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### Application

**Owentangy Local (046763) - Delaware County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (418)**

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:** Owentangy University

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 response to no more than three sentences.

3. **A) Applicant Information - General Information, Experience and Capacity**

4. **B) Project Description - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes**

5. **1. Project Title:** Owentangy University

6. **Executive Summary:** Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 9 you seek to achieve. Please limit your response to no more than three sentences. O wentangy University, a stand-alone facility offering college credit-bearing course options, mentorship programs, and work experience to juniors and seniors from the three O wentangy high schools, will bolster student achievement for college and career readiness, alleviate soaring enrollment numbers, and reduce spending by eliminating the need to build a fourth high school in the district. Professional development and additional training of teachers coupled with further development of online curriculum will provide students with college credit-bearing course options, authentic work experiences, and mentorships for students seeking up to two years of college credit while in high school. Options are centralized and additional accelerated, dual-enrollment, postsecondary interactive video distance learning, and advanced-placement options are offered, fostering independence, ownership, and student-driven success.

7. **1600 3. Total Students Impacted:**

8. **4. Lead applicant primary contact:**

9. **Organizational name of applicant:** Owentangy Local School District

10. **Address of lead applicant:** 814 Shanahan Road, OH 43035

11. **Phone Number of lead applicant:** 740-657-4013

12. **Email Address of lead applicant:** jack_fette@olsd.us

13. **5. Secondary applicant contact:**

14. **Organizational name of secondary applicant:** NA

15. **Address of secondary applicant:** NA

16. **Phone number of secondary applicant:** NA

17. **Email address of secondary applicant:** NA

18. **6. List all other participating entities by name:**

19. **7. Partnership and consortia agreements and letters of support:**

20. **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.**

21. **Curriculum Director, OLSD, Jack Fette - Curriculum leader for a district that includes 23 schools and more than 18,000 students, Mr. Fette directs efforts to develop and implement flexible post-secondary enrollment options for students. He oversees innovative learning programs at every level in K-12, and develops the district's strategic plan based on the needs of the 21st century learning landscape in Delaware County and surrounding areas. Instructional Technology Supervisor, OLSD, Jessica Fields - Mrs. Fields connects teachers and other instructional leaders with technical and pedagogical experts to support the use of technology in classroom instruction. She manages the integration of all systems that support learning in OLSD classrooms. Director of Secondary Curriculum, OLSD, Vince DeTillio - Mr. DeTillio brings extensive experience as an instructional leader and coach in inquiry-based teaching and curriculum development to O wentangy. He is responsible for curriculum and instruction in OLSD's middle and high schools, and will directly support the development of STEM instructional programming. Director of Business Management, OLSD, Jeff Gordon - Among his duties, Mr. Gordon manages the creation of learning spaces and all construction projects in the district. Supervisor of Gifted Education and Federal Programs, OLSD, Melany Ondrus - Mrs. Ondrus is responsible for student identification as well as the creation and implementation of services related to meeting the needs of gifted learners. She also manages the allocation and use of federal grant programs district-wide.**

