

Budget

Minster Local (045948) - Auglaize County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (245)

U.S.A.S. Fund #:

Plus/Minus Sheet (opens new window)

Purpose Code	Object Code	Salaries 100	Retirement Fringe Benefits 200	Purchased Services 400	Supplies 500	Capital Outlay 600	Other 800	Total
Instruction		4,620.00	413.49	315,500.00	1,071,955.00	1,845,619.81	0.00	3,238,108.30
Support Services		1,029.00	165.30	0.00	0.00	48,938.00	0.00	50,132.30
Governance/Admin		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	870.00	870.00
Prof Development		338,226.00	53,752.00	150,789.00	520.00	0.00	0.00	543,287.00
Family/Community		0.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
Safety		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities		0.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00	0.00	0.00	120,000.00
Transportation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		343,875.00	54,330.79	566,289.00	1,192,475.00	1,894,557.81	870.00	4,052,397.60
Adjusted Allocation								0.00
Remaining								-4,052,397.60

Application

Minster Local (045948) - Auglaize County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (245)

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:GROW: Graduate and Reach all through Opportunities that prepare students for the Workforce

2.Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 9 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

The goal of GROW is to improve student achievement and prepare our students to be college and career ready with an aligned curriculum by enhancing: blended learning, STEM, early literacy, and gifted education. Embedded high quality professional development will take place as our school district professional learning communities are expanded to include members from each district. Our partnerships with local business and industry will be expanded to provide meaningful career exploration opportunities that will support workforce development in our communities.

4926 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Brenda Boeke
Organizational name of lead applicant: Minster Local School District
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 045948
Address of lead applicant: 50 East Seventh St., Minster, OH 45865
Phone Number of lead applicant: 419-628-3397
Email Address of lead applicant: brenda.boeke@minsterschools.org

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Shelly Vaughn
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Ft. Recovery Local School District
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 048595
Address of secondary applicant: 400 East Butler St., Ft. Recovery, OH 45846
Phone number of secondary applicant: 419-375-4139
Email address of secondary applicant: vaughn@fortrecoveryschools.org

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

Mike Pohlman Marion Local School District 048553 7956 State Route 119, Maria Stein, OH 45860 419-925-4294 pohlman@marionlocal.org
Howard Overman New Bremen Local School District 045955 901 East Monroe St., New Bremen, OH 45869 419-629-8606 howard.overman@newbremenschools.org
Kim Waterman New Knoxville Local School District 045963 345 South Main Street, New Knoxville, OH 45871 419-753-2431 kwaterman@nk.k12.oh.us
Rod Moorman St. Henry Local School District 048587 391 East Columbus St., St. Henry, OH 45883 419-678-4834 moorman.rod@sthenryschoosls.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.

UploadGrantApplicationAttachment.aspx

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.

The successful implementation of our innovative GROW project will be the responsibility of the Fort Recovery, Marion, Minster, New Bremen, New Knoxville, and St. Henry Local School Districts. The six schools represented in this consortium also partner together as a thirteen school consortium for insurance called the Mercer Auglaize Benefit Trust (MABT) in which we utilize shared services to offer affordable insurance to our employees. Our school district treasurers and superintendents serve as the Trustee's for the MABT and work together collaboratively for the efficient and effective management of the trust. These six districts also share services through the Mercer and Auglaize County Educational Service Centers to provide high quality professional development and resident educator requirements. Auglaize County Educational Service Center provides an online learning academy by the name of Auglaize County Educational Academy (ACE). Course options have been available for school districts to use. A partnership between ACE and Northwestern University of Evanston, IL has been established and gifted and talented extended, blended lessons will be available for the 2013-2014 school year. Mercer County Education Service Center partners with Connections Learning Academy where online course offerings have been available. Collaborating and providing for the management of this grant will not be anything new to this group as previous initiatives include St. Henry, New Bremen and Fort Recovery partnering since 2006 to implement the STEM program of Excellence and New Knoxville joining the STEM consortium upon securing a RtT innovative programs grant. STEM education in our districts has offered our students the opportunity to acquire skill sets necessary for the continuation of postsecondary education and the immediate immersion into the workforce. This work has included developing partnerships with local business and industry which lead to the development of Hometown Opportunities, a local website devoted to connecting local companies with local talent in Mercer, Auglaize & surrounding counties. The success of our local school district's previous initiatives should indicate the level of our ability to manage this grant.

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.

