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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -370,567.97
Norwayne Local (050567) - Wayne County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (58)

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: Norwayne Local Schools Reduction of Fiscal Year and Student Achievement Project

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.

Norwayne Local Schools will increase their five-year financial forecast by performing energy-saving projects and by adding the Apex Learning Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program to increase graduation rate. The online credit recovery program will encourage students to remain in school for a modified educational setting. The district will also implement the Apex Learning Exceptional Educators Program. This educational component will engage students in both the middle and high school, with a rigorous curriculum. In addition to the online programs, the district will purchase three new computer carts (30 laptops each) to allow additional technology use in classrooms. Students will be able to access the Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard that will ultimately change the mindset, encourage conservation and lower utility bills through 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.

Norwayne Local Schools will increase their five-year financial forecast by performing energy-saving projects and by adding the Apex Learning Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program to increase graduation rate. The online credit recovery program will encourage students to remain in school for a modified educational setting. The district will also implement the Apex Learning Exceptional Educators Program. This educational component will engage students in both the middle and high school, with a rigorous curriculum. In addition to the online programs, the district will purchase three new computer carts (30 laptops each) to allow additional technology use in classrooms. Students will be able to access the Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard that will ultimately change the mindset, encourage conservation and lower utility bills through education.

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Doug Zimmerly
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Norwayne Local Schools
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 050567
Address of secondary applicant: 350 S Main Street, Creston, Ohio 44217
Phone number of secondary applicant: 330-435-6384
Email address of secondary applicant: dzimmerl@gmail.com

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.

Jill Owed Palmer Conservation Consulting
2305 East Aurora Road Twinsburg, Ohio 44087 419-930-7558 jowed@palmerc2.com

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.

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 team that will be implementing this project is made up of Norwayne Local Schools Staff - Treasurer/Business Manager: Bob Rinehart and High School Principal: Doug Zimmerly. The innovative project will be implemented by Palmer Conservation Consulting. Energy Consultant: Jill Owed. Palmer Conservation has experience in control integration and applying for/project managing capital improvement projects such as House Bill 264. Palmer Conservation Consulting also acts as the energy consultant for several school districts and government entities throughout the state of Ohio.

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
- 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.

There are several components of this project that will ultimately reduce the five-year fiscal forecast, improve student achievement and utilize resources in the classroom. The project will center on an Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard. The Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard will provide the real-time collection of utility data and will be displayed on a kiosk that is visible upon entering the building. This building dashboard will be accessible by teachers, students and staff and will be utilized in the classroom for energy saving and sustainability. This data can be used in Math for data analysis and graphing as well as in Science courses to analyze energy usage and to brainstorm the ways in which energy can be saved throughout the building. Norwayne will also participate in local and regional competitions, in which energy savings are collected and compared with other schools/districts. This feature encourages students to get involved with the environment and have environmental awareness. In addition to increasing student achievement and providing resources in the classroom, the dashboard’s real-time data will bring awareness and ultimately reduce the utility (electric, natural gas, water) bills throughout the Norwayne Local School District. Norwayne will also add three computer carts with 30 computers each for use by teachers/students in the K-5 building. This will increase student achievement and aide in the technology component of the new Common Core Standards. Norwayne Local Schools will also increase student achievement by implementing the web-based Apex Learning Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program. The program will take place the second half of the day. The program will increase student achievement and keep students within the district. The goal behind the implementation of the Dropout Prevention Program is to encourage students to complete high school. The program will provide the opportunity to participate in educational classes for credit - to graduate, in the morning, and to actively engage in the work-field for the second half of the day. The Exceptional Learners Program will take place the second half of the day, giving gifted students the opportunity to take higher-level courses. Norwayne Local Schools will recommit the current high school building automation system to ensure that fundamental HVAC building systems are calibrated and operating as specified to deliver functional and efficient performance, as per original specifications. This upgrade will result in improvements in energy efficiency, occupant comfort and indoor air quality and will ultimately reduce the overall electric bill as well as yearly monitoring fees. The district will use the grant to upgrade gym lighting in both the middle school and elementary as well as exterior parking lot lighting and wall packs for both buildings. This will reduce spending significantly.

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.

Student Achievement: This project will increase student achievement by using real-life data and experience to identify with energy conservation and gain a better-level understanding of how the world works. The district will significantly increase student achievement by adding a Dropout Prevention and Credit Recovery Program for struggling high school students. This gives the district the opportunity to keep
14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

$370,567.97 * 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).

