| 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 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Support Services | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Governance/Admin | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Prof Development | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 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 | 495,000.00 | 0.00 | 495,000.00 |
| Total | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 495,000.00 | 0.00 | 495,000.00 |

Adjusted Allocation | 0.00 |
---|---|
Remaining | -495,000.00 |
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: Propane Buses to Fuel Green Energy STEM Program

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.

3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact - Provide the following information:
   - First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Nicholas Langhals
   - Organizational name of lead applicant: Jennings Local School District
   - Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 049338
   - Address of lead applicant: PO Box 98, 1 Musketeer Drive, Ft. Jennings, OH 45844
   - Phone Number of lead applicant: 419-286-2238
   - Email Address of lead applicant: n_langhals@jn.noaasc.org

5. Secondary applicant contact - Provide the following information, if applicable:
   - First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Valerie Maag
   - Organizational name of secondary applicant: Jennings Local School District
   - Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 049338
   - Address of secondary applicant: PO Box 98, 1 Musketeer Drive, Ft. Jennings, OH 45844
   - Phone number of secondary applicant: 419-286-2238
   - Email address of secondary applicant: v_maag@jn.noaasc.org

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

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. 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.

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve?
   - 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?
    - New - never before implemented
    - Existing and research-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:
    
    Propane Buses to Fuel Green Energy STEM Program initiative is focused on upgrading our aging fleet of buses with propane-fueled buses which in return will redirect funds into the classroom. Without this grant Jennings Local will begin the process to upgrade five buses at a cost of approximately $95,000 each which will result in budget cuts elsewhere which ultimately will be in the classroom. If we would receive this grant five propane buses will be able to put the initial cost of a new bus back into the classroom, we will also be able to redirect the savings on the rising maintenance costs on each bus annually, not to mention the savings on fuel costs. These redirected funds will be utilized in the areas of 1:1 technology for additional students and to the existing Green Energy STEM Program which is utilized by grades K-12.

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.

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:
   - Enter a project budget
   - Upload Grant Application Attachment.aspx
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.

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

$495,000.00 ** Total project cost

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget. The narrative should include the source and amount of other funds that may be used to support this concept (e.g., Title I funding, RTF money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff costs, supplies, benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

The budget includes the purchase of five propane-fueled buses to replace our aging fleet of buses which are an average of 13.2 years old and have 197,000 average miles with a much more efficient fuel. The five buses cost $95,000 each plus in conjunction with our local propane company we will need a propane fueling station at the cost of $20,000. Working with Ft. Jennings Propane will allow us to install a refueling station much cheaper than installing our own along with passing on the annual maintenance/repairs of the fueling station on to Ft. Jennings Propane. This will include all equipment to properly and safely refuel buses. The direct affect of this grant will ultimately be more money in the classroom. We have locally committed Race To The Top funds to technology and training over the last three years and will continue to do so in year 4. These RTTF funds have kick started our 1:1 initiative and the Green Energy STEM Program along with training our teachers in the areas of common core, value-added, technology, mapping, reading, testing and evaluations. The funds from this grant will allow us to continue to strive toward local goals to benefit our students and community.

15. What new/recurring costs of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

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

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff costs and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

There are no recurring cost from this project except the annual maintenance and fuel costs but at a much lower dollar amount than the current fleet. Propane powered buses need less maintenance and the fuel costs are much lower than diesel. Due to the affordability of propane-powered buses and the abundance of savings experienced from operating propane-powered buses, a return-on-investment is usually experienced within 2-3 years. This rapid return will provide us additional savings throughout the life of the buses. Due to these lower costs in the area of maintenance and fuel for propane buses, Jennings Local will see on average a savings of $29,380 compared to our current maintenance and diesel costs for existing fleet. Currently our fuel (diesel) cost breakdown for FY13 is $20,671 compared to the propane estimate of $12,345 resulting in a $8,326 savings. Actual maintenance cost on our five buses in FY13 is $22,309 compared to a low estimated maintenance (reported by Cardinal Bus Sales & Service) on propane buses of $1,254. These two figures plus the federal rebate on propane per gallon ($2.246) equal $31,628 in savings that will be used in the classroom to benefit education.

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

$506,626.00 ** Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e. staff costs and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.)

Replacing our fleet with more efficient propane-powered buses will save us our Capital funds $475,000. With lower fuel cost we will reduce that cost by approximately $8,326 annually and propane maintenance rate per mile averages $0.33 (provided by Cardinal Bus Sales & Service) compared to our actual FY13 expense which will result in an additional savings of $21,055 which will be put into supplies. Add in the Federal Rebate on Propane Per Gallon at a total rebate of $2,246 equals $506,626 in savings for Jennings Local. As we look past the first year over the life of the propane fueled buses (only assuming they will last the same as our current age of buses 13.2 years even though they advertise longer life) take the annual savings on fuel, maintenance and tax rebates and multiply that by five buses that will run for 13.2 years that equals an astounding $417,463.20. Add on the initial savings of the original purchase of five buses at $475,000 and that equals $892,463.20 into the classroom to benefit our boys and girls.

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 as we will always have the cost of the transportation but this will be the boost needed to expand educational programs. This project will allow us to show immediate savings in the first year forecast and the ability to budget for new buses in the future. Currently, we are behind in our bus buying cycle because of the low funds available and budget cuts.