Websters' dictionary defines "GROW" as to become better or improved in some way, to become more developed. The goal for our "GROW" innovative project is to: G- graduate all by making our students college and career ready R- reach all students by providing early literacy and exceptional children interventions O- opportunities for all students to meet the demands of our global society W- workforce development for all through partnerships with our local community development organizations. Our school districts are high performing school districts yet we struggle to close the gaps for our gifted and students with disability populations. We will address these concerns by providing: Across district- Professional development for early literacy and special education teachers, Research Based Intervention Programs, Early Intervention Programs, STEM Programs, Project Based Learning Opportunitites. Our school districts are small school districts with limited personnel and course offerings. By working together in this partnership we will share our resources and address this concern by providing: Additional course offerings through online learning, Blended learning offerings to extend the learning of our gifted and regular education students. Our community businesses and industries are experiencing a need for a wide range of employees to sustain and grow their workforce. By expanding the Hometown Opportunity initiative and hiring and developing a workforce outreach specialist we will provide: Job shadowing, internship, and/or co-op programs for students, Educational sessions for parents to inform them of the workforce demands in Auglaize and Mercer County to assist their children in career path decision, Career specific soft skill instruction including- Interviewing practice, teamwork building

experience, computer/technical skill awareness.

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.

The goals of project GROW are to improve student achievement, reduce costs and share resources. Our project will improve student achievement by purchasing a variety of research based online interactive and traditional media. Teachers will be provided with high quality professional development in research based interventions like the Wilson Reading Intervention programs, Foundations and the Orton Gillingham approach to language acquisition. Teachers will use diagnostic programs such as Aimsweb, STAR Reading, state diagnostics, and other district wide assessments to provide baseline data for targeted interventions for all students. Parent meetings and teach and learn sessions across districts will be planned to provide early literacy experiences which in turn will develop consistency in implementing programs. In order to improve student achievement and allow for all students to graduate college and career ready our six districts will enhance technology to allow our schools to provide project based learning through systems such as the Polycom Interactive Media, blended learning course options such as Kahn Academy, STEM resources such as Engineering is Elementary, Project Lead the Way, and Autodesk CAD 2014. Because our school districts are small with limited personnel and course offerings, upgrading our technology is necessary to meet the growing demands of our global society. Providing opportunities like online course options, shared project based learning, virtual field trips, and one to one computing are essential to educating our students for the 21st century. Our districts will develop shared projects and competitions to develop collaboration skills and camaraderie across districts utilizing the enhanced technology. Our partnerships with Connections Learning and ACE Academy will provide additional course offerings as well as extension lessons for our students with exceptional ability. ACE Academy is contracting with Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, to offer gifted online courses. In order to provide these programs to improve student achievement our small, rural school districts need to update and enhance technology infrastructure. The workforce development outreach specialist position is being created to enhance the already existing partnerships with local business and industries. The primary purpose of this position is to provide meaningful career exploration, job shadowing experiences and internships for high school students in Mercer and Auglaize Counties. This position will expose students and parents to the various career paths that exist in our region. Our ability to hire this outreach specialist through this grant shows our commitment to college and career readiness by supporting the economic development of our area. Mercer and Auglaize County industries are committed to sustaining this position beyond year one.

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.

NA

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

4,052,397.60 * 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, RttT 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 consortium will be applying for \$4,052,398.60 to support the implementation of Project GROW. Instruction: These funds will be used to implement a blended and online learning environment. Our contracts with Connections Learning and ACE academy will provide additional course offerings unavailable to our small rural districts over the next five years. Currently we support this through the general fund and our STEM grant. Additional funds in this category will be used for classroom technology needs. This includes hardware infrastructure, one-one computing for 4926 students and online text and curriculum for all content areas. E rate rebates will be used to offset technology costs. Additional funds in this area will be used to purchase research based early intervention programs such as Wilson Reading, STAR, Aimsweb, and Orton Gillingham and also enhanced curriculum for our gifted population. Title 1 funding will be used to support the purchase of intervention programs. Curriculum and text books will be purchased that are aligned to the Common Core and Ohio Academic Content Standards. Professional Development: The professional development we are asking for will be used to create cross district professional learning communities (PLC). PLC's will investigate research based intervention programs, curriculum and blended learning options. All staff K-12 will participate in high quality professional development opportunities aligned with best practices that include inquiry based instruction, problem based learning, formative instructional practices and the effective use of technology in the classroom. Professional Development is currently covered through RttT monies, the general fund and Title IIA monies. Family Community: the funds in this area will be used to hire a Workforce Outreach Specialist (WOS) to provide; job shadowing, internship, and/or co-op programs for students, educational sessions for parents to inform them of the workforce demands in Auglaize and Mercer County to assist their children in career path decision making. The WOS will provide career specific soft skill instruction including- Interviewing practice, teamwork building experience, computer/technical skill awareness. Funds to sustain this position will come from the Auglaize Mercer Business Education Alliance. No school districts funds will be used to sustain this position. Capital Outlay and Facilities: The funds for this area will be used for a project based learning lab. One of the five key industries in the Auglaize Mercer County area is Agriculture. The consortium will use this lab to provide opportunities for students to experience activities like testing yield data, soil sampling, and plant and animal science.