22. **9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve?**

23. **10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project?**

24. **11. Describe the innovative project.**

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*Student enrollment is over capacity in the three high schools comprising the Olentangy Local Schools district, and by the 2018-2019 school year the stretch capacity will have been surpassed. This proposal seeks to create Olentangy University, a stand-alone facility offering college credit-bearing course options, mentorship programs, and work experience to juniors and seniors from all three Olentangy high schools. Olentangy University will not only alleviate burgeoning enrollment rates, but will also eliminate the need to build a 60 million dollar fourth high school building, representing a significant savings in facility construction and operations costs and staffing over time. A building in the district, approximately equidistant from each of the three high schools will be purchased and used for the O wentangy University facility. The cost of the building, as well as the yearly operating costs will be paid for using district funds. Using monies from the Straight A Fund, the building will be retrofitted and furnished to accommodate 15 classrooms, 6 personal offices, 1 front office, and a conference room. Laptops will be purchased to ensure that each student will have access to the necessary technology tools while at the facility. The online curriculum will be further developed in order to include diverse and innovative learning methods, including "massive open online courses" (MOOC), in which content from college courses are posted online and made openly accessible; "interactive video distance learning" (IVDL), during which students interact with a college instructor and classmates through synchronous video-conferencing technology; and "postsecondary enrollment options program" (PSEOP). In which students connect with the University of Akron for real-time, interactive delivery of college courses online. Teachers will receive additional training and professional development that will coincide with the offerings at Olentangy University. Classes pertaining to quality online instruction, distance and blended learning, dual enrollment (in partnership with Columbus State Community College), and advanced-placement certification will be offered through the onsite training center, the Olentangy Professional Development Academy (OPDA). Monies from the Straight A Fund will be used to pay for these courses, as well as to pay teachers for training that occurs during the summer.*
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 Olentangy University will provide options for students to earn college credit while in high school, thus bolstering student achievement through college preparedness. Dual enrollment and online courses will enable students to take up to two years of college/tuition-free courses while still in high school. Credit flexibility and independent study options will allow students to customize aspects of their learning according to their individual need and interests. Additional advanced placement courses will meet the needs of gifted students. The Teacher Academy and mentorship program will reach students from each of the school’s providing with internship experiences. Courses will be offered in the evening and during summer, allowing students to further customize their paths to college and career readiness. A Graduate School of Education that by 2018 over 69% of jobs will require some post-secondary work, with approximately half requiring a four year degree (Symonds, Schwartz, & Ferguson, 2011). Olentangy’s goal is to develop each student as a college and career ready individual demonstrated by earning college credit or completing a career development program prior to graduation.

With the option of dual enrollment, Olentangy University will offer a safe and convenient venue for students to take tuition-free college courses. By adding to the number of AP courses offered, the district will address the need for a school of high school and accelerated learners. Olentangy has the largest percentage of gifted students in the state. There are 7,055 gifted high school students in the district, including 557 eleventh graders and 497 twelfth graders. The options offered to students will enable them to create their own educational experience, allowing them to demonstrate independence and to take ownership of their college and career preparedness. Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast Olentangy University will not only alleviate rising enrollment rates, but will also be constructed for a total of 156,300.00. The total cost of retrofitting the existing facility is 156,300.00. Spending reductions will also be achieved by building additional staff.

A fourth high school would include the need for $26 million in non-instructional staff (administrators, counselors, coaches, custodians, etc.) annually. In place of the construction of a new high school building, Olentangy University will maximize space, cost, and flexible learning options for an efficient and innovative delivery of rigorous classroom instruction. Not building a fourth high school and the savings from additional staff and personnel in the affected entities.)

Olentangy’s University will result in a significant savings over time. The estimated cost of building a new high school building is $60 million dollars, with an additional $20 million annually for operating costs, whereas the cost of retrofitting the existing facility is $156,300.00. Spending reductions will also be achieved by constructing a new high school building in the district, rather than replicating three individual projects at each building. Utilization of this facility expands gifted services for students by offering additional AP courses above and beyond the capability of the high schools.

Olentangy University creates increased flexibility in learning options for students to progress through course work at an accelerated pace, thus fulfilling the district mission statement of facilitating maximum learning for every student.

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?

661,471.00  * 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 project (e.g., Title I funding, RTT 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).

