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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -148,910.00
A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity

1. Project Title: Blended Learning Achieving Excellence in the 7th Grade

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.

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 research-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments
   - Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements
   - Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project.

State assessment data for our district has historically shown decline in reading and math achievement scores between sixth and seventh grade. This year, student scores declined more than 10%, between those grades. Additionally, data also shows that subgroups (students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and Economically Disadvantaged students) don't perform as well; the district has not met AYP in the past due to the performance of subgroups. This project hopes to address the lower achievement of seventh grade students and our subgroups by incorporating innovative uses for technology in the classroom that build on 21st Century Learning. Through this grant, Monroe district will ensure that all students enrolled in the 7th grade during the 2014-2015 school year have access to a wireless device available for use while at school. The district will purchase 230 Chromebooks with wireless capability for use in the classroom along with 9 carts for portability. This project will also contract with Compass Learning for online curriculum in order to provide 7th grade students the opportunity to learn reading and math in a classroom utilizing the blended learning approach. We are purchasing math and reading curriculum at grade levels 6-8. This means that students who are lower achieving and not performing at grade level in all skills within each content area will have the opportunity to learn skills that will close the gap between them and their peers. It also means that gifted students or those who have mastered grade level skills in one of the content areas can be challenged by material at a higher level. Finally, another component of this project is our intent to restructure the use of a computer lab in the middle school so that all students have access to the lab for one period a day to focus on additional online learning opportunities. Currently, the teacher in the computer lab focuses his instruction on computer applications which most students have mastered. This teacher will be replaced by a paraprofessional in the computer lab who will be the facilitator of the online learning lab.

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.

This project expects to increase student achievement for 7th grade students as well as subgroups through expanded opportunities for differentiated instruction through online learning provided in the classrooms. Online assessments will place students exactly where they need to be in the curriculum based on their mastery of skills and will provide a program based on their needs. Classroom teachers will meet one on one with students or in small groups to provide direct instruction and will monitor student progress. Project-based learning can be incorporated into the classroom as well. The district will continue providing teachers with professional development aimed at expanding the use of technology instructional tools in the classroom. This project will reduce expenditures in the five-year forecast through the elimination of a high-end teacher who teaches computer applications, and replacing the class with an online learning lab. The new lab will be staffed by a technology paraprofessional to ensure technological support and student supervision. Because Compass Learning will supply our district with all necessary curricular materials, the district will not need to budget for textbook adoptions for...
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.

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

   148,910.00 * 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, RTI 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.).

The cost of the entire project will be $148,910. We will purchase Chromebooks and carts for $80,700 (230 chromebooks X 300) and (9 carts X $1300). The carts will allow for portability and charging. We will also budget for $22,000 for technology supplies. This includes $18,000 in curriculum software from Compass Learning ($9,000 each for language arts and math ) . We will also spend $2,000 for a technology consultant to write the technology plan for the project. Additionally, $1,260 will be needed for installation of the wireless network in 7 classrooms. We will contract with Compass Learning for professional development and training. They charge $5250 for those services. We have budgeted $8,500 in salaries for substitutes and supplemental teacher stipends for the first year. We also included $1,200 for benefits. Finally, the budget includes $30,000 for technological consulting to assist with setting up the chromebooks and infrastructure. The consultant will also assist with professional development of teaching staff.

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.

   26,400.00 * 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.

We anticipate having $26,400 in additional recurring costs. These costs comprise the following: Support/Upgrades - $3,500, annual teacher dashboard license - $1,500, annual rental of wireless points - $1,400, and part-time curriculum technologist - $20,000. We will be hiring a Technology Paraprofessional at $21,252 salary and $9,600 benefits, but this will be offset by the elimination of the teaching position. His salary was $76,995 and $19,394 benefits. We don’t consider this an additional recurring cost.

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

   47,047.00 * 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.)

We will not replace a Technology Teacher who is retiring. His salary and benefits total $65,299. This savings will be offset by the addition of a Paraprofessional who will supervise the online learning lab. This position will be paid $30,852 in salary and benefits, yielding a savings of $65,447. The software will eliminate the need for textbook adoption. However, the adoption was not in our current five year forecast. But, since our last adoption was in 2008 for math and 2003 for reading, we did budget for textbook replacements. The district will save $8,000 each year in textbook replacements. Savings totaling $73,447 will be offset by recurring costs of $26,400, yielding a NET SAVINGS of $47,047 each year.

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 to be 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.

Because a blended learning model would be used for reading and math, with online curriculum, there will be zero future costs for textbook adoptions. Through the retirement of our technology teacher and by replacing him with a paraprofessional in the lab, we will have approximately $49,397 the first year and $65,447 in the years following. The budget includes $1,299 in technology consultant costs the first year. The project will be advertised on the website. All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

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


* Narrative explanation

   Planning Steps: SWCCA will need to install wireless access points in seven classrooms. An Acceptable Use Policy will need to be revised, approved and distributed for parent authorization (along with a permission letter). The project will be advertised on the website. We will implement Google Apps for Educators and assign students to online accounts. Chromebooks and carts will be purchased. A consultant will be hired through the Butler County Educational Service Center (technology consortium) and they will begin training teachers on blended learning applications and Google Apps for Educators. A survey of technology use in the classroom will be distributed to teachers to collect baseline data. Educational software will be purchased through Compass. They will provide teachers with three days of training on both the reading and math programs during the summer. The curricular technologist will also continue to meet with teachers for support in preparation for implementation of this project. Student schedules will be created incorporating the computer lab for one period a day for each 7th grade student. Teachers will create lesson plans for the new blended learning classrooms for reading and math.

   Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): August, 2014

* Narrative explanation

   Chromebooks will be delivered to the reading and math classrooms in 7th grade. Students will be assessed through the online assessment of the program and placed at the appropriate levels of instruction. Teachers will begin instruction in the blended learning format using a combination of online and project-based learning, small group and one-on-one instruction, and hands-on activities. Formative assessment will be used to monitor student progress and make any necessary adjustments to the instruction.

   Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): June, 2015

* Narrative explanation

   Monthly meetings involving curriculum, technology, building administration, and teaching staff will be held to make sure implementation issues are resolved and that information will be used for the summative evaluation in June. Summative assessments through the online program and state assessment data, classroom performance and feedback from teachers, and student, parent and teacher surveys will be used to evaluate the success of the project.

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

   Instructional time spent in the lecture format will decrease as the use of technology for instruction increases in the classroom. Teachers will rely less on textbooks and instead will have the most current informational text available via the internet. Analysis of text will be conducted both in-class and after school as a part of the project, and students will use other technology tools. The online learning will connect students to a larger global community that broadens their knowledge base and gives them new experiences they wouldn’t have learning from a textbook. Students can be shown real life applications of the skills they are learning in reading and math by connecting online to individuals and organizations in the real world community. Students will be more aware of college and career opportunities. This approach to learning in the classroom will have a positive impact on our targeted seventh grade students and will benefit our subgroups – students with disabilities, English Language learners, Economically Disadvantaged students, and our gifted students. Through this project, we hope that students will assume more ownership over their own learning. To implement this fully, staff will need to learn more about the wide range of uses of technology and information design. This project will show staff new possibilities beyond the traditional instructional period.
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.

Accept Teri Rollins, Special Services Director/Monroe Local Schools 10/25/13 Holly Cahall, Treasurer/Monroe Local Schools 10/25/13