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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -5,573,195.04
**A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity**

1. Project Title: Reinventing Learning Using Digital Resources and Problem-Based Learning to Transform Instructional Practices

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 1 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

The Reinventing Learning Grant (RLG) supports a diverse, multi-district collaboration that intends to integrate the pedagogy of problem-based instruction with 21st Century digital resources such as eBooks, text books, and digital text focused on Ohio’s New Learning Standards aimed at ensuring success in college and career. High quality professional development and job embedded coaching for teachers will ensure the transition from exclusive traditional pedagogy to include problem-based learning in all classrooms, and to support teacher mastery of modern digital media in advancing student learning.

After implementation, this project will accomplish the following goals: (1) raise student motivation and achievement, (2) reduce textbook and material costs and (3) focus reallocated resources to enhance the overall learning in all classrooms.

**B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Applicants shall respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.

1. Describe the innovative project.

2. Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes

3. Why the project is needed and how it addresses an issue:

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

   - First Name, Last Name of contact for lead applicant: David Brand
   - Organizational name of lead applicant: South Central Local School District
   - Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 047738
   - Address of lead applicant: 3305 Greenwich-Angling Rd
   - Phone Number of lead applicant: 4197523815
   - Email Address of lead applicant: dbrand@south-central.org

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

   - First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: N/A
   - Organizational name of secondary applicant: N/A
   - Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): N/A
   - Address of secondary applicant: N/A
   - Email address of secondary applicant: N/A

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.

   - Superintendent: Greg Ring
     - 2 Wildcat Dr.
     - Senior Director of Education
   - 175 Avon Belden Rd.
     - High quality professional development and job embedded coaching for teachers
   - 216
   - Jay Arbaugh
   - 44039
   - Brad Romano
   - The Reinventing Learning Project combines the positive achievement effects of two proven instructional innovations (problem-based learning and 21st Century digital resources).
   - Therefore this project will focus on giving teachers an evidence-based method of instruction which will increase student motivation and achievement, reduce expenditures for textbooks, and reallocate to the classroom through coordinated needs assessment. The Reinventing Learning Project combines the positive achievement effects of two proven instructional innovations (problem-based learning and modern digital media).

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 your field. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

   - The collaborative has extensive experience with the design, submission, implementation and sustainability of multifaceted projects. The Ohio State University Math Coaching Program, Martha Holden Jennings, Hough Schools that Work, Ohio Capital Venture Grant and Ohio’s Reading First. ESCLC: The mission of the Educational Service Center of Lorain County is to channel the energies of diverse peoples, schools, agencies and businesses to improve the quality of education throughout Lorain County. The staff’s dedication and performance reflects an ongoing commitment to that goal. The success of our students, parents and educators is the engine that powers the ESCLC.
   - The goal is researching, designing and delivering innovative, high-quality programs, products and services to support our stakeholders. Always seeking to impact the future of education, the ESCLC Region 2 SST will remain a vital partner in continuous educational improvement and advancement in our Region. Lasting benefits for students, parents, teacher, districts and communities is our legacy. IDEASTREAM: IDEASTREAM is a State of Ohio Educational Technology Center providing expert technological assistance to Northern Ohio schools for nearly 20 years. IDEASTREAM has extensive experience in creating digital learning assets and providing professional development as well as creating eBook media for districts in Cuyahoga and Lorain County.
   - Lorain County Community College: Lorain County Community College is an innovative leader in education, work and cultural development. LCCC encourages collaboration and promotes partnerships with K-12 schools. College faculty will provide a link to the New Ohio Learning Standards. Eduplane21: Eduplane21 is a 21st century professional development tool. This multimedia learning platform allows educators to connect directly with leading industry experts from anywhere on the planet. Eduplane21 offers the opportunity for more authentic, efficient, and less expensive platforms to support educators. This specialized learning software blends social networking and learning to shorten the time for teachers to master new ideas, increase retention, and increase engagement.

**B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes**

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the project 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.

