

Budget

Pymatuning Valley Local (045880) - Ashtabula County - 2014 - Straight A Fund - Rev 0 - Straight A Fund - Application Number (134)

U.S.A.S. Fund #:

[Plus/Minus Sheet \(opens new window\)](#)

Purpose Code	Object Code	Salaries 100	Retirement Fringe Benefits 200	Purchased Services 400	Supplies 500	Capital Outlay 600	Other 800	Total
Instruction		0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	65,000.00
Support Services		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Governance/Admin		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Prof Development		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Family/Community		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Safety		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Facilities		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transportation		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	65,000.00
Adjusted Allocation								0.00
Remaining								-65,000.00

Application

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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: Wireless Network

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.

This grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12, the utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom and spending reductions in the five-year forecast by updating the technology infrastructure throughout the district by increasing band-width and wireless capacity. Our hope is to increase our technology infrastructure to allow teachers and students to efficiently access all appropriate web-based educational opportunities and to lay the groundwork for every student and teacher to access those opportunities simultaneously at any single point in time. In addition, we believe that there will be a cost savings to the district because we will not need to hire outside contractors as frequently to make patch work fixes to our computer network whose problems stem from an antiquated infrastructure.

1350 3. Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Michael Candela

Organizational name of lead applicant: Pymatuning Valley Local School District

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 045880

Address of lead applicant: 5571 State Route 6 West, Andover, Ohio 44003

Phone Number of lead applicant: 4402936488

Email Address of lead applicant: mike.candela@neomin.org

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Andrew Kuthy

Organizational name of secondary applicant: Pymatuning Valley Middle School

Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 045880

Address of secondary applicant: 5445 State Route 6 West

Phone number of secondary applicant: 4402936981

Email address of secondary applicant: andrew.kuthy@neomin.org

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.

Pymatuning Valley Middle School Andrew Kuthy andrew.kuthy@neomin.org 5445 State Route 6 West Andover, Ohio 44003 440-293-6981 Pymatuning Valley High School Dan Jackson dan.jackson@neomin.org 5571 State Route 6 West Andover, Ohio 44003 440-293-6981 Pymatuning Valley Primary School Billie Fusco billie.fusco@neomin.org 5571 State Route 6 West Andover, Ohio 44003 440-293-6206

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.

Implementation of this project is the responsibility of the districts leadership team. The Superintendent will lead the team and this project. The team met and developed this plan. Other members of the team include the building principals, curriculum director, special education coordinator, buildings and grounds supervisor, teachers and the technology coordinator. This team has been involved in the entire decision-making as it related to the stabilization of the network. Also includes are the two outside technology contractors; Suite 244 and Laketech communications. Both companies have 10 plus year of experience in network administration.

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 grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12, the utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom and spending reductions in the five-year forecast by updating the technology infrastructure throughout the district by increasing band-width and wireless capacity. Our hope is to increase our technology infrastructure to allow teachers and students to efficiently access all appropriate web-based educational opportunities and to lay the groundwork for every student and teacher to access those opportunities simultaneously at any single point in time. In addition, we believe that there will be a cost savings to the district because we will not need to hire outside contractors as frequently to make patch work fixes to our computer network whose problems stem from an antiquated infrastructure.

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.

The project will meet the goal of increased student achievement because it will allow all students to efficiently and effectively use web-based academic interventions and blended-learning stretches while on campus. This is not possible with our technology infrastructure as it currently exists and the ubiquitous student use of wireless devices would be unthinkable. In addition, all of the proposed infrastructure improvements will contribute 100% to bringing more resources to the classroom, now and in the future. Finally, we have been forced to make piecemeal fixes and enhancements to our district's network that have been costly overtime where we have lost valuable instructional opportunities and can never seem to keep our system current with growing technical requirements (capacity). We will save money now and in the future by doing this right the first time!

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.

The straight A Financial Impact Template forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast resulting from implementation of this project has been attached as supportive documentation.

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

65,000.00 * 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, 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).

All of the buildings in our district are on one campus and share one network. We use a thin-client environment that was layered over a dated backbone. This has created many reliability issues. As the district prepares for the new online assessments and introduces on-line learning and an on-campus post-secondary option, we must have a dependable and reliable network to effectively implement the changes. The Straight A grant budgets will allow the district to divide the current network into three sub networks; each independent of one another. It will also provide for a wireless environment so that the students can access technology from any area in the district. RttT will be used to purchase the devices necessary to access the upgraded network. The budget reflects \$66,000 to develop layer three and wireless technology. \$30,000 is necessary for layer 3 hardware, \$22,000 is required for wireless hardware and \$9,000 is the one time labor cost for installation. The life span on the equipment is 10-12 years.

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.

0.00 * 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.

There are no reoccurring anticipated costs for this project outside occasional maintenance that would be done by current staff or warranty repair by outside staff.

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

37,700.00 * 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.)

