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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -90,564.10
Application

Pickerington Local (046896) - Fairfield County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (403)

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: Enhancing and Expanding Reading Instruction Using Read 180

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.

Read 180 is currently being utilized in two junior high special education classrooms in the district. It is a research-based program that utilizes the concept of blended learning to teach the five ideas associated with reading. The students move at their own pace through an individualized program on the computer, receive direct instruction from their teacher, and gain exposure to literature at their independent reading level. Many of the students who use the program look forward to the structured learning that is provided in the Read 180 program. They also enjoy the success that they achieve in the individualized computer program. A freshman student who used it last year at the junior high school stated, "I thought it (Read 180) was great. I feel like I improved every time I did it and I had fun with it." He added that he thought it should be available at the high school level because it teaches kids how to read better. The goal of this project is to upgrade the current program that is being used at the junior high level and to extend the use into one classroom at each high school. Doing this will allow the students who are working on it at the junior high level to continue to work on it when they transition. Upgrading the current junior high program is necessary to ensure the students are working on the same program that is at the high school. The result of enhancing the Read 180 program will be increased achievement in reading for students who struggle with developing reading skills. There are currently fourteen laptops available at each junior high for the special education department. Each junior high has five special education teachers that check the laptops out for their students. The laptops were purchased through the LSTA grant for student to use to access printed material through text-to-speech programs, to meet accommodations on individual education plans. The teachers implementing Read 180 in their classrooms have told the students who use the laptops when they are available. However, there is a higher demand for students to have access to material for tests and worksheets, limiting the availability of the laptops. To implement the program with fidelity and have a positive impact on student achievement the software being used, expand it to the high schools, and provide technology that will be specifically for Read 180 use.

180 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Blythe Wood
Organizational name of lead applicant: Pickerington Local School District
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 046896
Address of lead applicant: 90 East Street Pickerington, OH 43147
Phone Number of lead applicant: (614) 920-6153
Email Address of lead applicant: blythe.wood@plsd.us

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Jennifer Govender
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Pickerington Local School District
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 046896
Address of secondary applicant: 90 East Street Pickerington, OH 43147
Phone number of secondary applicant: (614) 920-6145
Email address of secondary applicant: jennifer.govender@plsd.us

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.

VA

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.

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.

Read 180 is currently being utilized in two junior high special education classrooms in the district. It is a research-based program that utilized the concept of blended learning to teach the five ideas associated with reading. The students move at their own pace through an individualized program on the computer, receive direct instruction from their teacher, and gain exposure to literature at their independent reading level. Many of the students who use the program look forward to the structured learning that is provided in the Read 180 program. They also enjoy the success that they achieve in the individualized computer program. A freshman student who used it last year at the junior high school stated, "I thought it (Read 180) was great. I feel like I improved every time I did it and I had fun with it." He added that he thought it should be available at the high school level because it teaches kids how to read better. The goal of this project is to upgrade the current program that is being used at the junior high level and to extend the use into one classroom at each high school. Doing this will allow the students who are working on it at the junior high level to continue to work on it when they transition. Upgrading the current junior high program is necessary to ensure the students are working on the same program that is at the high school. The result of enhancing the Read 180 program will be increased achievement in reading for students who struggle with developing reading skills. There are currently fourteen laptops available at each junior high for the special education department. Each junior high has five special education teachers that check the laptops out for their students. The laptops were purchased through the LSTA grant for student to use to access printed material through text-to-speech programs, to meet accommodations on individual education plans. The teachers implementing Read 180 in their classrooms have told the students who use the laptops when they are available. However, there is a higher demand for students to have access to material for tests and worksheets, limiting the availability of the laptops. To implement the program with fidelity and have a positive impact on student achievement the software being used, expand it to the high schools, and provide technology that will be specifically for Read 180 use.

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 additional laptops, designated for Read 180, and the updated version the students will be able to access Read 180 on a daily basis. Expansion into the high school will allow current student users to continue to move forward in the program. The focus of each buildings improvement plan is to increase student achievement. The end result of enhancing the Read 180 program will be increased achievement in reading for students who struggle with developing reading skills.
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.

1. The budget documents are attached: PLSD Read 180 Document A includes: - The upgrade of the current program - The addition of thirty three licenses and the materials to support implementation at the high school.
   - Professional development for the teachers implementing the program - Student and classroom non-consumable materials - Student consumable materials for 5 years of implementation PLSD Read 180 Document B includes: - 5 years of hosting for the 30 additional licenses for high school students PLSD Read 180 Document C includes: - 5 years of hosting for the 30 additional licenses for junior high school students PLSD Read 180 Document D includes: - Quote for the technology needed to support implementation at both the high school and junior high 2. Currently the district is paying $900 per year to sustain the Read 180 program in the two junior high schools. The impact of this program to the Five Year Forecast will be limited to a savings of $4,500 over the course of five years. The project will enhance student achievement by offering research-based instruction to students who struggle with developing reading skills. The budget includes fees for sustaining the program for five years.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

90,564 10 * 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).

