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Adjusted Allocation | 0.00 |
Remaining | -5,000,000.00 |
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: STEM RIDGE (Reaching Individual Development with Global Education)

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**

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.
academic achievement in the economically disadvantaged and special education subgroups has been identified. We lack appropriate technologies to support 21st Century Learning as well as College and Career Readiness. There is an absence of a “town” center where local and neighboring community members can share resources and support each other through a variety of learning and community involvement opportunities. The STEM RIDGE project will address the preceding problem statements. North Ridge Local Schools will establish a centralized Learning Community to increase student achievement, reduce costs for the district, and advance community relationships and shared resources. This is an innovative project in that it addresses 1) the challenge to build shared resources in a large geographic area, 2) the lack of a STEM framework and/or other College and Career Ready programming in Licking County, 3) the need for state-of-the-art classrooms designed for innovative instructional delivery, 4) the need to better support our special populations, and 5) a 21st Century Learning environment for students and members of the larger community. The Learning Community Center is an innovative approach to create a culture that fosters educational sustainability and a focus on continuous improvement. Major activities include: The implementation of 1:1 technologies that support math and science programming as well as other curricular resources across the district; 1:1 technologies will also support the need for differentiated instruction, individualized learning opportunities, and specialized programming. The implementation of this technology will ensure that students are using 21st Century Skills to be College and Career Ready. Establishment of a Learning Center, complete with appropriate technologies, which fosters a centralized Learning Community. This Learning Center will bring together students preK-5, an Intensive Behavioral Support Program (IBSP), a special education preschool, technology and science STEM labs, and other available spaces to be shared with the larger community.

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 first goal is that STEM RIDGE will provide the advancement of all students’ achievement through focused curriculum and programming, access to 21st century technologies, and the use of an individualized learning platform to address students’ specific learning needs. This goal will be met through the following activities: “New math and science STEM curriculum aligned to current Common Core and Ohio Standards *Access to a Learning Center with current 21st century technology and STEM resources *1:1 ratio of student devices to provide for individualized differentiated instruction, intervention, and enrichment opportunities Program to address the needs of low achieving subgroups The second goal is that STEM RIDGE will provide a significant reduction in spending by fostering the following activities: *Instructional delivery of curriculum will reduce costs of hard copy curriculum resources *Bringing special education students serviced out of district onto the main campus; this will reduce transportation and tuition expenditure *The opening of the Learning Center will reduce costs by consolidating district transportation to one central location (PreK-3 moved to Alexandria. Ohio to the main campus) The third goal is that STEM RIDGE will promote the advancement of shared resources through the development of community relationships in order to prepare college and Career Ready students. This goal will be met though the following activities: Construction of a Learning Center which allows for: 1. A centralized Learning Community complete with 21st century technologies and STEM resources 2. Available spaces to be shared with the larger community 3. Opportunities for early childhood development and extended learning in preparation for college and/or the workforce 4. Information sharing and/or trainings with parents and the local community 5. Before and after school community childcare programming.

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?

$0.00

* Total project cost

15. What reoccurring 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)

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

$600,000.00

* Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

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 innovative project is self-sustaining. Although we will be hiring additional staff to support the STEM RIDGE initiative, the cost reductions that will be in excess when compared to the new/recurring costs associated with continuing this project. The substantial transportation and tuition savings incurred through the centralized Learning Center will more than pay for the ongoing costs needed to continue the project beyond the grant timeline. Transportation Tuition Staff (preK-3, special ed.) STEM & new Special Ed) Currently spending $761,600.00 $148,000.00 $0.00 Ongoing costs $0.00 $0.00 $214,927.00 Expected savings $761,600.00 $148,000.00 $0.00

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation of the timeline for the successful implementation of the 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 at 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.)

* Narrative explanation

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 01/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