   - The collaborative superintendent’s believe that students are not being prepared for future college and career requirements with the current pedagogy and resources available. Therefore this project will focus on giving teachers an evidence-based method of instruction which will increase student motivation and achievement, reduce expenditures for textbooks, and reallocate to the classroom through coordinated needs assessment. The Reinventing Learning Project combines the positive achievement effects of two proven instructional innovations (problem-based learning and modern digital media)
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.

Goal 1: Improve Student Achievement The RLG project will increase student achievement by changing teachers’ pedagogy and traditional textbook approach. An innovative combination of three instructional strategies will be used: understanding of the New Ohio Learning Standards, 2. Instructional coaching and scaffolded learning, and 3. Digital media. The project will adopt an evidence-based professional development strategy for implementation by the teachers selected for project inclusion. Collaborative school administrators will select high qualified instructors and training of implementation of the new pedagogical strategies. The experienced teachers will complete their professional development and begin to implement the two instructional strategies with the in-class support of professional development provider and the Point of Contact teachers after the funded project is completed. Eduplanet is the storehouse and distribution center for all of the eBooks generated by the project. The ESCLC plans to establish a virtual platform for sharing and exchanging teaching resources to the classrooms. For example, instead of using 5 year textbook adoption cycle, each subject area can update annually for no cost. Another example is reflected in the benefits of belonging to a virtual professional learning community. A RLG member has access to a vast amount of constructed materials created by other members.

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?

$5,573,195.4 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 costs and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc).

The total amount of expenditure is $5,573,195.4 with 82.9% for purchasing digital media devices for 6,420 students and 144 professionals and the technological infrastructure needed. 14% will be spent on purchasing services for professional development, training platform for staff and high quality consultant providers. The remaining 3% provides instructional supplies to ensure full implementation of the program. No grant funds will be used for salaries or benefits.

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 items included in the budget (i.e. staff costs and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

There may be some recurring costs associated with this innovative project. These costs include replacing broken, damaged, or outdated technologies. Therefore, each district has committed to and has budgeted for a technology replacement cycle. Under current costs this would mean all seven districts allocate a combined total of $4,620,000 every six years. Some method of perpetuating the building level Point of Contact persons over the next four years should be considered. This could be done by reducing the extra duties POCs do in their buildings. There is a plan to incentive these pocs to remain with the project by offering a menu of low cost or no cost opportunities for professional development such as granting graduate education credits.

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

501,395.2 % 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.)

After analyzing the financial impact report for the seven LEAs in the consortium, the following determinations have been made. The overall five year expected savings for all seven districts is $2,506,976. The specific amount of expected annual savings is between $20,000- $159,444 from curriculum budgets per LEA (see attached Financial Impact Reports). These reductions will occur in the areas of textbook expenditures, supplemental curricular materials, and workshops. Subtract and professional development savings with occur with the ongoing support of the eduplanet21 LMS. For example, only looking at substitute costs $10,000 (eduplanet21 subscription) buys less than 100 substitutes for traditional professional development days, which is about 15 teachers per district for one day only. While this subscription allows for infinite instructional professional without loss of instructional time on a multitude of topics. These savings are in the interest of improving instructional effectiveness and professional development days. The combination of these two factors leads to the overall reduction in cost and time on task. With more engaged and effective instruction, students will require less re-teaching, remediation, re-teaching, and intervention.

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 The multi-tiered coaching and professional development will have built a foundation for future growth of this project. Each district is committed to utilizing savings and developed leaders to the largest extent possible. Therefore, the vehicle for sustaining the project is the larger educational system to which the vehicles of the school district’s administrators and the Point of Contact teachers after the funded project is completed. Eduplanet is the storehouse and distribution center for all of the eBooks generated by the project. The ESCLC plans to maintain the institutional subscription after the grant has concluded. Each district has an approved biennial technology plan in place that specifies, in part, the planned acquisition of learning technologies. The design of theway in which the emergency management, the emergent capacity of the emergency management and the emergent capacity of the emergency management. The vehicle for sustaining this project is the larger educational system to which the vehicles of the school district’s administrators and the Point of Contact teachers after the funded project is completed. Eduplanet is the storehouse and distribution center for all of the eBooks generated by the project. The ESCLC plans to maintain the institutional subscription after the grant has concluded. Each district has an approved biennial technology plan in place that specifies, in part, the planned acquisition of learning technologies.

