashland University. In addition to his work in the classroom, Mark has been the Technology Coordinator for the Jefferson Area Local School District for the past seven years where he has helped oversee the implementation of technology in the district’s four newly constructed buildings. Mark supports over 100 staff members, nearly 1800 students, and approximately 1,000 technology devices throughout the district. Mark will facilitate the ordering and deployment of all of the technology referenced in this grant. He will tie all of the software and hardware into our district’s network. Mark will support teachers in using the new technology and will be the primary instructor for the use of Google Documents. Larry Meloro, Principal, Rock Creek Elementary School Larry Meloro has been a teacher, coach and building administrator at all levels in the Jefferson Area Local Schools for thirty-eight years. With his leadership, the staff at Rock Creek Elementary has completely revamped the K-6 curriculum in Language Arts, Math and Science in the last five years at no cost to the school district. Over $200,000 in textbooks and learning materials have been received by Rock Creek Elementary for their participation in three Curriculum Research Studies using Pearson Scott Foresman: “enVisionMATH”, “Reading Street” and “Interactive Science”. These scientific research based studies were conducted by the independent research firms of Pros Associates and Gatti Evaluation. Rock Creek elementary has also established a partners in Performance” relationship with Cleveland Playhouse Square for the past five years. Larry will work with grade level and teacher teams to monitor progress. He will be involved in the ongoing evaluation of the grant and will lead our professional development in formative and summative assessments throughout the district.

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.
12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above. - If school/district receives district improvement funds/support, include a brief explanation of how this project will advance the improvement plan.

The Jefferson Area Local Schools have adopted the use of Formative Instructional Practices and the collection and analysis of student performance data as a primary component of its school improvement program. Our proposal also is consistent with the school district's professional development plan which seeks to "continue to enhance teacher and administrator understanding of how to effectively develop and use strong assessments across the content areas that are aligned with the standards and provide a more comprehensive assessment system in our district." The assessment system will include formative, summative, interim and performance-based assessment types to promote a balanced approach to assessment that is valid and gives teachers the data needed to evaluate their teaching. As a result, students will have many varied opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have gained while learning from feedback on their performance. The use of a innovative student response system, assessment software and embedded staff development will assist the district in meeting its assessment and instructional goals. As a part of our plan we have identified the student data to be collected and analyzed to inform professional formative assessment content and processes and measure success: Aimsweb Benchmark and progress monitoring data in grade K-6, OAA/ PARCC data, value added data for grades 3-8, KARL, In-View data grade 4 and Terra Nova Data grade 3, assessments used as a part of teacher SLOs, classroom assessments, nine week grade distribution data by subject area and by teacher, attendance data, all of the data in the district's decision framework and student work samples.

This project has been developed to be sustainable beyond the life of the grant. By embedding the professional development needed to train teachers in the use of the hardware and software that supports this project within the grant timeline, we will create a system of sustainability that includes internal district capacity to train new teachers and support the process. Continued training in assessment use and analysis, and alignment of the professional development plan and requires no expenditures beyond the district's planned professional development program. Our partnering, Turning Technology, LLC and their Turning Foundation will provide training and technical support beyond the life of the grant with no cost to the school district. This grant provides the funds to support the professional development needs of classroom teachers to effectively assess student performance.

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 annual budget line items.

c. If subsection (b) is applicable, please explain why, in addition to how the project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

This grant has been developed to have no new recurring costs beyond the grant. The ongoing professional development to support the goals of this grant will be derived from our District's professional development plan and requires no expenditures beyond the district's planned professional development program. Our partnering, Turning Technology, LLC and their Turning Foundation will provide training and technical support beyond the life of the grant with no cost to the school district.

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

$322,696.00 Total project cost

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

15. What new/recurring costs of your innovative project will occur 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)

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

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.).
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 is self-sustaining and will not result in any substantial costs beyond the life of the grant. Because the grant is focused on giving our district the resources to enhance and expand our existing and continually mismatched efforts and will continue beyond the life of the grant out of virtue of the professionalism of the subdivision and the implementation of a comprehensive approach to education improvement. In addition, the importance of the grant will be contained and the administration will ensure the implementation of a comprehensive approach to education improvement.

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 how you 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): 12/19/2013

* Narrative explanation

Implementations will take place between February 1, 2014 and June, 2014. Implementation will consist of monthly grade level meetings in which trainers will present group instruction around the use and implementation of grant related hardware and software. Regularly scheduled classroom embedded development will take place to help teachers set up and use our student response systems and related software. At the beginning of the school year, we will provide our full staff survey asking the following questions and comparing responses between August 2013 and February 2014 to identify any pertinent focus areas for additional and sometimes individual staff development. In our Fall 2013 staff survey the following questions related to this grant's outcomes were asked. The pertinent survey items along with percentage response are included below: Please rank your personal level of competence and ability to implement with integrity Formative Assessment Practices in your classroom or your teaching assignment for the 2013-14 school year: 56.1% of respondents reported that they are beginning to practice, 21.1% that they were competent users and 5.3% rated themselves as having mastered the practices and are ready to help others learn. Question: How well have we attained the following school improvement described outcomes in your current building: We use data well and it informs our decisions. Excellent level of Attainment 15.8% Good Level of Attainment 52.6% Fair but Emerging Level of Attainment 26.3% Beginning 5.3% I see no evidence that we attain this 0.0% Question: In your building, how well is data used to make decisions? Very Well 6.1% Well 25.5% Fairly Well 33.3% Not using data at all 34.1% I see no evidence that we attain this 0.0%
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.

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

22. If so, how?

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

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.

25. Describe the plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used.

26. Systematic and electronic survey instruments to assess students in the classroom in order to provide immediate feedback that is reliable and can inform instruction. We will promote a culture of continuously improving students in the classroom and the classroom that is consistent with the research completed by the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) and expressed in its Ohio Leadership Development Framework: "Promote a commitment to continuous improvement." Students use evidence to answer the question, "Where am I now?". They will have the ability to use this data to inform decisions on appropriate next instructional steps; and evaluating the effectiveness of the actions previously taken. Individual student data will be utilized to personalize the educational program for all of our students. We will have in place the systems and processes that promote the gathering and use of information gained through formative assessments, research, and observation, that leads to instructional improvement and that allows for the development of high quality professional development delivered as a part of grade level, department and building-wide meetings that will be restructured as professional learning communities.

27. Substantial Impact and Lasting Value - Impact, evaluation and replication

28. 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.
I Accept, John Montanaro, Superintendent, Jefferson Area Local Schools 045872 10/24/13