1. Identify, investigate, and purchase math and science curriculum to support STEM initiative Plan: January 1, 2014 - June 30, 2014 Classroom teachers, principals, Director of Technology, and the Teaching and Learning Department will identify and purchase math and science curriculum that is aligned with Ohio's Common Core and New Standards as well as meets the needs of the STEM and 1:1 initiatives. All curriculums will be explored from a variety of vendors to choose programming that focuses on 21st century technology skills, is STEM focused, and prepares students to be college and career ready. 2. Research and purchase 1:1 technology in the Middle School, grade 5 science and math classes, and grade 9 science and math classes Plan: January 1, 2014 - June 30, 2014 Appropriate individualized technologies will be determined by classroom teachers and the Director of Technology in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Department to fit with new STEM-based curriculum. The Director of Technology will work with state of the art business and community resources and other consulting agencies to prepare buildings with the necessary technology.
Infrastructure that will be required with the new technological implementation. 3. Re-integrate special education programming to the main campus via the Intensive Behavioral Support Program Plan: January 1, 2014 - June 30, 2014 4. Appropriate equipment, curriculum, and supplies to support nonrestrictive special education classrooms will be determined by Intervention Specialists and the Special Education Teacher. Purchase of a 1:1 Technology Coordinator, Planning Board, Finance Committee, Director of Business Services and Transportation, Building and Grounds Supervisor, Director of Technology, and the Department of Teaching and Learning will work with a selected Construction Management Firm to build the Learning Center facility. Appropriate STEM based equipment, technologies, and 1:1 devices for the building will be determined by classroom teachers, STEM Coordinator, and the Director of Technology before the start of the school year. 3. Re-integrate special education programming to the main campus via the Intensive Behavioral Support Program Implement: August 1, 2014 The goal of special education programming will be implemented August 1, 2014 by Intervention Specialists and supported by the Director of Special Education, Behavioral Support Specialist, as well as other support staff when appropriate. Professional development for teachers regarding students’ specific needs will take place before the start of the school year. The social integration of students into the community will begin in the spring of 2014 through planned initiatives created in collaboration between Northridge staff and staff from previous placements will ensure best practices are in place and carried out. 4. Purchase of a Learning Center Implement, July 15, 2014 Construction of the building will begin mid-July and take approximately six to eight months to complete. Implement: April 1, 2015 - August 1, 2015 The STEM technology and science labs, classrooms, community space, conference room, and special education classroom will be equipped with STEM based technologies and other materials as planned by the classroom teachers, Intervention Specialists, Director of Technology, Director of Special Education, and T&L Department. The Director of Technology will work with state of the art business and community resources and other consulting agencies to prepare the building with the necessary technology infrastructure that will be needed to support the Learning Center. The Learning Center will open for student, teacher, and community use on August 1, 2015. A barrier that may occur would be the inadequate preparation of teaching staff to properly implement the STEM focused curriculum infused with the 1:1 technologies. To mitigate this barrier, Northridge will be committed to the careful planning, transparent communication, as well as creating a professional development program. To support this work, additional staff (as indicated in the Financial Impact Report) will be hired early in the project timeline to ensure positive and successful implementation. Another barrier that may occur is that the building would not be finished in time to open for the 2015-2016 school year. While this may prolong the implementation of the Learning Center, it will not affect the STEM initiatives provided through new curriculum and new technologies. In the event that the entire project cannot be completed within the timeline, project milestones can be updated to reflect the time remaining to complete. Stakeholders for the project implementation will be engaged in ongoing communication and consistent feedback. Further, our timeline, while the estimate is six to eight months to build, we’ve allowed for over two months.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 08/01/2014

Narrative Explanation

The project is also aligned with Race to the Top goals and other current state and local educational initiatives.

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

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

Yes

22. If so, how?

The STEM Ridgetop model, with its significant savings, best practices, and STEM infusion can be implemented in similar districts with comparable configurations and needs. Specifically, a district must have available space to accommodate special education and learning center structures. The district must also identify academic areas of weakness, as evidenced by the state Report Card, and begin implementing programming there. Our model entails a centralized Learning Center with a STEM focus. Initial technology and curriculum implementation is rooted at the middle school level (our area of need) where it can grow and branch out in both directions to the Primary and High School. To replicate the STEM Ridgetop project, a district can follow these steps: 1) implement and provide professional...
23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

The Northridge stakeholders will continue to support STEM RIDGE initiatives after the grant has expired. There are minimal costs necessary to sustain the programming when compared to the current recurring costs of the district. The substantial and lasting impact of this project can be measured by the following outcomes: Students’ math and science achievement scores will improve, as evidenced by the state Report Card, pre- and post-assessments, MAP, OAA, and value-added assessment data. Students’ achievement scores in subgroups will improve, as evidenced by the state Report Card, pre- and post-assessment, MAP, OAA, and value-added assessment data. Special education students will benefit from the services available at the Learning Center and in the district, as evidenced by meeting or exceeding IEP goals, data collected from surveys, and social integration feedback. The Learning Center and increased technology opportunities will aide in the development of students’ 21st century skills and better prepare them to be College and Career Ready. Some evidence to support this outcome includes the state Report Card, OGT scores, end-of-course exams, pre- and post-assessments, EXPLORE, PLAN, SAT, and/or ACT scores. A centralized Learning Community will create a culture that fosters sustainability and continuous improvement through shared resources. The lasting benefit from the opportunities available will empower the greater community and provide a renewed sense of cooperative identity.

