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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -95,540.00
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: Achieve Success

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 10 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

Premier Academy wishes to develop a school within a school where eighth, ninth and tenth graders are members of an internal Prep Academy whose purpose is to prepare them with prerequisites to advance to the internal Grad Academy. The Grad Academy will offer college credits to students through Columbus State Community College. At graduation, students will have earned 25 college credits and be already enrolled in Columbus State's program for a seamless transition for the upcoming fall quarter.

110 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for lead applicant: Hydia Green
Organizational name of lead applicant: Superintendent
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 000938
Address of lead applicant: 1555 Elaine Road Columbus, Ohio 43227
Phone Number of lead applicant: 614 501 3820
Email Address of lead applicant: hgreen@pao-online.com

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

First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Todd Biehle
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Lead Teacher
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 000938
Address of secondary applicant: 1555 Elaine Road Columbus, Ohio 43227
Phone number of secondary applicant: 614 501 3820
Email address of secondary applicant: explorert@yahoo.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.

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 partners or stakeholders involved.

Hydia Green has dreamed of a career working with children and families to make an impact on the quality of their lives. Having a Masters of Business degree from Kennedy-Western University, she worked in the field of Finance and Marketing. Ms. Green knows first hand knowledge of what it takes for students to be successful in the workforce. Her work in Community Development enabled her to develop internal and external communication pathways, promote business affairs and increase community and media outreach. This makes Ms. Green a unique person to coordinate program design and implementation. In her work as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate and as a Board Member of Voices for Children, she witnessed first hand the need for school programming to shape the future for children. As a Big Brother, Big Sister Volunteer, as well as, being a teacher volunteer for Junior Achievement, she was compelled to return to school to gain licensure in Education. Licensed in Integrated Science and working for two different large urban districts, Ms. Green sought a position that allowed her to find her passion of working more closely with children at risk of becoming lost in the educational system. She found that position at Premier Academy and taught Science for two years before being asked to assume the leadership role by her Governing Board after acceptance into Educational Leadership at the American College of Education. She is in her second year as the Superintendent of Premier Academy. Last year, under her leadership, Premier had the largest graduating class in KWO's existence. Todd Biehle, Lead Teacher and Intervention Specialist, works as the chair of the staff leadership team. His experience with students K-12 enabled him to see the needs of students at every level of their educational experience. Prior to teaching Mr. Biehle worked developmentally disabled adults in residential settings. This affords him the knowledge to know the needs of young adults in semi-independent living settings. He has worked in both private and community schools. Using non traditional teaching and testing measures, students in his classes, who had a history of failure, were successful in school. As a teacher of over 75 students at an online school, he saw potential in the power of technology in the learning environment, however, most students struggled with the guidance of hands on teachers to assist them. Mr. Biehle is in his second year with Premier Academy. He uses every avenue to teach his students, including pull out, co-teaching, credit recovery, alternate assessments and project based learning. Mr. Biehle is well liked by the students and a leader on the staff. His positive approach to teaching motivates students to want to attend school and achieve.

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)

F Student achievement
F Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast
F Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one:)

F New - never before implemented
F Existing and researched-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments
F Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements
F Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

Premier Academy currently is a struggling Community School on Columbus’ east side. Declining enrollment and poor performance on state tests are evidenced on the State Report card resulting in an “F” rating. Premier is known in the area as the school to attend when no other school will accept you. With new Administration and several newly hired staff, the school’s leadership, along with the enrolled students want to change this. Much research and planning has occurred over the summer months and it is believed that with a focus on achieving success for all students, the school can rise up and become an example of a school that has high levels of academic success for its students. This change will prepare them to enter a 2 or 4 year college. Currently, Premier has entered into an agreement with Columbus State Community College so that students can earn college credit. However, a structure for how to make that happen has not been put into place. With the assistance of the funds of the Straight A grant, the 6 subject area teachers, 2 intervention specialists can develop a four year program that will allow the students to focus on preparation to pass the OGT and take the courses needed for high school credit and college credit concurrently. An additional business tech teacher is also on staff that is licensed to teach both high school and college level courses. The strong leadership and background of the current Superintendent/Principal will help to drive the planning and implementation of a focused program for the students. Since over 90% of the students are of poverty backgrounds, many must work outside the school day to get much needed funds to support themselves and their families. Only 4 students in the school come from a traditional two parent home. On a recent survey, less than 3% of parents attended college and less than 60% earned high school diplomas. Therefore, the team believes that the college courses must be embedded into the school day. The
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 will be met by expanding student opportunities to think outside the box. When the teachers, staff, families and students share a vision, student achievement has a focus that makes sense to everyone. The resources will be identified and considered for implementation during the Straight A Fund dollars, excitement will be generated throughout the school community. Incorporating technology into the school day to take college courses will enhance the learning experience. Students who have never had access to technology will now have a motivating avenue to complete assignments. Opportunities for staff training and parent learning will increase. The ability to teach the students outside the school with new/ongoing education programs will increase. The ability to teach the students at school, while continuing the lessons at home will add a new dimension to the child's academic success. Students in 12th grade will be eligible to be placed in a field course, for credit, (Finance Career Courses), at CFC Community, senior students area would be enrolling in an actual workplace setting. The school would visibly be different and take on the college demeanor needed to have the community see that the students are enrolled in college at school.

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.

