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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -170,000.00
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: Northmont Secondary Academy Online Learning Expansion Program

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 Northmont Secondary Academy intends to increase student achievement by offering online classes and 1-to-1 technology (laptops) to increase flexibility in scheduling and increase the number of curricular offerings available to the conversion high school's at-risk students. Matching the students' needs with online classes will offer a more personalized experience for students to maximize student achievement and improve their college and career readiness. With the addition of 1 to 1 technology, flexibility for the school and students' schedules will be enhanced. At the same time, the school will be able to offer more classes, more flexibly, and with fewer teachers. As the number of enrollees increases, the ADM revenue will grow, thus increasing the revenue portion of the equation. This allows a greater share of the resources to reach the classroom with the reduction of salary and benefit expenditures.

100 3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:
   First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Tony Thomas
   Organizational name of lead applicant: Northmont Secondary Academy
   Unique Identifier (RNF/Fed Tax ID): 014051
   Address of lead applicant: 4001 Old Salem Road Englewood, OH 45322
   Phone Number of lead applicant: 937-832-5035
   Email Address of lead applicant: thomas@northmontschools.net

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:
   First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Jenna Whitton
   Organizational name of secondary applicant: Northmont Secondary Academy
   Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 014051
   Address of secondary applicant: 4001 Old Salem Road Englewood, OH 45322
   Phone number of secondary applicant: 937-832-5017
   Email address of secondary applicant: jwhitton@northmontschools.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.

   Michael E. Carter, M.Ed., Superintendent School and Community Partnerships, Sinclair Community College Room 12-220 444 West Third Street, Dayton, OH 45402 937.512.3883 | 937.512.5226
   www.sinclair.edu

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 project will be implemented by the Northmont Secondary Academy (NSA), a conversion charter school sponsored by Northmont City Schools. The implementation team will include district and conversion school personnel. All individuals involved are education professionals with relevant experience in implementing new and innovative programs to meet students’ needs. The team will be led by Assistant Superintendent Tony Thomas. In addition, these individuals will play significant roles: 1.) Brad Bush, the district's Supervisor of Technology for 6 years, who has implemented a 1-to-1 technology program at Northmont High School and developed the systems that facilitate access to online curriculum, will hold similar responsibilities with the grant program. Within the district, his duties include overseeing an annual budget of $_______. 2.) Mr. Bush holds a degree. ANY OTHER CERTIFICATIONS OR APPLICABLE EXPERIENCE? Brandon Knecht, the district's Business Manager for years, was instrumental in creating Northmont Secondary Academy. WHAT WAS HIS ROLE IN CREATING NSA? He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Northmont District and manages a budget of $_______. 3.) Ms. Whitton holds a degree in . Jenna Whitton is the treasurer of Northmont Secondary Academy and has successfully developed the Ohio Department of Education roles needed to operate the school and receive proper communications. Her responsibilities include and she manages an annual budget of $_______. 4.) George Canas, Northmont High School Principal for years and Northmont Secondary Academy Superintendent, is the critical role in the project by providing online courses. It is a community college in the truest sense in that it responds to the Dayton region's needs with vital programs such as online learning and dual enrollment programs to enhance the college and career readiness of secondary students. Michael Carter, Sinclair's Superintendent for School and Community Partnerships, lead Sinclair's participation in the program.

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.

Northmont Secondary Academy, a conversion high school supported by the Northmont School District, offers flexible, alternative approaches to traditional classroom learning for at-risk high school students. The district has piloted various approaches representing incremental changes to the education structures for these students over the past few years, and these have shown promise in terms of improved academic preparation for graduation and reduced disciplinary incidents. Now in its first year of operation as a charter school with enrollment of 50, Northmont Secondary Academy seeks a Straight A grant to expand personalized learning opportunities for the district's at-risk students in order to bolster student achievement, increase graduation rates, provide greater operational flexibility for the district and achieve sustainable cost reductions. These outcomes will be achieved through 1 to 1 technology (laptop computers); the purchase of online curriculum (from Advanced Academics), which offers a wide selection of standards-based core, elective and advanced placement courses; 24/7, on-demand online support from vendor-provided certified teachers; and additional support from district teachers trained in blended learning instruction. Sinclair Community College is engaged in the initiative and will provide access to the curriculum through its online delivery platforms. The college is the Dayton area's largest provider of dual enrollment courses that allow high school students to earn college credit. Currently course offerings for NSA students are limited by the number of licensed teachers in only the core academic areas and by the number of seats in a computer lab. Through 1 to 1 technology and a wide variety of online courses, the concept of the classroom is expanded to any place that has an
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 proposed program will align with Straight A funding goals by 1.) improving student achievement through more curriculum options, a personalized learning approach that serves students' needs and interests, greater flexibility to complete coursework at their own pace and schedule, and allow students to graduate earlier if they choose to; 2.) The purchase of online curriculum and technology equipment to support the program; 3.) The offering of courses through an innovative, mixed-mode delivery method; and 4.) The provision of ongoing support and assistance from the sponsor district.