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.

30,000.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

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

New/recurring costs will be minimal as we have made a conscious effort to ensure that everything included in our proposal is fully sustainable once the grant has expired. Additional annual software and increased bandwidth fees associated with technology upgrade and online course offerings costs are recurring. We anticipate this cost to be less than \$5000 per district each year. The addition of the Workforce Outreach Specialist will not be a recurring cost as the Auglaize Mercer Business Educational Alliance are committed to funding this position in the future.

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

962,999.00 * 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.).

Collectively \$5,016,817 will be saved over the course of five years. Through the receiving of funds to update our technology our school districts will spend \$2,014,557.81, significantly less in capital outlay or permanent improvement funds. Through the offering of additional online classes to high school students in all six districts, enrollment in traditional classes will decline. This results in the need for fewer staff members especially in the area of foreign language. Because we are small rural district with limited staff in all content areas the only way for us to realize savings through reducing staff is to share staff members among districts. We anticipate three staff members in the language department alone over the next five years. The cost savings to our districts will be approximately \$300,000 annually. With the offering of online courses our school districts will be saving in PSEOP and Community School deductions. Additional savings \$1,072,475 in textbooks will be realized with the availability to purchase online materials aligned to the Common Core and Ohio Academic Content Standards.

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.

The GROW project will be putting dollars into the classrooms and be sustainable by using the savings in the areas of staff, technology, PD, textbook purchasing to spend on the reoccurring cost of online learning courses, software and bandwidth annual fees in the amount of \$5,016,817 over the course of five years. The professional development provided to staff through many of the programs like the intervention programs, Engineering is Elementary, and Project Lead the Way will not be reoccurring costs as we will use the train the trainer model to continue the implementation of the new programs.

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): 09-09-2013

* Narrative explanation

Communications with district superintendents as well as ESC superintendents, BOE members, building principals, technology coordinators, and teachers to gather support and ideas for innovative programs. Communications with Jared Ebbing and Angela Hamburg- County and Community Economic Development Directors as well as Jack Buschur Executive Director and Sean Dorsten President of the Auglaize/Mercer Business Education Alliance (AMBE) Shared grant proposal and sought input from local Business Advisory Council members and District Input Team members. Discussed proposal with Connections Learning Academy, ACE Academy as well as other blended and online learning providers. Communications with Steve Wendel at Sinclair about how Sinclair's Straight A grant proposal involving PLTW can enhance our GROW grant proposal. Assess technology needs for blended and online learning, STEM programs, inquiry based instruction and PARCC readiness. Analyze software, hardware, bandwidth and infrastructure needs of all districts. Investigate and begin planning for high quality professional development opportunities for all staff K-12. Potential barriers: various levels of staff and need for specific differentiated PD Establish hiring criteria and job description for Workforce Outreach Specialist in collaboration with economic

development officials and AMBE. Plan high quality professional development opportunities focused upon new curriculum, technology and intervention programs.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 01-02-2013

* Narrative explanation

Foster and expand cross-district professional learning communities (PLC) to connect all teachers in six districts. PLCs will work together to plan for the implementation of researched based intervention programs, curriculum and blended learning options. Potential barriers: time and technology to support online connectivity beyond this face to face work. Purchase curriculum and intervention programs designed to focus upon closing achievement gaps and aligned with Ohio's new learning standards. Redesign building schedules to include blended and online course offerings designed to offer additional options for all students. Evaluate and adjust staffing needs associated with additional course offerings. Potential barriers: limited enrollment in online courses the first year Work with all staff to investigate the best strategies and technology necessary to support long term and sustainable connections among newly developed cross-district PLCs. Utilize the shared purchasing power of six districts to begin to purchase technology with the primary goal of utilization in the classroom and for blended and online courses. Enter into multi-year contracts with service providers for blended and online course offerings and content. Continue to evaluate and adjust staffing needs associated with additional course offerings. Secure high quality professional development offerings for all staff including inquiry based instruction; problem based learning and formative instructional practices. Focus upon the various needs of all staff members. Execute professional development opportunities focused upon new curriculum, technology and intervention program as well as high quality professional development offerings for all staff including inquiry based instruction; problem based learning and formative instructional practices Hire Workforce Outreach Specialist (WOS). The WOS will begin work with all districts in Auglaize and Mercer Counties to develop programming needs. WOS will begin making connections with business and industry. The WOS will along with local education and business officials establish programming. WOS will continue making connections with business and industry. Potential barriers: school is not in session which makes connecting with guidance counselors challenging