We have spent \$61,000 over the past 24 months on outside contractors to keep our network operable in addition to \$36,000 for on-site tech support. The contractors have developed the plan that will stabilize our network and increase bandwidth. This upgrade will prevent the need for the district to contract services and will allow for the reduction of on-site tech staff by 20%. This will save the district \$37,700 in the first year alone. The life expectancy of the equipment is 10-12 year providing a anticipated savings of \$377,000 over the life of the 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.

The district has spent over \$64,000 for onsite tech support in the last two years alone. The new hardware will reduce these costs to \$24,000 per year. We will no longer need outside contractors and the staff and student s will have a much more dependable network that they can rely on. Currently teachers have no confidence in our network and are unwilling to incorporate it into their everyday interactions with our students.

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): 03/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

By March 1, 2014 the grant would be awarded. The BLT team will meet to confirm the project details and the award the contract to the most suitable company. With the decision of the team, hardware will be ordered and configured by the contractor. The largest barrier during this stage, will be the dependence on an outside contractor. Often they are working on several projects at one time. The BLT team will meet with the contractor to develop a timeline that is acceptable to the district with several checkpoints on going the way. The BLT team will monitor the timeline with the technology director having daily email correspondence with the contractor.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 04/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

All new hardware will be onsite and prepped for installation by April 3, 2014. Installation, testing, and debugging will occur the week of April 6th to coincide with the district spring break. This will allow for the migration to occur while classes are not in session. The contractor will be able to install and test the system without disrupting the operation of the school. The largest barrier at this stage will be ensuring that the outside contractor stays on schedule. The spring break is a "must hit" date for the district. Often outside contractors don't understand the importance of not disrupting the school day. The technology director is responsible for monitoring the progress and ensuring that we hit that date.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

By June 1, 2014 the project will be completed. We will have a six week period, where school is in session, to debugged and test the new system while it is in full use. This will be full implementation and when the project is considered complete.

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

We expect to see a significantly increased number of students being able to use web-based interventions and various blended learning opportunities for either remediation or stretch throughout the school day. We also expect to find an increased usage of web-based assessment for formative and summative purposes by instructional staff.

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.

We believe that web-based interventions and blended learning opportunities provide the greatest variety of tools and the most efficient means for providing differentiated learning opportunities for all learners and a valuable tool for instructional staff striving to provide a variety of formative assessment opportunities for their students. Most important, hefty band-width and wireless capacity will allow us to start experimenting with classrooms of students using wireless devices as a integral part of their classroom activities (instruction and assessment). We are a high-poverty rural district and as such are concerned that our students our on the losing side o the digital divide. This grant would go a long way in helping us mitigate that divide.

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

Yes

No

22. If so, how?

This project would be easy to replicate and should be looked on as a meta-project. We all are aware that changing technology requires changing technological capacity. For us, and we suspect many other

districts, band-width must be increased as well as wireless capacity. Any district wishing to utilize current and near-future web-based instruction/assessment solutions and increase student use of digital productivity devices simply needs to assess their infrastructure's current capacity and determine what it needs to be if each and every student were to use a wireless device throughout the school day.

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

The hope for the substantial value and lasting impact of this project is that every student and teacher in the district can use web-based instructional technology when needed, now and in the future.

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.

Currently, if every computer in each building is being used to access a web-based instructional program, our small band-width clogs up the network and doesn't allow for each user to use the program efficiently and in many cases, not at all. As our benchmark for determining if this project helps us utilize a greater share of resources in the classroom we will count the number of computers which our students can access at any given time and count the number of students who can successfully access web-based instruction at any given point in time. If the number of computers and the number of successful web-based log ons by students is the same, this will be a benchmark of success. In the future, as we obtain wireless devices, if the number of wireless devices match the number of devices successfully logged on to our network at any given point in time then this will serve as the benchmark of success. As our benchmark for determining if this project helps increase overall student achievement in grades K-12 we will use the district's growth measure from year to year as the benchmark measurement. Finally, as our benchmark for determining if this project reduces spending in the 5-year forecast, we will use the amount of money used for technology contractors working on our network infrastructure as the benchmark measure.

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 methodology we will use for measuring all of the outcomes mentioned in question 24 is a simple count for measuring an increase in greater share of resources in the classroom and a reduction in spending in the five-year forecast. We will compare the district's PIS and growth measure from year to year as well as those of the individual buildings' to determine increased achievement. We believe that the guiding goal for this project is an increase in the greater share of resources in the classroom. If the benchmarks for this goal are not met, we will need to reevaluate whether or not there are other technical problems in our infrastructure that we did not identify as problems or if we underestimated what we needed to do to enhance our technology infrastructure. We see the measure for reducing spending through a reduction in the yearly cost of outside contractors needed to fix network and connectivity problems as being straightforward. We caution, however, that we may not see an immediate decrease in contractor costs (purchased services) as we work through increased usage of wireless devices. Finally, we believe that we will use as the baseline year for measuring increased PIS and growth, the year (s) that the new generation of assessments are rolled out so that we can compare apples to apples. If at that time, we either see a decrease in achievement or it remains flat, we will need to reevaluate how we use these technologies and the efficaciousness of what they offer.

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 Michael Candela, Superintendent Pymatuning Valley Local School District 10/25/2013