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

* 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.

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.

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?

$967,200.00  * Total project cost

* Provide a 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 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 overall budget for this project includes the online program and the technology equipment to support the delivery of the program to 50 students in year one and increasing to 100 students by year five. The attached budget spreadsheet that addresses the above question 13a. outlines the costs associated to the two major components for FY 14-FY19 with the headings of Advanced Academics Cost and Technology Equipment Cost. Based on the projected enrollment for those fiscal years, the cost per seat license from Advanced Academics has been applied and averaged that cost per seat against the range of student needs of two through six possible online courses. The cost per course, per student, per semester, is $280. The technology cost is based on $1,000 per laptop computer that will be provided to every full-time conversion school student. This cost is based on a quote from the district's technology vendor, Apple.

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.

$193,440.00  * 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.

The NSA online program will have new and recurring costs after the grant has expired. The amount shown above is a five-year average. The costs will consist of additional license for new students added to the program as the students added will enter the face to face-school instructional component of the program. The full-time conversion school student. A quote from the district's technology vendor, Apple.

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

$195,300.00  * 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 NSA online program will have new and recurring costs after the grant has expired. The amount shown above is a five-year average. The costs will consist of additional license for new students added to the program as the students added will enter the face to face-school instructional component of the program. The full-time conversion school student. A quote from the district's technology vendor, Apple.

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 the project. For instance, you may reference 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 above number is a five-year average. Savings in the salaries and benefits would accrue as the face to face instructional component of the program is phased out. District staff members have an average annual expense of $65,000, including benefits. By reducing the amount of staff by percentages per year, this will allow the transition to be a gradual shift.

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 district.)

* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 1/6/14

* Narrative explanation

Once the Northmont Secondary Academy is notified it is included in the first round of Straight A Funding during the week of December 16, 2013, the Assistant Superintendent will notify the planning team members who developed the innovative program and wrote the grant proposal, and other stakeholders, such as the Northmont Board of Education and the curriculum vendor. The planning team, who will form the implementation team, will meet on Jan. 6, 2014, to define roles, responsibilities and the path forward. The Assistant Superintendent will lead the implementation team, which will include Northmont Schools' Business Manager, Technology Supervisor: NHS Principal, NSA Treasurer, Sinclair Community College Superintendent for School and Community Partnerships, and the Montgomery County Education Service Center Director of Instructional Services. Since parent input was critical in the creation of NSA’s flexible program, a parent representative will be included on the implementation team. The tentative agreements already in place with the online curriculum vendor and Sinclair Community College will be formalized as part of the transition from planning to implementation. No barriers are foreseen in this phase. A strong communication effort was vitally important to the planning process. Through regular face-to-face meetings, emails and phone calls, team members shared information and developed the innovative concepts. They also worked closely with the Assistant Superintendent and Treasurer, teacher representatives and other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the planning process.

* Narrative explanation

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 1/6/14

The first phase of implementation coincides with the end of the planning phase. Since virtually all the planning team members have been meeting regularly since the grant idea was first proposed,
Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

Resources in the classroom.

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

22. If so, how?

To duplicate the Northmont program, a school and its personnel must be committed to listening to its stakeholders and developing strategies designed specifically to address their needs. Northmont students told officials they could not perform at the pace, nor the initial level of rigor expected in the secondary school's traditional setting. Their parents said the school would need to be flexible as their risk population. Adding 1 to 1 technology, a high-variety high-quality, standards-aligned, credit courses and certified teachers available through the curriculum vendor to assist students online and on-demand. The project is rooted in efforts that began 4 years ago when Northmont's data showed that 2-3% of students were causing most discipline problems. More than 90% were over-age and credit deficient. Some 93% had a history of poor academic performance. Over 85% read at least 2 years below grade level. Most had little support from home and over 50% had transferred to Northmont during middle elementary school or later. Disciplinary actions were commonplace. District officials talked with students and parents, learning that students thought the work was overwhelming. They lacked skills, and parents were unable to help. Students were embarrassed in lower-level classes, so they would act out or miss school in order to be suspended and give themselves respite. Most parents had moved to Northmont because of good schools but became disenfranchised when their children's needs were unmet. The boarding volume of incoming students has helped and the district has begun a shift in its work and family obligations. A GED-prep program was added in the 2012-13 school year. 14 of 16 seniors graduated or earned a GED. Of 12 enrolled in the GED program that year, 6 passed, 4 more had passed all pre-test sections and 2 were unaccounted for. Officials are finding that discipline incidents are lower with the alternative program. In 2008-09, 494 students were assigned Saturday school compared to 205 students in 2012-13; 72 students received the maximum number of Saturday in 2008-09 vs. 8 in 2012-13; and there were 3 cases of repeated violations in 2008-09 vs. 9 cases in 2012-13. In just a few years, the alternative program has begun to bolster student achievement. Students who were otherwise unlikely to graduate have done so or earned a GED. Discipline issues have decreased. Through the proposed program, even greater impacts aligned with Straight A funding goals will be realized. With 1 to 1 technology and the Advanced Academics online curriculum (including electives and advanced placement courses), NSA's at-risk students will have access to rich instructional resources. Credit options will be provided based on the "classroom," which is now interactive, and online tutorials will be offered through the internet access. Anticipated enrollment growth of the conversion school (currently 50, growing to 100 in 5 years) will bring additional ADE revenues, while vendor-provided accredited teachers will allow NSA to decrease its staffing, resulting in sustainable cost reductions without diminishing instructional quality.

