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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -584,250.00
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? Middle 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.

3. General Information, Experience and Capacity

   - This sustainable and innovative project will increase student performance by providing our students with a rich, interactive, up-to-date digital curriculum and blended learning experience that is fully customized to their needs and maintained by our well-trained teachers and staff. This plan will eliminate our need and costs of physical textbooks and the majority of paper copies, and it is unique in that once the digital curriculum is custom created, our teachers will be able to maintain and update it as needed which eliminates the ongoing fees and costs that publishing companies charge. Each student will be provided with their own Chromebook which will be used to access the digital curriculum and other online resources both in the classroom and from home and will become their most valued classroom resource.

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 Middle School
   - Unique Identifier (RRN/Fed Tax ID): 036517
   - Address of secondary applicant: 135 Falcon Rd. Minford, OH 45653
   - Phone number of secondary applicant: 7408202181
   - 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 (IRN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

Dennis Evans Minford Middle School 036517 135 Falcon Rd. Minford, OH 45653 7408202181 devans@minfordfalcons.net Brent Howard MARCS Program Director 135 Falcon Rd. Minford, OH 45653 7408202181 bhoward@minfordfalcons.net Shawn Clemmons SCoCA Director 175 Beaver Creek Rd. Piketon, OH 45661-805-634-8828 shawn@scoca.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 relevant to 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 curriculum 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 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 2 years experience. This team 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 SCoCA 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. SCoCA’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 unlike most plans 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 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 text books. 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 solved...
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.

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 anticipated savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.) If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

Fortunately with the help of this grant, we will actually be able to reduce our 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 student and staff member will receive a device. From that point forward, we will begin providing our upcoming 4th grade students with a new device, which will keep our inventory fresh and at an appropriate level. 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 for the budget of this grant will have an overall impact on our overall budget. Once the initial investment from this grant has 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 are currently 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 campus on a single print server and providing interactive resources, such as quizzes, and tests, we will eliminate much of the need for paper copies. 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 could potentially reduce our hardware costs by a significant amount. We currently pay $12,000 per year for our Microsoft software license. This will save the school over $10,000 just in license costs. Another saving 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 change 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 rooted in a foundation that was established by our own staff. The grant provided by the Straight A Fund was 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. The funds from this will go straight to developing this online curriculum for each teacher. We will be partnering with SCHOCA to provide us with the manpower and resources to help our teachers on an individual basis build exactly what we need and then the rest of the funds will go straight to putting these Chromebooks in our students' hands. There's nothing wasted in this proposal and the end result will be an efficient education model that takes the complexities of online learning and puts them in one simple, customized portal for our students and teachers to access.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeframe, 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 areas.)

* 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 together we developed a plan that they could provide us the services we needed to see this through. Through our initial plan 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 (SCOCA) are all on the same page and excited about the opportunity we have before us.

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

**Narrative explanation**

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 SCOCA as our partner as they have agreed to work with us and see the project through to 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 information meetings to start bringing the plan together in its completeness. We will begin working with SCOCA’s professional staff to develop the specific, step by step plan to working with our teachers in creating their online curriculum and classroom. Teachers will be instructed to begin creating a portfolio of their lesson plans and all materials 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 SCOCA to begin their work. The goal will be to develop a site and a site that can be later on beneficial for all of these resources that are currently used by our staff. Items that are not copyrighted can be converted straight to digital format or if already in digital format can be linked together. These are experts in open source curriculum and they will be responsible for finding free resources to replace those things that may be copyrighted as well as adding more interactive resources such as videos or flash games to enrich the curriculum and content. By the end of the project, SCOCA will be handing over a resource that 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 teacher’s 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 the future. In the mean time the staff at SCOCA will constantly be in communication with our teachers getting their input and sharing resources and will simply be a digital helpline to our teachers like they have not had before. We will also be having them meet with parents to explain the project and put together our own portal for the teacher to teach from and in their home school. They will learn of the responsibilities involved with receiving a Chromebook and what we expect from them. They will be given the option to pay a very small annual fee for accident protection and theft. 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 MARCSI’s 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. They will also be given opportunities to save anything they need offline in case they don’t have access at home and can’t attend the after school labs. We will be working with our Technology Support team to develop a plan to support the students. The drop off point will be established in the building library 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.

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

**Narrative explanation**

We believe this entire project cannot be fully completed until May of 2015. SCOCA 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 free of Google, and will be ready to fully delve into the world of 100% online curriculum for the following 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 Windows 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. Unlike with windows, we are not highly concerned after devices. They may be given the option to pay a very small annual fee for accident protection and theft. 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 MARCSI’s 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. They will also be given opportunities to save anything they need offline in case they don’t have access at home and can’t attend the after school labs. We will be working with our Technology Support team to develop a plan to support the students. The drop off point will be established in the building library 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.

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 any device is one thing, 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 SCOCA 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 together everything online together 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 device 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 differentiate 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 there 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 Middle School.

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

Describe the rationale, past success or potential 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.

We could easily list articles of research and share fairly meaningless data with you about the successes of a blended learning environment, the effectiveness of online and interactive textbooks, the many benefits of having one digital device to access your curriculum versus heavy books and papers, etc. However we are confident you have already read these articles and are aware of those benefits and being in the position of a grant writer, you do not need reminded of these things. Instead, we want to tell you about a small pilot program we ran three years ago. We had a mathematics teacher come to us and ask if we could implement a technology plan where she had the students in her class would be given a Chromebook. She had a math class and we had made sure she could achieve her goals, so we proceeded with the purchase. She had the students put together the basic information of their technology and start to use their new computer. They were given a lot of help from different departments and we were the first to tell you she would have loved to have someone working with her on one to make this happen. This is what we want to achieve with this grant. We want to follow this model, but give the assistance to our teachers that they need to make the highest quality online learning possible as well as reduce our ongoing costs of textbook and purchased online curriculum. We believe in our staff and we believe that with this boost of help from this grant, we can have school-wide adoption. If you are interested in this please call the school at 123-456-7890 and ask for the math department.

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

F Yes  N No

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
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 building 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 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 modify or change the program if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

When it comes to evaluations, it is most important to create teams 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 for an overall summary of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCE: 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.

Accept Ryan Stockham Technology Supervisor Minford Middle School 10/23/13