Please see attached PDF: "Norwayne Cost Breakdown for Narrative".

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.

$42,041.00 * 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.

Following the expiration of the grant, the district will be responsible for the upkeep of technology throughout the district. The computers will have to be updated and maintained, however this cost will be supplemented through the savings brought on by the lighting retrofit and the Apex Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program, which has been designed to keep students in-district. Because the electricity will be reduced by a minimum of $8,000.00/year the computers will be purchased by the Apex Fund, the district can allocate the funding from those programs/bills to upkeep of technology throughout the district. The district will also be responsible for hiring a tutor to monitor the Apex Learning Programs. These costs will total approximately $36,861/year, this includes salaries and benefits. The Apex Learning Program will be purchased yearly, totaling $4,000/year. This guarantees the district 25 seats that can be transferred between students. The Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard that serves as both an educational component and an energy-saving component will cost the district $3,240, every three years, for a software license renewal.

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

$53,200.00 * 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 expected savings that will result from the project are gas, electric and water from the Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard that will be implemented to bring awareness of the cost of these utilities. The competitors will significantly reduce electric, gas and water bills throughout the district. By using outside (Straight A) funds for a lighting retrofit, the district will be able to save approximately $8,000/year on electric which can be used to bring resources into the classroom. The controls project at the high school will also save the district annually, bringing these funds back into the classroom as well. The final component, the Apex Learning Program, will prevent the district from providing funds to outside sources such as online and charter schools. (approximately $44,000 per 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 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 Apex Learning Programs (Dropout Prevention and Recovery and Exceptional Learners) are sustainable because students will continue to be a part of the Norwayne Local School District; rather than a GED Program, Online Schooling Program or Charter School. The Apex Learning Programs will begin following the end of the school year and will be on track to be completed by July 1, 2014.

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): | 01/01/2014 |

* Narrative explanation

All components of the project have been planned and are ready to be implemented upon approval of the Straight A Fund Grant monies. Lighting and control recommendation have been made and proposals have been issued. Research has been completed on computer pricing and computers are ready to order. The Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard proposal has been made and the Apex Learning Programs are ready to be purchased and implemented for the second half of the year.

| Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): | 01/15/2014 - 06/30/2014 |

* Narrative explanation

There are several components of this project. The Dashboard, Tridium Platform and Credit Recovery/Exceptional Learners Program will begin right away as well as the purchasing of laptops for each computer lab. The lighting project will go out to bid and cannot be implemented until summer break (June/July 2014).

| Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): | 07/01/2014 |

* Narrative explanation

All projects will be implemented by July 1, 2014. With the exception of lighting, all educational components will be ready for use for the second half of the year (January 15, 2014). The lighting must be completed after students have been dismissed for summer vacation. The project will begin following the end of the school year and will be on track to be completed by July 1, 2014.

* Provide a brief narrative 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.

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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.

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

22. If so, how?

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.

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

The project will increase student achievement through technology, using the Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard and the added technology through computer carts for the elementary school. The District will lower the dropout rate over the next five years by implementing the Apex Learning Dropout Prevention and Recovery Programs. The Apex Learning Programs will be measured based on the success of student achievement. In offering the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program, Norwayne Local Schools has set the goal to raise the graduation rate from 91.9% to 96.5% over the next five years. The success of the Exceptional Learners Program will be measured through student achievement and test scores. The goal of the program is to challenge higher-level students by providing a rigorous curriculum. The programs will be evaluated day to day and will contain student progress reports throughout each session.

This will allow teacher and district to see the effects of the programs for each student. Modifications will be made (additional tutoring, time allowances, etc) based on student success. The teacher and curriculum director will make necessary changes to the programs to ensure student success. Technology is a key component in education today. Per the State of Ohio, technology must be integrated into the classroom. Included in the Dashboard is an application of real time data, following the implementation of the project over the summer. There are no components of the project that will not be easily benchmarked.

26. 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 project has set the goal of increasing student achievement through technology, using the Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard and the added technology through computer carts for the elementary school. The project will increase student achievement through technology, using the Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard and the added technology through computer carts for the elementary school. The project will increase student achievement through technology, using the Educational Energy Conservation Dashboard and the added technology through computer carts for the elementary school.