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

School officials are optimistic that the Northmont district's comprehensive educational reform will allow them to close the loop with respect to how schools should operate in the 21st Century. For those wishing the traditional approach, the current high school performs extremely well. State Report Card ratings of "Excellent" or "Excellent With Distinction" have been the norm for the last decade. Athletic, band and fine arts programs are vibrant. Students have a broader selection of academic programs and electives. The district is committed to educational excellence. The facilities are aging, and the district is limited in what it can do. Since all English classes are year-long, one-half credit is not issued. That student would have to repeat the entire class at Northmont High School to receive the credit necessary for graduation. The proposed program would allow that student to earn one-half credit through the online curriculum. Goal 2: Reduced Spending - Benchmarks: A wide variety of courses will be delivered electronically, thus reducing personnel costs. A greater number of students will choose district sponsored electives, reducing the overall cost of providing those courses.

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.

Goal 1: Student Achievements - Benchmarks: Students will not only graduate but also be ready to begin college or enroll in career-focused certification programs. - The number of students required to take developmental courses will be reduced. - Students who return to district schools from alternative settings will improve their achievement. - Students' behavior in school will be conducive to learning. As the program evolves, even greater gains will accrue. The online curriculum offers 200 courses, including electives, as well highly qualified staff to engage students. Laptops will allow all students to learn in a responsive, antihierarchical environment. Success in the alternative program will be measured by increased student attendance and completion. As students move to college, they will find their courses transferable and their skills prepared for the digital workplace. The district is limited in what it can do. Since all English classes are year-long, one-half credit is not issued. That student would have to repeat the entire class at Northmont High School to receive the credit necessary for graduation. The proposed program would allow that student to earn one-half credit through the online curriculum. Goal 2: Reduced Spending - Benchmarks: A wide variety of courses will be delivered electronically, thus reducing personnel costs. A greater number of students will choose district sponsored electives, reducing the overall cost of providing those courses.
Students better learning opportunities from remote sites, any time of day, without demands on teaching staff. The new program will allow the flexibility to offer more classes with less staff and service more students by offering assigned office hours rather than full-time instruction.

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.

With just a few adjustments, the new program will be evaluated in much the same way as the incremental implementation has been over the past two years. The proposed online curriculum provides for thorough documentation of student progress in real time with easy access for parents, teachers and students. It also provides the opportunity to conference with highly qualified teaching staff. Every student and entering NSA must first meet with counselors and the program administrator. In this meeting, goals are established, procedures and protocols are determined, learning objectives are agreed upon, and the rationale for the student’s enrollment is articulated. Schedules are made with input from parents, students, counseling staff and teaching staff. He times for in-class vs. out-of-class instruction are determined with input from the district truant officer. NSA administrators will continue to conduct yearly evaluations to determine the percentage of students with senior status who graduate. Relative credit attainment will be monitored to assess whether students in the program earn more relative credits than their counterparts in the traditional school setting. These numbers will be tracked over time to determine gains and losses each year. Discipline reports will continue to be compared yearly, with the goal of continuing the decrease in severe and/or repeated offenses. The proposed program’s new offerings will be an incentive to draw additional students. The goal is to double enrollment to 100 students over the next five years. An operational goal is to bring 90% of the home-schooled population back to district schools. The district currently loses approximately $1,000,000 annually to students living in the Northmont catchment area who attend an online or home school. The staff has a working template in place, and they are confident that the methods being employed are showing growing success. All data sources confirm this assertion. Test scores and passage rates of OGT and GED programs are up eight to ten times as compared to the before the pilot program was instituted. Parent anecdotal accounts and student interviews will be integrated into the Aspirations component of the school improvement process. Each student will continue to be monitored weekly for grades and progress.

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.

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I Accept Jennifer Whitton Treasurer, Northmont Secondary Academy 10/25/2013

I Accept George Caras Superintendent, Northmont Secondary Academy 10/25/2013