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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -539,250.00
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: Can I Help You Serve High School Style

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.

We are proposing a plan with an up-front cost, but has long term savings, sustainability, and benefits direct to our students. When it comes to delivering good digital content to our students, there are two major costs and obstacles involved. Number one, they have to have a good, reliable device in their hands to access the information. Number two, we have to be able to provide them with quality resources that are better than what they are getting in their current textbooks. We will begin by addressing the content issue. Unfortunately the publishing companies have not given schools much of a break when it comes to digital content. Instead of passing the savings along to schools for digital versions of textbooks, they are charging just as much for the online versions as they do the print versions and in most cases you have to pay an annual fee to keep them up to date. This is a big problem and most likely not one that is going to be resolved

3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for lead applicant: Ryan Stockham
Organizational name of lead applicant: Minford High School
Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 025080
Address of lead applicant: PO Box 204 491 Bond Rd, Minford, OH 45653
Phone Number of lead applicant: 740/203896
Email Address of lead applicant: rstockham@minfordfalcons.net

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Amy O'Dell
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Minford Local Schools
Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 049627
Address of secondary applicant: 491 Bond Rd.
Phone number of secondary applicant: 740/203896
Email address of secondary applicant: aodell@minfordfalcons.net

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.

Jeff Pica Minford High School 025080 491 Bond Rd, Minford, OH 45653 740/203445 pica@minfordfalcons.net
Brent Howard MARCS Program Director 135 Falcon Rd. Minford, OH 45653 740/202181
Howard@minfordfalcons.net Shawn Clemmons SCCCA Director 175 Beaver Creek Rd. Piketon, OH 45661 800-634-8828 shawn@sccoa.org

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.

We have assembled an all-star team to develop the plan for this project and are excited to get this opportunity to work together with the State of Ohio to provide our students with a cutting edge education experience that will be life changing and ultimately affordable and sustainable for the district. Our team consists of an education technology expert, a building administrator, a teacher with experience in implementing a pilot project similar to this one, and a service provider with experience in providing professional development and curriculum development at a large scale. Our education technology expert has over ten years of experience in the education technology field and in our school district. He has handled multiple grant projects both large and small scale and was an integral part of the pilot project that started all of this. He prides himself in getting the most out of every dollar spent towards technology integration and recognizes that it's not about putting a device in a kid's hand, but more importantly providing access to quality content that truly makes a difference. Our Curriculum Director has over twenty years of education experience as both a teacher and curriculum expert. She handles all of our Title 1 program and CCIP entry. She is an expert in standards and does an amazing job keeping up with the ongoing changes in education and sharing her knowledge with our teaching staff. She has been a true asset in developing this project plan. We have a building principal with over 20 years experience and a teacher with over 20 years experience. This duo helped put together the smaller scale plan that we are hoping to build upon and see the great need for advancing the education environment for our students. Our building principal has experience in handling large scale projects and was the lead in our pre-school program for many years where he helped bring it to our district and maintain it. We are partnering with SCCCA which is a local service provider to our school and we have met with them and discussed our plan in great detail and we believe they are the perfect partner to help us achieve our goals. They have vast amounts of experience in implementing large scale education projects and have invested a large amount of resources in their professional development services as well as digital curriculum creation. SCCCA's director of operations is excited about our innovative plan and eager to provide us with the staff and services we will need to see it through. We have also met with their curriculum services coordinator who specialized in digital curriculum integration and she has full confidence that this plan will be a ground breaking improvement for our school and other schools as they follow in our footsteps. Together this lead team along with other stakeholders in our school and community will be able to change the lives of our students and lay a foundation to improve the education process for our school for many years to come.

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.