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 implementation plan.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

- 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 implementation plan.
19. User-friendly tool to construct lesson plans and activities drawing down vast arrays of text, video resources, archives and scientific explorations. Another attractive element is the ability of students to interact variety of staff development online and on site. There are provisions for webinars, classroom coaching and classroom demonstrations. The approach embodies the “trainer of trainers” concept that spend less time reteaching forgotten material or less time coaxing unmotivated students to fully participate in learning.

20. The redefinition of Teaching Project focuses on three critical elements required for sustainable, efficient, high-quality classroom instruction (1.) meaningful, accessible and valid professional development 2.) flexible and relevant digital media including ebooks and flexbooks (3.) faculty with a wide range of problem-based learning strategies. Professional Development: the rationale for effective professional development is the expectation that it can improve teacher performance in the classroom and enhance the learning experience for students. The key to effective professional development is to ensure that it is aligned with the needs of the teachers, the school and the students. The use of Ohio Department of Education to support future curriculum development through cloud-based technologies and professional collaboration. - Teachers will realize that they spend less time creating meaningful learning experiences using modern digital media than they spent with traditional methods. - Students will be more engaged in the learning process as they will have the opportunity to interact with the content in a more meaningful way. - Teachers will be better prepared for their future roles as college and career ready graduates. - There will be an increased culture of professional collaboration. This will not only occur within individual districts, but also within the seven districts of this collaborative. The Standards and the students’ needs will drive instruction, as opposed to a prescriptive, one-size-fits-all textbook.

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 institution.

This innovative “Reinventing Learning Grant” will positively change instructional practices that will lead to the following: - Teachers will collaboratively create or modify existing ebooks and other eResources which will lead to a deeper understanding of the expectations in Ohio’s New Learning Standards. - The ebooks and eResources will be vetted by content and instructional experts to assure the highest quality. - Teachers will see the use of modern digital media and problem-based learning strategies opens a door to authentic student participation and increased student motivation. - Teachers will spend less time reteaching forgotten material or less time coaxing unmotivated students to fully participate in learning. - Teachers will utilize modern digital media to align the content of their lessons with the new Ohio Learning Standards. - Teachers will observe and visit other classrooms and learn from their peers. - Teachers will use the rubrics for project resources as project resources who assist in coordinating the changes and the work through the ESC to provide feedback to participating teachers and address administrative and technical concerns that are beyond a teacher’s responsibilities. - The support offered through the coaches will focus on full implementation of the Learning Across the Curriculum digital platform and full integration of PBL course content to assess student learning. - Teachers will collaboratively create or modify existing eBoobs and other eResources as part of their professional development digital resource (eBooks and Flexbook training) and PBL 3 day training. - Design Collaboration and Learning Support for Innovative Teachers through Learning Management System (LMS) “eduplant21” a. Training for service providers on eduplant21 LMS platform b. Platform of Learning Development Pathways (courses) for blended learning on digital resources and PBL. c. Development of “Assist and Lead” Learning Pathways (courses) for Point of Contact ongoing support. 4. Establish a Quality Review Committee with Lorain County Community College, ideaseam and ESC Curriculum Consultants - Coordinated by ESC Project Coordinator a. Schedule a Review Committee to i.Learn and assemble rubrics by which to review the content of the digital resources for accuracy and alignment to standards, for the respective courses in which they are to be used. (eBooks, Flexbooks) - Provide access to eduplant21 Digital Library to reviewers ii. Develop a tracking sheet for reviewers iv. Participating teachers will use the rubrics for self-reflection prior to peer review process to refine digital materials used for instruction. b. Assign grade levels and areas to reviewers. Feedback to innovative teachers will result in revised and aligned publications c. Reviewed and approved documents will be identified and shared among teachers of common courses. Barriers have been built in changes in leadership due to the Project. We therefore have built in the Point of Contact (POC) personnel who are in district whose role is to provide their teachers and their consortium partners support. The POCs are established employees of the districts and are expected not to change positions or responsibilities during the period of grant implementation.


