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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -201,030.00
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: Embracing new learningscapes

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

This innovative project, "Embracing New Learningscapes," is a continuation of the school district's current math and science integration project. It uses a three-pronged approach: 1) investing in and embracing locally developing math and science curricular replacement units (CRUs), 2) embracing iPad technology, and 3) committing to project-based teaching and learning. Grade 4-9 math and science teachers and students in Northwestern Local School district are the project participants.

3. Total Students Impacted:

550

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for lead applicant: Sharon Saunders
Organizational name of lead applicant: Northwestern Local School District
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 046268
Address of lead applicant: 5610 Troy Road
Phone Number of lead applicant: 937-964-3251
Email Address of lead applicant: saunders@northwestern.k12.oh.us

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: N/A
Organizational name of secondary applicant: N/A
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): N/A
Address of secondary applicant: N/A
Phone number of secondary applicant: N/A
Email address of secondary applicant: N/A

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: 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.

N/A

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.

Responsibility for implementing the project will be a district team. The collaborative leadership team includes the Jr/Sr High School Principal, Elementary Principal, Curriculum Coordinator, and grade 4-9 math and science teachers.

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.

This innovative project, "Embracing New Learningscapes," is a continuation of the school district's current math and science integration project. It uses a three-pronged approach: 1) investing in and embracing locally developing math and science curricular replacement units (CRUs) in grades 4-9, 2) embracing iPad technology, and 3) committing to project-based teaching and learning. Students will have greater accessibility to technology, allowing the interconnection of math and science through project-based learning. The contemporary technology, iPad, provides necessary access and opportunities for project-based learning and a dynamic approach to teaching in which students explore real-world problems and challenges. The CRUs will enable teachers to teach in a cross-disciplinary approach that encompasses multiple areas of expertise and ways of knowing. Targeted and ongoing professional learning will be supported and enhanced through this project. The twenty grade 4-9 math and science teachers and intervention specialists participating in this project will be provided opportunities as a community of learners to create CRUs and review of science and math apps for the iOS devices.

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.

With the type of active and engaged learning this project provides, students are inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they're studying. This deeper knowledge will align with the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics, Ohio Revised Science Content Standards, and Common Core Literacy in Science, and Technical Subjects learning expectations.

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:

- Enter a project budget
- 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.
- If subsection (b) is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to how the project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

$80 iPads: $104,220
180 Keyboards: $12,420
6 Powersync Bretford Carts: $17,400
180 Apple Origami Workstations: $54,000
30 hours teacher professional learning (summer 2014 and summer 2015)
14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

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.

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

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

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.

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.)

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

We expect the following changes to instructional practices in grade 4-9 math and science classrooms: engaging, integrated instruction and project based learning.

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.

Early findings in this project indicate students are more engaged in their learning, participating teachers are using the iPad technology in innovative ways. At this early stage of the project, teachers are teaching skills and assessing student learning in more dynamic ways. Project-based learning and assessments are being integrated more prevalently; and students are engaged in relevant, purposeful learning experiences. Studies have proven that when implemented well, project-based learning (PBL) can increase retention of content and improve students' attitudes towards learning, among other benefits.

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

22. If so, how?

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

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

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.

Benchmark 1: Strong evidences of project based, integrated math and science instruction in grade 4-9 classrooms Benchmark 2: Increased career and college readiness in 5 years measured by an increase in college remediation classes and overall increases in nationally normed tests Benchmark 3: Strong evidences of increases in math and science high stake test results for all students (lowest to highest quintiles)

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 evaluation questions for the project are: Short Term: To what extent does the Learningscapes program impact participating student's preparedness for high stakes testing? To what extent does the Learningscapes program impact participating students' interest in STEM careers? Long Term: To what extent does the Learningscapes program impact participating students' career and college readiness? To what extent does the Learningscapes program impact participating students' interest in STEM careers? The evaluation approach will use both quantitative and qualitative measures to evaluate the implementation and impact of the activities in this project. The district curriculum coordinator will develop the instruments. These will include student, parent, and teacher surveys and OAA and OGT analysis reports. Also, student work samples will be examined. The project team will work together to analyze the results at the end of each school year 2014-2017.
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. Anthony T. Orr, Superintendent, Northwestern Local Schools October 24, 2013