Our plan is unique like many others you will find. We are absolutely not looking to buy some new technology equipment so we can upgrade our existing systems and keep doing what we are doing. We are proposing a complete change in approach to the education process. We are proposing a plan with an up-front cost, but has long term savings, sustainability, and benefits direct to our students. When it comes to digital curriculum, there are two major costs and obstacles involved. Number one, they have to have a good, reliable device in their hands to access the information. Number two, we have to be able to provide them with quality resources that are better than what they are getting in their current textbooks. We will begin by addressing the content issue. Unfortunately the publishing companies have not given schools much of a break when it comes to digital content. Instead of passing the savings along to schools for digital versions of textbooks, they are charging just as much for the online versions as they do the print versions and in most cases you have to pay an annual fee to keep them up to date. This is a big problem and most likely not one that is going to be resolved
why time soon until there are enough alternatives to the publishing companies’ products. That is exactly what we are proposing, providing our own alternative to the publishing companies’ products. We feel that our teaching staff is the best in the world and who better to create their own digital curriculum than themselves. Benchmarks change constantly, standards will be forever changing; we propose that we create our own, constantly modified, updated, and available with everyone in our district. RED FLAG! Wait a minute: our teachers do not have the time or the technical ability to create a digital textbook from scratch. That is very true, but that is where this grant comes in. We propose partnering with SCCOA to help the staff create their original copy of a digital textbook. This is the innovative part. This is what nobody else is doing. We know teachers don’t have time to do this, but we can help them with that. SCCOA will provide us with professionals to work one on one with our staff to find out what they need, what they teach, study their lesson plans. Link state standards, and put together online resources that contain everything they need with the added bonus of interactive material. Once the digital curriculum is created, it is then in the teacher’s hands and they are trained on how to modify it, update it, share it, etc. This is a one-time cost for something that could literally last for as long as that teacher is teaching. Now to the second problem of our plan: the hardware. If we are going to throw away the books, the students will have to have a device capable of accessing the alternative content. We are currently providing the purchase of Chromebooks for our students. They are designed from the ground up to work with all of Google’s free cloud services and will be a perfect compliment to our plan. They have a long battery life, instant on, have high resolution screens, and most importantly have a keyboard for input. They can access any web content that we need including Flash content. A Chromebook is a perfect balance between a fully functional laptop and a tablet and gives us the security we need to see this project through to success. This is what nobody else is doing. That is very true, but that is where this grant comes in. We propose partnering with SCCOA to help the staff create their original copy of a digital textbook. This is the innovative part. This is what nobody else is doing. We know teachers don’t have time to do this, but we can help them with that. SCCOA will provide us with professionals to work one on one with our staff to find out what they need, what they teach, study their lesson plans. Link state standards, and put together online resources that contain everything they need with the added bonus of interactive material. Once the digital curriculum is created, it is then in the teacher’s hands and they are trained on how to modify it, update it, share it, etc. This is a one-time cost for something that could literally last for as long as that teacher is teaching. Now to the second problem of our plan: the hardware. If we are going to throw away the books, the students will have to have a device capable of accessing the alternative content. We are currently providing the purchase of Chromebooks for our students. They are designed from the ground up to work with all of Google’s free cloud services and will be a perfect compliment to our plan. They have a long battery life, instant on, have high resolution screens, and most importantly have a keyboard for input. They can access any web content that we need including Flash content. A Chromebook is a perfect balance between a fully functional laptop and a tablet and gives us the security we need to see this project through to success.

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. Our project will be self-sustaining. Our grant will focus on the costs and expenses that the resources they need anywhere and anytime. With the successful implementation of this project, each of our classes will be presented in an online portal with all materials needed in one place for our students. This will help the students be more organized and they will always know what is expected of them and where they can access the information they need. No concern of forgetting to bring home a book or a paper, no concern of forgetting what the teacher told them that day. All information will be centralized and easy to find. It also promotes the practice of everyone having a secure device in their hands that will be capable of accessing this information as well as any additional research they need to thrive and succeed. This opens up the door to collaboration like never before possible. With the use of many different free online collaboration tools, students will be able to work with each other on projects even when they are not in the same room together. They will also be able to stay connected with their teachers like never before. Finally, this project will lead to better differentiated instruction. With all of our teacher’s curriculum online and every student with a device to access it, students will be able to move at their own pace. Those that are advanced can work ahead and take different paths to more advanced instruction as well as those that may be behind can have different options as they advance through the year. With the help of our partner SCCOA, we will have the resources needed to create all of these digital classrooms that we could have never done before the assistance of this grant. Not only will this lead to greater student achievement, but it will save our district money in the five year forecast. The initial investment provided by the Straight A Fund is significant, but by building this infrastructure up front, we will be able to reduce our recurring costs and will be able to continue to create our original content that will last as long as we need it. This will save huge amounts of money on textbook costs, printing costs, digital content provider costs, software licenses and so much more. This innovative plan is a model of how education should be moving; putting our money in the classrooms, and providing our students with an education from the future and not the past.