20. The re-definition of Teaching Project focuses on three critical elements required for sustainable, efficient, high-quality classroom instruction (1.) meaningful, accessible and valid professional development 2.) flexible and relevant digital media including ebooks and flexbooks (3.) faculty with a wide range of problem-based learning strategies. Professional Development: the rationale for effective professional development is the expectation that it can improve teacher performance in the classroom and enhance the learning experience for students. The key to effective professional development is to ensure that it is aligned with the needs of the teachers, the school and the students. The use of Ohio Department of Education to support future curriculum development through cloud-based technologies and professional collaboration. - Teachers will realize that they spend less time creating meaningful learning experiences using modern digital media than they spent with traditional methods. - Students begin to see that school can be relevant, rigorous, and exciting. - Students will utilize their media devices to access school learning anywhere and anytime. - Students will learn to work collaboratively as they will have the opportunity to interact with the content in a more meaningful way. - Teachers will be better prepared for their future roles as college and career ready graduates. - There will be an increased culture of professional collaboration. This will not only occur within individual districts, but also within the seven districts of this collaborative. The Standards and the students’ needs will drive instruction, as opposed to a prescriptive, one-size-fits-all textbook.

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 institution.
The Reinventing Learning Project participants hope that the synergy of two student-centered teaching strategies will be a true innovation. That is, the results will provide positive, lasting benefits to both teachers and students, and that a new culture of teacher planning and class preparation is adopted by the staff which lowers costs while improving the product. The essence of the teacher benefit is that teachers will produce meaningful and authentic lessons in less time and for less cost, and the student benefit is a more interesting and captivating classroom experience reducing the need for re-teaching and tutoring.

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.

Phase 1 Benchmarks--Schedule Consortium Administrative Roundtables -Define Communication Channels to keep all levels of consortium informed -Develop Theory of Action Plan -Inauguration of Innovative Teachers -Collect signed teacher agreements -Complete cohort trainings for eBooks and PBL -Complete eduplane21 training for service providers -Complete Learning Pathways (courses) -Innovative Teachers are actively engaged in the class -Complete "Assist and Lead" Learning Pathway for Point of Contacts ongoing support -Review and approve documents for sharing among teachers of common courses -Innovative Teachers' use of rubrics -Access to digital by library by reviewers -Develop a tracking sheet for reviews -Revision of digital materials guided by self reflection and peer review -Review all digital resources and share in digital library, indicating alignment to Ohio’s New Learning Standards Phase 2 Benchmarks -For each cohort of participants -Conduct Blended Learning Professional Development -Complete Training on the eduplane21 Learning Management System -Use Ohio Department of Education Quality Review Rubrics to select and review potential learning assets -Conduct two days of training on the modification and development of flexible digital learning resources -Conduct three days of training on Problem Based Learning and its role in the project -Deliver Job Embedded Coaching services to support teachers in full implementation of PBL, mobile hardware, and flexbooks -Phase 3 Benchmarks -Continue ongoing evaluation by eduplane21 -Identification of key learning questions, short and long term objectives, program logic and evaluation tools -Develop of evaluation process and tools -Produce guides for data collection -Collect evidence and artifacts of -Student achievement data -Qualitative and quantitative data reflective of changes in teacher behavior

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).

The external evaluation service provider, eduplane21, will complete their description of the project's Theory of Action which will include the following: vision, key learning questions, short-term and long-term outcomes, program logic, and instruments with scoring rubrics. The evaluator provider will produce the guides for data collection for the internal facilitators (Point of Contact teachers). Qualitative and quantitative data will be collected including student achievement data (Formative, Summative, OAA Results, OGT Results, ACT Quality Core Exams, and other End-of-Course Exams), survey data from all stakeholders, website analytics and financial data analysis. A final report will be written by the external evaluators with significant input from teachers, school administrators, trainers and students. A complete set of recommendations will be presented to the school superintendents for review prior to any release of information to anyone.

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.

Accept David J. Brand Superintendent South Central Local School District 10/15/2013