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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -28,900.00
It was a team decision to move forward with re-experiencing learning. Karyn Benner, school leader, has a background in experiential education through Ferris State University. It is the hope of securing the Straight A Fund grant to provide our students with unique, hands-on learning experiences that are not available within the traditional classroom setting. A large focus of this will be team building, problem solving, decision making, goal setting, public speaking, use of technology and leadership while solving real world problems.

300 Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact - Please provide the following information:

First Name, Last Name of contact for lead applicant: Karyn Benner
Organizational name of lead applicant: School Leader - Lake Erie Academy
Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID): [Redacted]
Address of lead applicant: 2740 West Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43606
Phone Number of lead applicant: (419) 475-3786
Email Address of lead applicant: karyn.benner@leonagroup.com

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Daniel Scow
Organization name of secondary applicant: State and Federal Grants Coordinator - The Leona Group
Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID): [Redacted]
Address of secondary applicant: 2740 West Central Avenue, Toledo, OH 43606
Phone number of secondary applicant: (419) 474-3235
Email address of secondary applicant: dan.scow@leonagroup.com

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.

Our Community School Leadership Team will be overseeing this project. Our team consists of classroom teachers, mentor teachers, members of the Region 1 State Support Team, our sponsor, Board of Education members, parents and other staff. The team has been meeting for over a year and assists with all decisions at the school level. It was a team decision to move forward with re-creating our charter contract from direct instruction to experiential education. Collectively we agreed upon experiential education and project based learning as we felt it better met the needs of our student population. We will be teaching out to University of Toledo who is at the forefront of experiential education practices in higher education. Karyn Benner, school leader, has a background in experiential education through Ferris State University, was a ropes course facilitator, provided character-based education to students in grades K-12 and has over 10 years experience. School leader will oversee the implementation of the project with the help of the CSLT. Each classroom teacher is responsible for implementing their classroom project over the course of a year. It is the hope of securing the Straight A Fund grant to provide further PD to all staff on the CSLT in order to ensure full implementation at all grade levels through a Train-the-Trainer model.

2014 Straight A Fund Application

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:

Through taking risks, stepping outside your "comfort zone," you can learn a lot about yourself, the world around you, and your place in it as well as building your self-esteem, compassion, and courage. The philosophy of adventure education is based on three principles: direct experience to enhance the learning process, the importance of taking risks, and the aim of developing moral character.

Each classroom will be responsible for implementing a year-long project that is directly tied to the Common Core State Standards. The projects can change from year to year; however, they must incorporate activities throughout the year that will build upon their previous year's experiences (from wig-wams in Kindergarten to survivor challenges in high school). It is the hope that a student who graduates from our academy will graduate with a higher breadth of experiences and knowledge applicable towards life in higher education and in the employment sector. Our students come to us without proper understanding of how to work with others, how to effectively talk to people, how to problem solve and persevere, how to set goals and create a manageable timeline to achieve these goals, as well as critical thinking skills.

The philosophy of adventure education is based on three principles: direct experience to enhance the learning process, the importance of taking risks, and the aim of developing moral character. Although the course can be used as a recreational tool, its purpose has nothing to do with stunts or dareddevil mentality. Rather, the objective is to impel its participants into challenging risks, and
Occasionally stressful situations so that individuals begin to look at and/or identify specific dynamics of individual and group behavior. Students will have an opportunity to explore activities such as those listed starting with low risk activities and ultimately ending with high-risk activities at the end of their year. Activities and lessons learned through participation in the challenge course will be extended into the classroom and further into our school culture.

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.

- A large part of our building level issue stems from working with students who struggle behaviorally. Teachers work hard to build relationships in the classroom and must be strong with classroom management; however, even strong teachers struggle to capture the attention and effectively motivate all learners. Our CILT worked hard over the summer researching programs that would benefit our students both intellectually and challenge them interpersonally. Experiential education is a philosophy that informs many methodologies in which educators purposefully engage with learners in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and develop people’s capacity to contribute to their communities (see org). Our goal is to increase student achievement, hold all students accountable for their own success and provide tools necessary to ensure success. The tools piece has always been the missing link. We know our students learn best by doing. By providing staff with professional development in this area we will be providing our students with exactly the types of learning experiences they will thrive in challenging staff to teach outside of the box and restructure their classrooms to accommodate for such learning. Presenting students with a challenge, encouraging them to solve the challenge in groups and troubleshooting mistakes will teach students critical thinking skills to ensure academic success with an increased level of rigor. Furthermore, by encouraging team decisions and the value of working together, students will be more inclined to make better decisions in a classroom community thereby preventing disciplinary referrals which take them out of the learning environment. Throughout the experiential learning process, the learner is actively engaged in posing questions, investigating, experimenting, being curious, solving problems, assuming responsibility, being creative, and constructing meaning thereby increasing the level of engagement in each classroom. School level data suggest this has been an area we have struggled with in the past. Student achievement is low; behavioral referrals are high. Staff at LEA are highly motivated to make not only student achievement but also provide a holistic approach to a child’s education. Our school does receive school improvement funds. Part of our funds are used to hire a Dean of Students whose sole responsibility is to assist staff and students with behavioral interventions. Providing training for all staff and increasing their knowledge of experiential learning strategies for team building, decision making and interpersonal skills will eventually decrease the need for this position.