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.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project? 539,250.00 * 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, RTT 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).

Our budget for the Straight A Proposal is a simple, but effective budget. We are partnering with SCCOA to provide us with the services we need to build online classrooms for each of our teachers. These classrooms will include all curriculum needed for their classes and SCCOA will work with the manpower needed to assist our teachers and take the burden of this large task off of them. They have trained curriculum professionals that will work one on one with our teachers to help them pool the resources they currently use as well as help them find even better online and interactive resources to include in their classroom. SCCOA professionals then create these sites for our teachers with complete guidance from our teachers and then at the end of the project will provide our staff with individualized professional development, so that they will be able maintain their completed sites from that point forward. The cost of this may seem steep at $404,250, however we will be covering over 25 teachers in a one year time frame which will require a lot of manpower and dedicated resources from SCCOA to make this happen and it is a task that we firmly believe is achievable. Along with the expense of developing this system online and classrooms curriculum, we will also be providing our students and teachers with Chromebooks. We believe that Chromebooks are the most cost efficient and secure way to provide access to our students. They are cheaper and more durable than tablets, but yet provide the same benefits such as long battery life, instant on, and they are easier to manage than tablets. Once each student and staff member has a Chromebook from this grant, we will develop a replacement plan to continue to keep the devices as current as possible from our own budget. We are also fortunate that after school programs which will be providing us with personnel after an after school wireless lab for students who may not have access to the internet at home. This will help us overcome the obstacle of rural connectivity in our 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 costs 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, explain why.

Fortunately with the help of this grant, we will actually be able to reduce the recurring costs as will be addressed in the next question. The only “New” cost is the continual purchase of Chromebooks to keep our devices current. However, with well thought out planning, this will prove to be less expensive than our current technology expenses of keeping our classroom desktop computers up to date. With this grant, each of our students will be given a device. From that point forward, we will begin providing our incoming 4th grade students with a new device, which will keep our inventory fresh and at an average of 100 students per grade level, we will only be looking at approximately $30,000 per year to keep our student devices current enough for our needs. We currently have a combination of over 600 different devices in this building including desktops, labs, mobile carts, tablets, etc. that are aging and will not be needed with this plan. The cost to keep the 600 miscellaneous devices up and running is more than $30,000 per year. Therefore I do not see an increase in new or recurring costs through this project.

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

85,000.00 * 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.).

The savings from the implementation of this grant will have a significant impact on our students. Once the initial investment from this grant will have been made, which will completely change the way our education process is structured, we will benefit from lower operating costs which can then be invested back into the classroom. We estimate that we will save at least $50,000 per year in textbook costs. This project will eliminate the need for ongoing textbook purchases and will be a huge savings to our school. We also see that our technology maintenance budget will reduce by at least $20,000 per year. By simplifying our choice of devices to one low cost and easy to maintain device for each student, we will drastically decrease our costs to maintain a mixture of desktop, tablet, laptop cart devices that we currently are maintaining. We also estimate that we will save at least $5,000 in paper and toner costs. We currently provide each classroom with a laser printer and we also have centralized copiers. By placing all of our classroom resources and online curriculum and providing interactive forms, quizzes, and tests, we will eliminate much of the need for paper copiers. Not only does this save the district money, but is also environmentally friendly. We also believe that with the new integration of Chromebooks, combined with our online learning portal and the use of the free Google Drive resources, we are currently paying too much to pay for our annual Microsoft software license. This will save the school over $10,000 just in license costs. Another savings that we believe we will benefit from, however is hard to put an estimated dollar amount on, is energy costs. By eliminating most of our power hungry desktop computers and laptop charging carts and expecting the majority of students to charge their Chromebooks at home and bring them to school with a full charge, we believe the district will save a significant amount of money in energy costs. We will provide backup chargers for those students who may forget to charge their devices at home, but as a whole, we will be consuming much less energy in the school. That also includes a decrease in power consumption for printers and copiers.