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

Premier Academy would like to use Straight A grant funds to create a blended high school and college learning environment that supports student achievement and allows students to earn up to 25 college credits by the time they graduate from high school. In order to cultivate the blended learning model we need to invest in technology, professional development, family and community support, supplies and capital outlay. These investments will help ensure that the blended learning model is not just a stage but embedded into our best practices. In order for the Prep/Grad Academies to be a part of our best practices we would like to have personnel from Columbus State Community College work with our staff, students and parents. Additionally, they would supply speakers to provide information to students and families. We would want our families to feel safe coming to the school after dark, thus security will have to be provided at evening events due to the high crime of the area. Transportation for students to attend these evening events would also be needed. To enhance our school and encourage parent and community attendance, college postcards, pens and other materials would need to be purchased to give the visible look of a blended college/high school environment. The school would also provide families with study guides and materials to enhance learning at home.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?
95,540.00 ** 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 concept (e.g., Title I funding, RTT money, local funding, foundation support), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (e.g. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc).

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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.
10,000.00 ** 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.

Continued staff development would have to occur to refocus the existing program. - Upgrades to our web site and print materials would be required to communicate our vision and practice to the community at large. - The maintenance of new technologies would be almost up in the school community. We believe this would incur additional costs of about $15,000 to the existing budget.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the innovative project?
25,500.00 ** 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 implementation of the innovative project are as follows: 1. Teachers will acquire the skill and knowledge to become teacher leaders through the professional development training that they have obtained. These teachers will be able to then create and implement professional development that will be done on a total cost. Outsides sources will be minimized for training of new staff members. 2. All materials, once purchased, will be utilized and not have the need to be purchased again. This includes items such as curriculum based books, movies, and supportive resources. 3. Once the technology provided by the project is in place it will decrease the need for new technology to be acquired in the five year forecast. 4. Community and family services will be established to train income poor families to acquire career and college support. Family services will be trained to teach career and college preparation classes in conjunction with community oriented events. 5. Supply costs will be absorbed in the general funds budget due to the increase in student enrollment as a result of the implementation of the innovative project.

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.

Sustainability is essential after the Straight A Fund dollars have expired in Fiscal Year 2019. It is imperative that the programs, materials, and partnerships extend past the five year forecast for it to be a success. Sustainability is estimated at approximately $10,000 annually. Any new or recurring costs such as technology and materials costs will be absorbed into the general budget. As a community school we are able to bring in new students to achieve our growth goals. Families want to have innovative opportunities for their children. We will be able to provide this through the Straight A Fund. With the increased enrollment, the program cost will be offset. We believe that there will be sufficient funds to exceed the sustainability costs of the offset the Straight A Fund.

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 school in which the project is implemented. (Stakeholders can include parents, community leaders, foundation support and businesses, as well as educational personnel in the affected area).

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Include the specific amount of expected savings (annual)
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 organization.

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

F Yes
F No

22. If so, how?

This program would be easily replicated in other districts in Ohio. Most areas have access to Community Colleges who are eager to tap into school resources to better prepare students for college. Premier will make available all documents and plans developed for implementation of the project. The leadership team intends to share the growth and success at local and state conferences. The website will feature videos and photographs of the project, making it easily accessible through a web link with a graphic for the school. By requesting them: All materials, such as brochures and flyers will also be available for others to implement.

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

High school diploma and up to 25 hours of college credit, tuition free. -Access to higher education for a broad diversity of high school students, even those who might not have seemed likely to graduate and go to college. -High attendance rates, excellent student promotion rates, and access to college level course work. -Small classes and individual attention. -Smooth transition between high school and college, supported by faculty and professors committed to helping students from diverse backgrounds achieve success. -A unique path to an affordable college education for motivated students. -A unique path to an affordable college education for motivated students.

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 measured.

Benchmarking will bring accountability to Premier Academy to measure the areas of success within the framework of the Straight A Fund. Benchmarks allow for teachers and administration to evaluate how well students are absorbing their education. Premier also recognizes that children must receive intentional instruction in the core academic areas as outlined in the Ohio Department of Education Academic Content Standards. Additionally the achievement will also be measured by: -Attainment of high school and college credits concurrently -Success and transition: decreased dropout rates, completion high school and college -Increased parental participation -High levels of staff development including planning, evaluation and steering of school educational program -Increased resources and structures for improved educational expenditure per student.

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).

Premier Academy understands and appreciates the importance of carefully developing a comprehensive marketing strategy that will enable the school to meet its student population projects. If the grant is approved, the management team will invest in the creation of a comprehensive marketing, advertising and promoting strategy to raise awareness of the pending changes and mission of the school.
throughout the community and to meet or exceed our projections for enrolled students. A key component to the building of a cadre of teachers that will enable the school to achieve excellence will be an extensive and intensive dedication to professional development. The most effective professional development is specifically tailored to address student needs, to highlight proven and emerging methods to move students toward excellence, and to helping teachers become masters of their crafts. Finally, the faculty will need to be culturally aware enough in order to recognize and intervene early with obstacles that can impede the academic achievement of students. The school must provide easy access to summative assessment data cross-linked to individual student performance benchmarks; parent contact information; be data import and export friendly so that data can flow from and into other applications that the school uses and include a sub-application to allow parents to be able to securely log in and check their child’s progress. The planning team is willing to execute changes at any stage of the process to meet program objectives.

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
Hydia Green, Superintendent – Premier Academy – 10/24/2013