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.

Project budget includes staff professional development and facilitator training, building supplies to support classroom projects, building materials and maintenance of challenge course, liability insurance costs.

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

28,900.00 * 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, RTfT money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), and provide details on the costs of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc).

General budget and other grant funds will be available to support the initiative as they currently are to support other academic programs. Title I and school improvement funds, as always will be available to supplement our basic instruction program. Because the experiential learning program will be part of our basic instruction it too will be supported with grant funds. Title I teachers, paraprofessionals, and other support personnel will be available to support students. General budget funds will be available to fund insurance costs, maintenance and repair costs and associated materials for the program.

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

4,000.00 * Specific amount of new/recurrent 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/recurrent costs, please explain why.

There may be some recurring costs associated with the initiative. For example there will be the recurring cost of providing insurance for the outdoor project, thought this is expected to be nominal (less than $500 per year). We anticipate having to provide professional development for new teachers. (Two teachers ($1500 each). To the extent possible a train the trainer model will be used, but it may be necessary to send teachers to training or have training in house. There will also be costs associated with maintaining the facility and replacing broken equipment if necessary ($500) The general budget will be able to offset these additional costs with the use of other grant funds if necessary and allowable. General budget and other grant funds will be available to support the initiative as they currently are to support other academic programs. Title I and school improvement funds, as always will be available to supplement our basic instruction program. Because the experiential learning program will be part of our basic instruction it too will be supported with grant funds. Title I teachers, paraprofessionals, and other support personnel will be available to support students. General budget funds will be available to fund insurance costs, maintenance and repair costs and associated materials for the program.

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

4,000.00 * 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.)

New costs will arise from the expansion of existing efforts to use experiential and project based learning. It is anticipated that as student achievement increases and behavior issues decrease, the school will be able to re-allocate resources in some areas and reduce cost in others. This may not result in an actual reduction in personnel costs, but it will mean staff can be used differently and more efficiently. Specific savings will be reallocation of behavior specialist or dean costs by reassigning duties. Specifically, we anticipate being able to reallocate 20% of the current person’s compensation to curriculum development and academic coaching duties. This will result in a $14,000 reallocation or savings in personnel. The same scenario may be true of support paraprofessionals. As student achievement and behavior improves personnel can be reallocated to other students who need more assistance. We anticipate this could allow the school to reallocate up to $25,000 in personnel time. Because project based and experiential learning will be a significant part of our program, savings will also be realized by reducing or reallocating general fund expenditures form supply, textbook and equipment. This line item will be reduced by $4000 for the next four fiscal years.

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/recurrent costs detailed above. If there are no new/recurrent costs, explain in detail how this project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

There will be some ongoing costs after the term of the grant. For example, there will be maintenance and repair costs, liability insurance and professional development costs when there is staff turnover. It is expected these costs will be covered by the general budget and, if necessary, Title and school improvement grants.

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): 10/25/2013

* Narrative explanation

The grant application will be developed by the school leader, CILT and grant coordinator and submitted to ODE. This project has been in the planning and discussion stage for since June, 2013. A plan for the necessary facility changes has been outlined. Curriculum aligned to the common core and project based learning has been and is being developed by the staff and school leadership.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 01/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

When the grant is awarded the plan for construction and installation will be finalized. If needed, requests for proposals will be prepared by the Leona Group legal department. An application for additional insurance will be made. Weather permitting, outside installations will begin in March, 2014 and students will be able to benefit from the project by May, 2014. Supporting curriculum will continue to be developed.
No 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.

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.

Agree Karyn Benner, School Leader Lake Erie Academy, Toledo OH 10.25.13