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 was planned from the ground up to be self sustaining. This isn’t just some shot in the dark plan so we can buy some new laptops and just go on doing the same old thing. The entire idea behind this is to essentially modify our own old policy. The grant was provided by our own city for the community schools and this grant made it possible for us to use the tax district money as mentioned above and build a plan to keep our technology and curriculum up to date at a very minimal cost; all due to an efficient and student-centered up front investment provided by this grant.
Once we have been selected as a grant recipient, the plan will begin to carefully move forward. Obviously this grant has a very quick turnaround time and the plan we are proposing is a very large project for our school, so we want to make sure that we pace ourselves and do not rush anything and this is one reason we have selected S COCA as our partner as they have agreed to work with us and see the project through the end. The plan will begin by involving more stakeholders. Once given final approval, we will have the confidence to start including all of the involved teachers in informational meetings to start bringing the plan together in it’s completeness. We will begin working with S COCA’s professional staff to develop the specific, step by step plan to working with their teachers in creating their online curriculum and classrooms. Teachers will be instructed to begin creating a portfolio of their lesson plans and all that they currently use whether they be digital or physical materials. The teachers will be given specific instructions on what to include and how to organize it. These items will then be handed over to the professionals at S COCA to begin their work. The problem is that it is more valuable than any publishing company could ever provide us with and that’s a complete online course and curriculum that is specifically tailored to our teachers’ teaching styles and responsibilities. They will also then provide individual professional development to our staff on how to be able to maintain and modify their sites as needed for the future. In the mean time the staff at S COCA will constantly be in communication with our teachers getting their input and sharing resources and will simply be a digital helpmate to our teachers like they have never had before. We will all have access and we know what we can do to take advantage of it. They will also be constantly in communication with our students getting their input and sharing resources and will simply be a digital helpmate to our students like they have never had before. We will also be providing grade level meetings with our parents to explain the project and what to expect for the future of the education process in their child’s life. They will learn of the responsibilities involved with receiving a Chromebook and what we expect from them. They will be given the opportunity to participate in this small annual fee for accident protection on their child’s device. After all meetings have been held and acceptable use policies are signed, the Chromebooks can then be purchased and handed out to the students. We will be working with our MARCIS program to provide our students with an after school wireless lab so that they can have access to our online resources after school if they are unable to access the internet from home.

We will also be given opportunities to save anything they need offline in case they don’t have access at home and can’t afford the after school labs. We will be working with our Technology Support team to develop a plan to provide support on the student devices. A drop off point will be established in the school building for students having issues with their device. Spare Chromebooks will be provided, so that there will be minimal downtime for anyone. As their device is being repaired, they will still have access.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 01/01/2014
*Narrative explanation*

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Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 05/30/2015
*Narrative explanation*

We believe this entire project cannot be fully completed until May of 2015. S COCA has agreed to work with us at least until that time frame, but more importantly until our teachers have the resources they need to be independent of textbooks. We believe at this point, the students will be comfortable with their new devices, they will be comfortable with all of the collaborative and cloud services that are provided to us from Google, and will be ready to fully delve into the world of 100% online curriculum for the following school year. At this point, the teachers should have their online classrooms customized and set up the way that they requested them and should be trained on how to properly implement and maintain them. With anticipation that there may be some teachers that are still hesitant and unsure of how to make this all work, we will provide them with optional professional development in the summer of 2015 so they will be fully prepared for the upcoming school year. We will also provide more parent meetings for any parents that may still be unsure of our plans and have questions and concerns over the upcoming changes. We do see potential problems with devices being taken home by some students. This is partially why we have chosen Chromebooks. Unlike a laptop or an Apple device, they are not highly sought after devices. They serve specific purposes and can be locked down by our administration to only do certain things. They will be used for educational purposes only and we will see to that. Therefore they should not be highly targeted items for thieves and are not as vulnerable to viruses and/or malware as other devices are. Plans are in place to help cover ourselves as well as the parents with a small fee for those students that are not free lunch students as extra insurance and assurance if accidents happen. We feel that with well, solid, planning, the pitfalls that often come from take-home device plans can be overcome. Past that, we will continually be monitoring the success of this program. We will continue to offer surveys both to staff, students, and parents to find out how each of the stakeholders feel about the new approach to education and take comments and concerns very seriously in order to properly improve the program. We will be evaluating standardized test scores, benchmark scores, quarterly assessments as well as other scoring rubrics we use to determine if there has been any significant increase or decrease in performance in various areas and try to help where needed. Through the new OTES evaluation system, our evaluators will be trained to assess how well teachers are adjusting to the new method of curriculum delivery and will offer help where needed and share best practices when they see them.