The budget includes the cost of upgrading the program that is currently in use ($10,752) and expanding the program into the high schools ($30,985). It also includes the purchase of non-consumable items needed to implement the program with fidelity ($8,985.00), and the technology ($12,990) that is needed to implement the program in each classroom without interruption. Five years of renewal fees are included ($9,000). Professional development for the teachers using the program is included as well ($16,693). Additional funds are not required for implementation.

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.

2,699 40 * 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.

Read 180 includes student novels, audio books, instructional materials for the teacher, student workbooks and a web-based software program. The initial cost of the program includes all components necessary to implement the program with fidelity for one year. Once the grant expires the cost to sustain the project is limited to maintenance of the hardware that is being used, hosting fees ($30 per license) and purchase of student consumable R-Book ($29.99 per student)

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

1,800 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.)

Currently, the district is paying $890 per year to sustain the Read 180 program in the two junior high schools. The impact of this program to the Five Year Forecast will be limited to a savings of $4,500 over the course of five years.

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 project is self-sustaining. Once the initial purchase is made, the district owns the program. The cost to maintain the program is limited to the purchasing of hosting fees and the consumable workbooks.

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 entities.)

* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 12/17/2013

* Narrative explanation

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 02/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

Implement: Approximately February 2014 (To be determined by the arrival of materials) - Once the materials arrive, a training session will be set up for the staff that will be implementing the project.

Setting up the hardware will be the responsibility of the technology department and the timeline will be determined by their schedule at that moment in time. Future Implementation: August, 2014: Train new staff, if applicable. Set-up materials (distribute laptops, workbooks, headsets) in classrooms. Enter new 7th grade students into program. Letters set home to parents of new students participating in program. Letters home to parents of new students participating in program. August 2015: Train new staff, if applicable. Set-up materials (distribute laptops, workbooks, headsets) in classrooms. Enter new 7th grade students into program. Letters set home to parents of new students participating in program. August 2017: Train new staff, if applicable. Set-up materials (distribute laptops, workbooks, headsets) in classrooms. Enter new 7th grade students into program. Letters set home to parents of new students participating in program.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 05/19/2014

* Narrative explanation

Evaluation will be ongoing with the students throughout the school year(s). 05/19/2014-05/30/2014: Students will participate in the post assessment to determine progress.

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

Implementation of Read 180 at the junior high and high school for students in the special education program will increase student achievement and have a positive impact on the students self esteem. It will assist the teachers in providing research-based instruction that is individualized to each student’s academic needs.

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.

Read 180 is a research-based program that promotes student achievement by developing a student’s skills and confidence in reading. The teachers that are currently using it in the district are noting gains in students’ confidence levels when encountering text. The data collected as a result of the assessments of student who used the program consistently during the 2012-2013 school year is indicating an average gain of 75 lexile points. According to information from a Scholastic presentation to the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the average growth rate per year for a seventh grade struggling reader is 72 lexile points (http://www.nasspconference.org/images/uploads/thumbs/KnutsonForecasting%20Outcomes%20with%20Lxiles%20-%20handouts.pdf). Our district data is consistent with that research. The students who are currently using the program at the junior high level are making progress. However, they do not have access to the program when they transition to the high school. Expanding Read 180 into the high school will allow the students who are currently using the program to continue to grow academically and will have a positive impact on their self-esteem.
21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

| YES | NO |

22. If so, how?

Other districts in the state of Ohio are currently using Read 180 in their classroom to assist in providing direct, systematic, individualized instruction to students who struggle with reading.

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

Implementation of Read 180 at the junior high and high school for students in the special education program will increase student achievement and have a positive impact on the students' self-esteem. It will assist the teachers in providing research-based instruction that is individualized to each student's academic needs. It will also assure continuity of programing for students between the junior high and high school level.

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 goal of this project is to increase student achievement in reading. The savings that will result by implementing this project are minimal financially but the benefits that will be received by the students are beyond measurement.

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.

Student progress will be measured by the reports that are provided to teachers from the software portion of the program, district benchmarking data, and student surveys. If the students are not progressing as expected using the Read 180 program, additional assessments will be conducted to determine specific areas that need to be targeted for instruction. Instruction plans will then be modified during the direct instruction part of the program and adjustments will be made as needed in the students' placement within the software program.

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 from 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.