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 01-02-2014

* Narrative explanation

Our school district employees will monitor the effectiveness of this grant through formative assessment from the onset. District superintendents as well as ESC superintendents, BOE members, building principals, technology coordinators, teachers and business partners will evaluate program data to ensure our graduation rate stays at 100%. We will also analyze trend data to ensure a low remediation level of courses from our college students. Business partners will rate our recent graduates in terms of proficiency as a new hire. Student achievement will be evaluated by using local, state and national test data (i.e., Aimsweb, STAR, OAA, Value Added Scores, ACT, IOWA, EXPLORE, PLAN...) Analyzing this data will help identify the needs for professional development in order to close our achievement gaps with exceptional children including gifted and students with disabilities. Through specific professional development opportunities for all staff and the expansion of cross district professional learning communities educators will be capable of managing the enhanced learning initiatives associated with this project. Through staff surveys and district leadership teams teachers will be able to clearly articulate their needs to successfully implement the enhanced learning initiatives associated with this project. Our project will be successful when 100% of our students graduate with an enhanced blended learning opportunity. The Workforce Outreach Specialist position will survey businesses to determine number of students from Mercer Auglaize County schools hired. They will provide 100% of all students with a meaningful career exploration opportunities. The Auglaize and Mercer County unemployment rate will remain as low or lower as more graduates are prepared to work.

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

The change will be dramatic in our districts from a standpoint that GROW will allow us to expand our course offerings by adding an online blended learning component that will take our students into the 21st Century. Being small rural districts with few teachers, it is hard for us to offer as many rigorous courses that will challenge our gifted students and accommodate our lower level learners. We are looking to better serve our students and still do it at a low cost per pupil. We have all proven to be very fiscally responsible and at the same time very high achieving. This project will ensure that our students are college and career ready by fostering a relationship with our businesses and industries. Career exploration opportunities will be ongoing and available to all high school students. Partnering together for professional development will be a key that we six, very similar districts, can accomplish to expand our already established professional learning communities to network together to help all students grow. Providing high quality professional development for all teachers will provide our students better instruction and intervention at all levels. Professional development will include and enhance project based learning, inquiry based instruction, differentiation, formative instructional practices, and effective use of integrating technology into the classrooms. Teacher knowledge, student activities and curriculum will change and will continue to change so the sustainability of the key elements of our program are assured

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

20. Describe the rationale, research or past success that supports the innovative project and its impact on student achievement, spending reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast or utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

Our school districts experience an achievement gap in reaching our gifted and student with disability population. Carol Ann Tomlinson states, "the idea of differentiated instruction is an approach to teaching that advocates active planning for and attention to student differences in classrooms, in the context of high quality curriculums." Gary A Carnow, Chief Propellerhead of Prolific Thinkers and former CTO of Pasenda Unified School District states, "Online learning creates opportunities for students to solve real problems, combined with imaginative new materials and technology makes learning come alive and cements understandings that are different when only studied in the abstract. Providing project based learning and self-directed online opportunities will close our student achievement gaps. According to a report released during the fourth annual Education Nation Summit, held Oct. 6-8, 2013 in New York, the Business Roundtable has identified ensuring that postsecondary education and workforce training programs are aligned with employer needs as a priority. Our local business and industries have requested a workforce outreach specialist to provide students and parents with information about opportunities available in Mercer and Auglaize County. The outreach specialist will provide services for all local school districts in the two county area.

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

Yes No

22. If so, how?

Yes this project can be quickly replicated and scaled. Project GROW should be a model used by rural school districts and economic development directors across the state of Ohio. Schools should develop partnerships with business and industry in their immediate area in order to create meaningful connections for students and support economic growth. Hometown Opportunities (www.hometownopportunity.com) can be replicated to support the specific need of the area. A workforce outreach specialist will implement effective ways of creating a sustainable link between our businesses and schools. Once established this program could be shared with school districts and economic development directors across the state. As professional educators, the six superintendents involved in this project are willing to share our wealth of knowledge and experiences in the implementation of highly effective online, blended learning opportunities for our students. Teachers in our districts can share with others the effective use of technology and project based learning to enhance instruction for all students. The cross district professional learning communities will be a model for other districts to replicate. Our teachers would be willing to share the process to create and sustain highly effective cross district PLC's.