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): 10/01/2013

*Narrative explanation*

As soon as we became aware of this funding opportunity we went into the planning stage as if we knew we were going to be awarded the funds. Our first steps were to contact all administrators related to the building that is applying. Our Technology Supervisor and Curriculum Coordinator headed up the team. We knew the plan would be based on a smaller scaled model that we already have operating in our district that has been very successful. We simply needed to scale it up for an entire building. As we were planning, we were keenly aware that this project is not about getting hardware or not about trying to fund a subscription to some vendor’s service. In order for this to work and be sustainable, we needed to develop something that could be built one time and then presented in a way that we could maintain on our own from that point forward without subscription fees and maintenance costs. We discussed our plan with multiple potential partners and found one partner that could see our vision as clearly as we could and we ongoing and decided to develop a plan that they could provide us the services we needed to see this through. Through our initial plan in place now, in place, we will be awaiting approval of this grant to move forward with the plan. Our administrative team, teacher group, after school partners, and our service provider (S COCA) are all on the same page and excited about the opportunity we have before us.

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

This plan will bring together all of the wonderful benefits of technology integration in the classroom and hopefully take care of many of the pitfalls that also come with technology integration. Few would argue, that having all of your materials in one, easy to access location, that can be accessed from anywhere at any time is one, easy to accept, it is a great thing. The problem is that it is a near impossible ask to achieve this without outside help. By bringing in S COCA as our partner we will be able to achieve this for all of our teachers. This will force them to be more organized and to evaluate their education practices. They will now have personal partners helping them put everything together online and providing them with additional resources that they didn’t even know existed. It will make our teachers better and provide our students with a unified structure across the board. Not only will everyone benefit from the new online structure, but they will also benefit from the advantages of having universal devices.

Tech support will be greatly simplified and everyone will be on the same page. Efficient online collaboration will now become a reality instead of a dream. Students helping students like never before, students staying in contact with teachers like never before. We will now be able to provide differentiated instruction like we’ve never been able to before. With everything laid out for the students, some may work ahead and be given advanced pathways. We can also help special needs students by providing them with their own customized accessible device and curriculum. These are all things that are out here and have been out there for a while, but with this plan, we can finally pull them together and change education forever in the Minford High School.

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

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

Yes

22. If so, how?

We do believe that this approach can be duplicated in other schools across the state. It is a simple concept really, just approached from a different angle than most schools have attempted. We are putting our money and control to our trusted teachers. We are not looking for some cookie cutter online curriculum from a publishing company that is simply not affordable for our district. We are looking for a
customized digital curriculum that meets the needs of our teachers and our students and will not require a ridiculous maintenance and update cost. We believe with the right amount of help and training, our staff will be able to create and continually improve the digital learning process without the help of a large publishing company. We believe that there are organizations like SICCA all around the state that can provide the same kind of services to other Ohio schools and achieve the same mission that we are attempting to achieve. We want less dependence on big publishing companies to come through for us and more control over what and how we are teaching our students. Below are steps another district could follow: 1.) Interview various education service providers in their area to see which organizations can provide them with the proper support and professionals to assist their teachers in creating their online classrooms. 2.) Develop a plan to provide their students with their own digital devices for access to the online curriculum. This plan should include a maintenance and replacement plan, student and parent contract, and should be developed from meetings with staff, students, and parents. 3.) Develop a plan to provide access to the internet during after school hours for students who may not have internet access at home. 4.) Meet with teachers and give them a template of exactly what materials they need to provide their professional assistants and how to organize the materials. 5.) Allow the professionals assistants to begin working with your teachers to create a customized online classroom that includes all curriculum needed from free resources and customized resources that have already been created by the teachers. 6.) Place the devices in your students' hands and open up a new world of education like they have never seen before!

