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**Adjusted Allocation**: 0.00

**Remaining**: -450,000.00
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: "Delivering New Opportunities"

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.

Blended learning allows teachers to utilize class time more effectively. By incorporating a research-based online curriculum (i-Ready), teachers are able to engage students differently within the school day. By utilizing this process, student growth will increase which in effect incorporates new and existing elements.

3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: Provide the following information:
   - First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Dennis J. Dunham
   - Organizational name of lead applicant: South Range Local Schools
   - Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 049363
   - Address of lead applicant: 11300 Columbiana Canfield Road, Canfield, Ohio 44406
   - Phone Number of lead applicant: 330.549.5226
   - Email Address of lead applicant: ddunham@sourtherange.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"
   - Phone number 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.

7. Partnership and consortia agreements and letters of support: (Click on the link below to upload necessary documents).

* 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 other innovative projects. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

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.

Blended learning allows teachers to utilize class time more effectively. By incorporating a research-based online curriculum (i-Ready), teachers are able to engage students differently within the school day. For students who do not have connectivity at home, we will provide not only the technology, but also an environment on the school site for learning after school. We will create an internet cafe for students to work after school in a learning community. The cafe will be monitored with a licensed teacher for students. This will allow for collaboration among students for more deep learning for all students. Within the classroom, teachers will use a data management tool, Thinkgate, to better meet the needs of diverse learners. Teachers will have accurate profiles of student performance and aligned resources to close learning gaps. Moreover, Thinkgate will provide teachers with tools to create high quality aligned assessments which will produce better data to determine mastery of concepts.

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.

Implementing blended learning and data management tools will increase student achievement. Teachers will better monitor student learning and have access to research-based online curriculum to improve instruction. These tools will allow teachers to effectively use formative instructional strategies to better address student needs. By utilizing this process, student growth will increase which in effect will improve value-added measures in both math and reading. Expenses for transportation will decrease in multiple ways. With the purchase of three new buses, the district will have a fleet capable of transporting all students on one route. Currently, money is set aside annually to purchase a new bus every two years. For the next six years, that will not be necessary resulting in savings of $42,500 annually. In addition, utilizing one bus route results in reducing both fuel and labor costs for transportation. This savings provides the means to support the educational resources for teachers to meet the needs of all students.

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

450,000.00 * 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, RFF 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 grant funds will be used to purchase three (3) new school busses that will enable the district to provide a single route bussing system for the K-12 population ($255,000). Local funds will also be used to support the purchase of a new bus on a biennial basis ($42,500). To support a blended learning environment grant funds will be used to purchase hardware and software for students in grades K-9 ($189,700) iPads for district staff have been provided by local support organizations in the past year at a cost of $25,000 annually. A certificated teacher will be employed for two hours each day to support the after school internet cafe’ program ($6,300/year).

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.

68,550.00 * 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.

Recurring costs associated with the innovative project include computers, software purchasing, licensing as well as biennial replacements of the aging school bus fleet. The South Range Local School District is projecting to replace a single bus on a biennial basis. It is estimated that software licensing and update to the software will be $27,500 annually. The annual costs of purchasing computers to sustain the 1:1 initiative is $25,000. The biennial cost to replace a bus is $85,000.

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

94,000.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.)

It is estimated that fuel costs, bus maintenance costs, textbooks, materials and supplies will be reduced as a result of this project. The fuel costs associated with reducing a morning and afternoon bus route is estimated to save the district $50,000 annually. The single bus route will save the district an estimated $25,000 in labor costs as bus drivers will see their total hours reduced due to the single bus route system. The required routine maintenance on buses is expected to save the district and additional $19,000 due to the reduction of accumulated miles throughout the school year.

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.

A large percentage of the project will be self-sustaining in the terms of reducing costs for textbooks, materials/supplies and fuel. The savings generated by the reduced costs will be used to sustain the 1:1 computer initiative and software/licensing. The initial bus purchases through the grant funds allows the district to have the necessary number of busses needed to implement the single bus route system. The remaining percentage of funds to sustain our biennial purchase of a school bus will be realized from the reduction in costs associated with a single bus route.