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): 10/31/2013

** Narrative explanation

Proposal timeline began this week as the application was started. During this time we have talked to all stakeholders including school maintenance, bus mechanic, Ft. Jennings Propane which is a subsidiary of Van Wert Propane, bus sales, and Jennings Local Board of Education. All parties involved are all in agreement with moving forward and have plans in place to start this process if approved.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/01/2013

** Narrative explanation

Implement date is June 1, 2013. Largest barrier at this time will be the bid process for new buses. We will follow bid procedures and strategically plan with surrounding schools to consolidate the bid process and save local tax dollars. Jennings Local stakeholders will remain the same with the addition of all bus drivers to safely train them in operating, pre-trip inspections, re-fueling protocols, and end of trip routines.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/01/2014

** Narrative explanation

Offer one year of routine bus routes, field trips, extra-curricular events we will be able to evaluate the program and report savings. This will be shared with all stakeholders of Jennings Local School District including community. This will not only reflect the savings of bus purchases but also the annual savings which were put back into the classroom to benefit students and teachers.

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

This program will directly benefit our classroom usage of technology, teacher instructional methods, and Jennings Local 1-1 initiative. The annual transportation savings alone will provide many options to the district. One option would be to use savings to purchase 83 iPads; that would be enough to put a device into every high school student's hands freeing up the classroom iPads to be used exclusively in the junior high and elementary. Another option would be to use savings to enhance technology devices K-12 to ensure each classroom has sufficient numbers to offer new and exciting learning opportunities for each child, regardless of the student's learning ability or preferred method of learning. These options are an affect of ONLY the annual savings of ONE year! Each year we will be able to use this money to improve instruction to reach every boy and girl, children's opportunities, real-life relevant skills, and overall curriculum. Jennings Local Schools will commit to this project like we have committed in the past... and that is to the children of this community. We have been an "Excellent" school district every year, we score high on achievement tests, we boast an extremely high graduation rate, high ACT scores with a large percentage of students taking the ACT, and we provide our students with skills needed to further their education or skills needed in the workforce.

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.

Jennings Local School District is a small school district in Northwest Ohio, we have an average enrollment of 385 students. Yes, we are small but we offer an education to our K-12 students second to none. Our figures on potential savings might not be as astronomical as other districts, but $31,000 annually offers this small school district opportunities that we never had. Our figures on potential savings might not be as astronomical as other districts, but $31,000 annually offers this small school district opportunities that we never had. The additional savings of the purchase of five buses ($475,000) would be a boost to help our school district sustain and build programs that are vital to our student's successes beyond high school. This is not an impact for one or two years, these type of funds would affect generations to come. It is not a secret that we are hurting financially, our 5-year forecast will show evidence of that. Jennings Local is working with a bare bone staff from cafeteria to maintenance to janitors to teachers to administrators and all credit goes to each of them for stepping up and continuing to do what they do best. We will not be adding staff members with...
His grant, we will be adding resources to our teachers and opportunities to our students.

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

| Yes | No |

22. If so, how?

Yes, taking opportunities to upgrade bus fleets with more efficient transportation when funds are available.

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

The substantial value to Jennings Local School District will be five new buses that we do not currently have in the budget due to no funds. Annual transportation expenses are growing each year because of this. Beyond the initial purchase of buses the other substantial savings will be the much lower annual transportation costs. These funds will flow into the classroom and that will ultimately be the lasting impact. The start of new programs and enhancements to students' experiences throughout the district. Our current 1:1 initiative has had great impact on our students that have devices in their hands and they are experiencing successes that cannot be measured. These successes are being seen in EVERY student from the 4.0 student to those students on individualized education plans.

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.

Specific benchmarks we will meet are savings in the five-year forecast which will include the initial purchase of buses and annual savings in transportation and future savings due to having the infrastructure to continue buying propane fueled buses. Not only is propane fueled buses innovative but our Green Energy STEM program is moving curriculum outside the classroom teaching students the curriculum in a non-traditional setting that is promoting life-long problem solving skills with relevant lessons in all subject areas. The one benchmark that is not easily measured but can be seen is the interest our students are taking in subject areas and in school in general. The start of new programs and enhancements to students’ experiences throughout the district. Our current 1:1 initiative has sparked students’ interests that we have not seen in a very long time. We are reaching our young adults with material and devices that they understand. The school climate has changed from students thinking “I have to be here” to “I want to be here”.

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.

Jennings Local will continue to monitor transportation costs, annual maintenance needs and how the savings are used. Knowing the savings will be there our main concentration areas will be in the 1:1 initiative and Green Energy STEM Program. The 1:1 initiative will be monitored by how many students are affected and how they are affected by using data from value-added, PARCC assessments and achievement levels of each student. The Green Energy STEM Program encompasses much more than just "Green Energy". It addresses relevant topics in today’s society, life and job skills used everyday, and problem solving techniques used in all facets of education and life. If we are not achieving the results that we are expecting than we have to change the device used, how we use the devices, resources to teachers and students, and our objective. Education is fluid and we must be flexible to meet the needs of our students and teachers.

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.
Nicholas Langhals
Superintendent/Principal
Jennings Local School District
October 25, 2013