Facility The stand-alone facility that will become Olentangy University is the former State University Delaware campus building. Straight A Funds will not be used to purchase the building, but rather district funds will be used to renovate the building, as well as to cover annual operating costs. The total cost of retrofitting the facility to bring it up to standards is $156,300.00. This includes construction of one additional classroom in order to bring the total number of classrooms to 15 as well as outfitting the 15 classrooms, 6 staff offices, 1 conference room, and 1 front office with furniture and office technology. Olentangy University will be a bring your own device (BYOD) environment for the students. There will be wireless access available to all students and faculty, and classrooms will be equipped with a projector, iPad and Apple TV for a total of $20,500.00. One laptop cart will be purchased for general use for $35,000.00. Twenty-one MacBook Pros will be purchased for the teachers and offices, which totals $32,099.00. The office will be equipped with a combination copier/printer/scanner/fax machine for $25,000.00. The cost of software and apps will total $31,000.00. The technology infrastructure necessary, which includes wiring, access points, controllers, switches, servers and routers, will cost $193,500.00. Lastly, a Distance Learning Center will be constructed at a cost of $74,884.00, which includes the technology and installation. In total, the cost of the labs, the cost of the software and additional technology, and the cost of the lab will be combined to total $411,783.00. Curriculum development A more robust online curriculum will be developed using monies from the Straight A Fund. Courses used district-wide will be developed internally by Olentangy staff and supplemented with purchased courses through Apex. The staff will develop additional online courses using Straight A teaching-tube is $3,200.00 per course plus benefits. At this rate, developing 20 new courses as identified to be included in curriculum, the total cost for curriculum development is $73,888.00. Teacher training Additional training will be required to prepare teachers for instruction at Olentangy University. Teachers will take courses through Olentangy Professional Development area of expertise, the training center on the campus of an Olentangy district school. Those courses will address topics including dual enrollment, credit flexibility, advanced placement, quality online instruction, and blended learning. Teachers may also get graduate credit through Ashland University, the cost of which would be covered using district funds. Evaluation A part-time grant manager will be hired for a period of 6 months to oversee the spending of grant funds and to create an evaluation tool which the district can use to evaluate Olentangy University after the first year and during subsequent years of implementation. The grant manager would also identify the specific tools needed to evaluate the instruction methods included at Olentangy University, and would coordinate these individual evaluations as part of an overall program evaluation. Straight A Funds will be used to pay the part-time grant manager $30 per hour, for 25 hours of work per week for 6 months for a total of $19,500.00.

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.

188,623.00  * 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.) There are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

Utilities (electricity, Water/sewer, Gas) for Olentangy University are anticipated. Grant funding will cover the cost of retrofitting the facility and providing the facility, providing additional training and professional development for teachers, and further development of the online curriculum. Acquisition of the building will be paid for by district funds. Annual operating costs for a new building will be new and recurring. Instructional staff is already accounted for in the five-year forecast. Utilities are estimated at $121,623 per year. In addition, future technology maintenance and license renewal costs are estimated in year 6 (FY18) at a cost of $67,000 and again in subsequent years. Those costs will be paid through the total savings of not building a fourth high school.

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

12,600,000.00  * 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.)

Olentangy University will eliminate the need to build an additional high school building in the district, thus saving the district approximately 60 million dollars in construction as well as an additional 20 million dollars in annual operating costs. The cost of retrofitting and renovating the facility is $156,300.00, which would cost $59,943,700.00 less than the construction of a new high school building. A new high school would cost $2.7 million annually in non-instructional staff members that would not be needed at Olentangy University. An alternative to a new building would be modulars at a cost $128,000.00 annually, not including the initial costs for outfitting those classrooms or ongoing utility costs. Olentangy University will reduce spending through course consolidation. Select courses will be taught only at Olentangy University and serve students at the three high schools, whereas each high school would otherwise need its own teacher for the course.

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 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 building will be purchased and operated using district funds. Straight A Funding monies will be used for the initial and one-time costs associated with implementing the project, including teacher training, curriculum development, and the purchase and installation of technology. The cost of these action items are non-recurring, yet will enable the project to operate.

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 and implementation application was started. 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): 02/01/2014

* Narrative explanation
Curriculum development: Straight A Funding will pay Olentangy staff members who are certified in online curriculum development to create 20 new courses, including advanced-placement courses,
19. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

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 benchmarks.

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

A mix of evaluation methods will be used in conjunction with Olentangy University partners. For example, the postsecondary enrollment options program (PSEOP) will be evaluated in conjunction with the University of Akron and the coordinator of Distance Learning Development by recording the number of students participating in the program as well as the number of college credit hours students take at the high school level. Dual enrollment will be evaluated in conjunction with Columbus State Community College, Olentangy University's dual enrollment partner. Individual online course components can be evaluated using methods provided by the Quality Matters Program. Programs specific to the Olentangy Local Schools district will be evaluated internally. For example, the mentorship program will be evaluated based on the number of hours a student completes in the program, and the number of business partnerships included in the program. AP courses will be evaluated internally by the Curriculum and Instruction Department staff. Technology utilization likewise will be evaluated internally by the Technology Department. ACT results, AP exam scores, student grades and student GPAs will be recorded. As part of the district-wide initiative to develop each student to be college and career ready, each student will be required to complete a career development program or earn college credit prior to graduation, beginning with the class of 2018. Therefore, the number of college credits earned will be recorded.

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.