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 specific benchmarks related to the fund goals are indicated below. The success of long-term objectives is based on benchmark comparative data points. Data points are collected from the new Northridge Local School District Report Card, which is distributed by ODE. The first goal is that STEM RIDGE will promote the advancement of all students’ achievement through focused curriculum and programming, access to 21st century technologies, and the use of an individualized learning platform to address students’ specific learning needs. This goal will be benchmarked in the following ways: short-term objectives (short-term objectives refer to implementation of new programming) “New math and science STEM curriculum aligned to current Common Core and Ohio Standards (June 30, 2014) Access to a Learning Center with current 21st century technology and STEM resources (August 1, 2015)” *1:1 ratio of student devices to provide for individualized differentiated instruction, intervention, and enrichment opportunities (August 1, 2015) Programming to address the needs of low achieving subgroups (June 30, 2014) Long-term objectives (demonstration of successful implementation by year 5) is based on benchmark comparative data points *Overall increased student achievement in math and science, as evidenced by a Report Card Achievement grade of B or higher and a Progress: Value-added Overall grade of C or higher *Overall increased achievement for student subgroups, as evidenced by a Report Card Progress: Students with Disabilities grade of C or higher and Report Card Progress: lowest 20% in Achievement grade of C or higher *Overall increased student achievement in Gap Closing: Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) grade of C or higher. *Continuous improvement in all data points is expected. The second goal is that STEM RIDGE will provide a significant reduction in spending by fostering a learning community where students’ individual learning needs are met through an innovative delivery of curriculum, the inclusion of special populations, and a centralized campus environment. This goal will be benchmarked in the following ways: Short-term objectives *Bringing special education students serviced out of district will reduce transportation and enrollment expenditure as evidence by the Financial Impact Table and Question 16 *expected savings of $373,000.00 (August 1, 2014) Long-term objectives (demonstration of successful implementation by year 5) “The opening and sustainability of the Learning Center will reduce costs by consolidating district transportation to one central location as evidenced by the Financial Impact Table and Question 16 *expected savings of $536,600.00 (Prek-3 moved from Alexandria, Ohio to the main campus) The third goal is that STEM RIDGE will promote the advancement of shared resources through the development of community relationships in order to prepare College and Career Ready students. This goal will be benchmarked in the following ways: Short-term objectives The opportunity for students, parents, staff, and community members to utilize a centralized Learning Center complete with 21st century technologies and STEM resources (August 1, 2015). Long-term objectives (demonstration of successful implementation by year 5) “Students will demonstrate College and Career Readiness by achieving 75% or above proficiency on end-of-course exams. *Increase attendance and parent involvement in school-related activities *Provide shared resources and foster relationships for the larger community, including Licking County STEM collaboration In order to demonstrate the success of the long-term objectives, Northridge will collect and evaluate end-of-course exam data, track attendance for Learning Center use, track parent involvement in school-related activities, track shared resources, and collect and respond to survey feedback.

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.

The first goal is that STEM RIDGE will promote the advancement of all students’ achievement. The method by which progress will be measured is based on benchmark comparative data points. Data points are collected from the new Northridge Local School District Report Card, which is distributed by ODE. Once Report Card data is released, student achievement data will be reviewed by stakeholders on an annual basis. If sufficient yearly progress toward the goal has not been made, additional in-house professional development will be used to increase the quality of instruction. Peer mentors will also be provided to teachers who show a lack of appropriate student growth. In addition, a curriculum and technology audit will be conducted every two years to ensure the fidelity and validity of materials and resources being used. The second goal is that STEM RIDGE will provide a significant reduction in spending. The method by which progress will be measured is based on the end-of-year fiscal report. This report is evidence necessary to evaluate the savings. Northridge does not foresee insufficient progress in this area based on the five-year forecast. The third goal is that STEM RIDGE will promote the advancement of shared resources through the development of community relationships in order to prepare College and Career Ready students. One method by which progress will be measured includes yearly attendance tracking for the Learning Center use, parent involvement and the use of shared resources. Survey feedback will also be collected and responded to annually. If insufficient use of the Learner Center is noted, Northridge will formulate and carry out a plan to increase communication with community stakeholders. Some ideas may include special events, guest speakers, student demonstrations, and community benefits. College and Career Readiness will be measured through end-of-course exams. If sufficient yearly progress toward the goal has not been made, additional in-house professional development and peer coaching will be used to increase the quality of instruction. In addition, a curriculum and technology audit will be conducted every two years to ensure the fidelity and validity of materials and resources being used. The STEM RIDGE project’s final analysis of success will come from reaching all three Straight A Fund goals that the proposal aimed to achieve. This STEM RIDGE project will be shared with other education providers. A short-term goal is to share the project model with other local Licking County districts. A long-term goal is to present our project model at state conferences, including OSBA, OAASFEP, and Ohio Technology Conference among others.

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 Sabrina Vallery, Ed.D. Director of Teaching and Learning, Northridge Local School District October 25, 2013