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

1.) This project will lead to greater student achievement. 2.) This project will lead to more organized teachers, students, and informed parents. 3.) This project will vastly reduce our dependence on physical textbooks which will lead to reduced costs and carry health benefits to our students not having to carry around as much weight. 4.) This project will vastly reduce our need for paper copies which will also lead to reduced costs and has a significant benefit to our environment. 5.) This project will lead to more engaged and satisfied students, providing them with a 21st century education instead of an outdated process. This project is building a base structure that we will be able to continue to build upon from this point forward. When the project is finished, we will have a complete online curriculum for our staff to implement, however they will also have been provided the training and resources needed to continue to build upon and improve their online classrooms as time goes on. This being done at no additional cost to the district. Therefore this project will continue far past the end of the grant period as we are completely changing the education process in our school and not putting a financial burden upon ourselves that we cannot continue to maintain.

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 first benchmark that we will be able to measure is student achievement. We have a number of ways to measure this and of course number one will be the scores of state standardized tests and our overall school building report card. We do firmly believe that within 5 years, we can see a 15% increase in student achievement on test scores. We saw this in our smaller scale mathematics pilot and we believe we can achieve this and possibly more in other subject areas as mathematics is probably the hardest subject to convert to a digital curriculum. We also believe by bringing in professional assistance we will be able to create an even better online portal than we have in our past pilot would should lead to even better student achievement. We also have other ways of assessing student achievement with products from Scholastic, Renaissance Place, and Study Island. All of these programs provide benchmarking which we currently use to assess student improvement. We will continue to use these programs and firmly believe we will see a minimum of a 15% improvement within a 5 year period for our overall student achievement. As far as spending reductions go, this again is a measurable outcome. As spelled out in the budget section, we believe we have a plan and formula that will reduce our overall spending by making large reductions in textbook purchases, paper and toner, subscription fees, and technology maintenance. We will closely monitor all expenses related to this project and make adjustments accordingly if there are hidden expenses that we did not think of. However we have done careful planning and research and feel that we have a solid plan to reduce spending overall. Some things are not as easily measured, such as overall student engagement and satisfaction as well as teacher and parent satisfaction. However we will do our best by conducting parent and teacher meetings as well as providing online surveys for all stakeholders to participate in so that we can get continual feedback from each involved party. We believe this is very important, because there is more to the educational process than just numbers on a page. We are providing one of the most important environments in these young students lives and we want it to be the best it can be for all of them.

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 monitor or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

When it comes to evaluations, it is most important for teachers and make sure they have clear goals. In light of how this grant and project is designed, we will be creating three separate teams which will all be part of one whole overseeing group. There will be a student achievement team, a budget team, and a stakeholder satisfaction team. The student achievement team will be in charge of gathering and assessing student achievement data from the sources mentioned in question 24. They will drill down as fine as teacher level to see what impact this project has had for each teacher. This way we will be able to see who may need more professional development in implementing the online classroom. We will also be able to get a good picture of who has been very successful and who could be useful for in house professional development and tip sharing. This team will be responsible for reporting back to the project group and will be led by our Curriculum Coordinator. The budget team will be led by our school treasurer and will be responsible for monitoring any additional expenses that may have occurred from the result of this project. This includes comparing the overall budget to previous budgets as well as drilling down to specific areas listed in this grant such as textbooks, technology maintenance, supplies, etc. This team will also report back to project group and together they can continually plan to decrease costs associated with this project where possible. Finally, the stakeholder satisfaction team will be in charge of planning, implementing, and assessing the results of student, staff, and parent surveys. They will develop an annual plan that lays out how frequently and what questions to ask each of these groups each year. This may also lead to group meetings with these stakeholders if necessary. This team will be led by the Technology Supervisor/Communications Coordinator and will also report back to the project group and the data they provide will be very important in deciding what areas need improvement. This overall group which will be led by the school Superintendent will meet quarterly and potentially more frequently if a need arises. We believe every great plan requires great organization and leadership and we believe we have what it takes to make that happen.

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 as 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

Ryan Stockham
Technology Supervisor
Minford High School
10/23/13