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 communications application that 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): 11/01/2013

* Narrative explanation

The single bus route will be implemented during the 2013/2014 school year as a cost reduction measure to help sustain the academic needs of our district. The South Range Local Schools Classified Employees Association and the South Range Local Board of Education have recently agreed to a contract that contains language to fully implement the single bus route system. The single largest barrier that could affect the full implementation of the academic program and overall project would be the inability to purchase three new school busses that are needed to fully implement the program. Additional busses are needed to transition from a multiple bus route to a single bus route system. The single route system essentially reduces our transportation expenses by 40%. The percentage saved will ultimately be used to sustain the academic achievement segment of the project in subsequent years. The stakeholders in this project include the South Range Classified Employees Association, South Range Education Association and the South Range Local Schools parents/guardians as the single bus route change affects all students and parents in the K-12 system. In planning for the blended learning program, staff has been reviewing online curricula to determine which products are most aligned to the common core.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 03/03/2014

* Narrative explanation

To realize the savings to sustain the academic program proposed, the South Range Local School District must implement the single bus route system immediately to reduce the transportation costs that was associated with multiple bus route system. The funds saved as a district in transportation will be used to effectively sustain the project when the project completion dates are in effect. Hardware and software professional development will be delivered by trainers and school support personnel in the Spring of 2014.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 08/01/2015

* Narrative explanation

After one (1) year of full implementation student performance data will be compared from previous years to determine the effectiveness of “Delivering New Opportunities” program. The blended learning/internet cafe’ initiatives will be measured by comparing homework data to previous years. Transportation department savings from FY14 to FY15 will be compared to determine if the single bus route system is efficient and effective. Students will be surveyed to determine their opinions of traditional vs. blended/on-line learning.

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

The instructional changes that will occur with the implementation of blended learning and utilizing management tools will equip teachers with the necessities to better utilize formative instructional strategies. Data will be readily available for teachers to inform instruction to meet students’ learning needs. By using a blended-approach, students take more ownership for their learning. The student will also be more engaged as the appropriate use of technology increases. Implementing an after school program will give students the tools they need for deeper learning. In effect, students will improve their homework- not just completing it, but also better understanding it. The role of the teacher will change as staff move toward more focused and deeper learning. Face time with students will be more differentiated and project-based. Overall, achievement gaps will close and value-added growth will increase as a result of utilizing better instructional tools and practices.

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.

South Range Local Schools prides itself on the opportunities we offer to students in our community. We have always been an Excellent School but have recently struggled with showing growth in value-added. As we implement Common Core Standards, the rigor and demands on teachers increase. Providing staff with necessary tools becomes challenging as we maintain a balanced budget. In order to continue to offer high-quality educational opportunities to all students, it is imperative that both teachers and students have the tools necessary to meet these demands.

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

Yes

22. If so, how?

We believe the transportation savings could be replicated in other districts by sharing transportation resources. The single route system is feasible in a K-12 campus setting. The districts that do not have a K-12 campus setting will need to collaborate with neighboring districts to determine if sharing resources is efficient for all involved.
23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

Delivering New Opportunities allows for new and innovative learning experiences beyond the traditional classroom setting. Students will be better prepared for opportunities beyond high school as they begin to plan for their futures.

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.

Student Achievement - The South Range Local School's goal of a 1:1 initiative for computers in grades 5-9 and the i-Ready program will be achieved by September 1, 2014. Spending Reductions in the five year forecast will be in effect by March 3, 2014 due in large part to the single bus route system in effect. A utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom can be achieved by September 1, 2014 due to the revenue adjustment from the transportation department to the classroom. Overall student achievement will improve as a result of this plan.

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 achievement over time will be measured and compared on state-wide data as measured on Ohio's Report Card. Annual disaggregation of data will determine the effectiveness of the curricular changes. The staff will continue to monitor research based programs if gains are not noticed. The short term goal of this program is the ability to implement the program with the cost effective savings that have been put in place.

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

Dennis J. Dunham
Superintendent
South Range Local Schools
10/25/13