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

High quality professional development will lead to a change in instructional practices. All teachers are included in professional development to wisely leverage staff development funds for the greatest and most effective impact possible. Infusing inquiry based instruction and formative based practices at all grade levels in all content areas will result in increasing student achievement. With the implementation of research based interventions and various high level course offerings we will have a lasting impact on all subgroup achievement levels. Through various course offerings and career exposure opportunities our school district will sustain our graduation rate and produce students who are college and career ready. The economic growth of our region depends on human capital. It is our responsibility to develop and provide students prepared with the necessary skills to work in the 21st century. The workforce outreach specialist will provide meaningful career exploration opportunities, which supports the economic development of our area. It is our belief that the strong connection developed between school communities and business partners will enhance the economic development of our region this in turn generates higher local dollars for our school districts. We have exploited existing best practices that are highly effective while testing new and innovative systems and products to increase student achievement. We are confident that our grant proposal combines truly novel ideas in addition to a process based approach to innovation. We understand and have planned for this balance through our grant proposal.

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.

Student Achievement: Students will have the opportunity to learn in a variety of ways including inquiry based, blended and online learning. Students will have access to content that reinforces learning through research based interventions and choice in higher level course offerings. We will close the achievement gaps in all subgroups. Our exceptional children both gifted and students with disabilities will show adequate student growth. Graduation rates will be sustained. Value added scores will show adequate student growth. Students will meet the requirements of the third grade guarantee. We will increase the number of students taking AP courses and passing the AP exams. Embedded high quality professional development will sustain our student achievement goals. Spending Reductions: The GROW project will be putting dollars into the classrooms and be sustainable by using the savings in the areas of staff, technology, PD, and textbook purchasing to spend on the recurring cost of online learning courses, software and bandwidth annual fees in the amount of \$5,016,817 over the course of five years. Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom: This grant will allow the purchase of aligned curriculum and research based interventions to provide rigorous learning opportunities for all students. A 100% increase in integrating the use of technology in the classroom via traditional, blended and online learning opportunities is expected. The workforce outreach specialist will be shared across all districts in the Mercer Auglaize County area to provide opportunities for student career exploration, assist schools and students to understand workforce needs, assist with curriculum development, provide new learning experiences and integrate students into the labor market by involving them in cooperative education experiences. Our students will graduate college and career ready with the ultimate goal of securing successful career opportunities.

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

* Include the method by which progress toward short- and long-term objectives will be measured. (This section should include the types of data to be collected, the formative outputs and outcomes and the systems in place to track the program's progress).

* Include the method, process and/or procedure by which the program will modify or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

G- graduate all by making our students college and career ready- *Sustain graduation rate of 100% *Survey of past graduates to determine college ready *Survey businesses who have hired recent graduates to determine if they are career ready R- reach all students by providing early literacy and exceptional children interventions *Student achievement will be evaluated by using local, state and national test data (i.e., Aimsweb, STAR, OAA, Value Added Scores, ACT, IOWA, EXPLORE, PLAN...) Analyzing this data will help identify the needs for professional development in order to close our

achievement gaps with exceptional children including gifted and students with disabilities. *Through specific professional development opportunities for all staff and the expansion of cross district professional learning communities educators will be capable of managing the enhanced learning initiatives associated with this project. * Through staff surveys and district leadership teams teachers will be able to clearly articulate their needs to successfully implement the enhanced learning initiatives associated with this project O- opportunities for all students to meet the demands of our global society *100% of our students will graduate with an enhanced blended learning opportunity W- workforce development for all through partnerships with our local community development organizations. *Survey businesses to determine number of students from Mercer Auglaize County schools hired *100% of all students will participate in meaningful career exploration opportunities *Annual analysis of Workforce Outreach Specialist contact conducted by school district guidance counselors *Maintain low unemployment rates in Mercer and Auglaize County The six districts applying for this grant will continue to work together throughout the course of this grant and beyond. We recognize the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of this grant to ensure that the money that has been spent is in alignment with the goals of this project. We will continue to identify and enhance the use of highly effective best practices. We will eliminate inefficient and ineffective curriculum, staffing, technology teaching practices that no longer support student achievement. We will continue to look for ways to increase efficiencies by exploring additional opportunities to share services and resources.

By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund for the duration of the evaluation timeframe. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct evaluation of the plan and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and any other related data to the legislature, governor, and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant agency and/or all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter "I Accept" and indicate your name, title, agency/organization and today's date.

"I Accept" Brenda Boeke Superintendent Minster Local Schools October 24, 2013