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**Adjusted Allocation**: 0.00

**Remaining**: -440,000.00
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: Empowering Students for Tomorrow

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 8 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

We will enhance learning by promoting student achievement and improve our college attendance rate by utilizing technology to foster a more independent and self-directed learning environment which allows for more differentiation. This model will better meet the demands of college placement and employment skills needed in the 21st Century. Spending reductions will be accomplished by eliminating traditional textbook purchases in grades 6-12.

800 Total Students Impacted:

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

First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Vanessa Honaker
Organizational name of lead applicant: Symmes Valley Local Schools
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 047969
Address of lead applicant: 14860 State Route 141 Willow Wood, OH 45696
Phone Number of lead applicant: 740-643-0022
Email Address of lead applicant: vanessa.honaker@svk12.oh.us

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

First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Jack Webb
Organizational name of secondary applicant: Symmes Valley Local Schools
Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 047969
Address of secondary applicant: 14778 State Route 141 Willow Wood, OH 45696
Phone number of secondary applicant: 740-643-2451
Email address of secondary applicant: jack.webb@svk12.oh.us

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

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.

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.

The Straight A fund committee consists of regular education teachers, special education teachers, school counselors, building principals, technology coordinator, and our school treasurer. The technology coordinator has been involved in implementation of technology enhancements in the district for 30 years; she has been instrumental in technologically based instructional improvements and for all network and hardware maintenance. The Science teachers on the committee were essential in the implementation of Smart Board Technology being used in their classrooms and will be a valuable asset to assist the other teachers with learning to embed technology into teaching. School counselors along with Teacher Based Teams, Building Level Teams, and District Level Teams will be responsible for collecting data and measuring the success of the implementation of the Straight A funded program.

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 research-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.

Our project will empower the boys and girls in our district and prepare them for our modern, technologically advanced world by utilizing technology on a daily basis. In order to involve the students to a much higher degree in the classroom, we will install Epson Bright Link Interactive Projector Systems in all 62 classrooms in our District and initiate a 1 to 1 interactive media tablet program in grades 6-12. This will allow for innovative teaching techniques where boys and girls are more fully utilizing the elements of the curriculum. The installation of the whiteboard systems will allow students to become teachers as well as learners in the classroom. The 1 to 1 tablet program will aid in the elimination of future textbook purchases and help with the implementation of electronic classrooms; granting the older boys and girls in our district enhanced opportunities for gaining 21st Century Skills and real world experiences that will impart to them the skills needed for college and the technologically driven workplace. The combination of the Epson Bright Link Interactive System with the media tablet program will allow students to collaborate with peers to enhance and strengthen individual skills in a more engaged classroom setting. It will also allow Symmes Valley students to link to the global community; connecting with both national and international K-12 and college classrooms to share ideas and enrich the learning experience.

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.

Spending reductions will be achieved through the reduction of textbook purchases in grades 6 through 12. Student achievement will be positively impacted by utilizing the desire of the students to use electronic devices to engage them in the classroom. As previous generations thought of the calculator as a valuable tool in the learning environment, current students are much more adept than their elders in employing multi-media devices in research, communication and overall learning. It is, therefore, imperative that these tools and learning aids be made available to them.

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

- $440,000.00 ^* Total project cost

* 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.

Equipment purchases would amount to $146,400 for the Epson Bright Link Systems, $192,000 for the interactive media tablets. Expected Network, Hardware, and Software improvements and purchases are $91,000. Staff, student, and community training is $11,000. The Symmes Valley LSD is committing $40,000 of local funding in the projects initial 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.

- $45,000.00 ^* 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.

The new/recurring costs that we feel are appropriate are $35,000 annually for the replacement and maintenance of current media tablets. $10,000 annually for the expected growth of the 1-to-1 program. $5,000 in related salary and benefit expenditures for the additional maintenance needs.

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

- $15,000.00 ^* 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.)

The Symmes Valley LSD would expect savings of at least $15,000 annually over our current 5 year forecast. These savings would be expected to start in the 3rd year of the project. This would be the reduction in "classic" textbook purchases for grades 6 though 12. Thes savings would be expected to increase over time with the successful implementation of the 1-to-1 program. It is our intention to move this project to the lower grades.

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 to 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.

Symmes Valley LSD spent $150,000 on common core curriculum textbooks in the summer of 2013, our current Five Year Forecast includes expenditures of $150,000 annually for additional textbook purchases. These would be eliminated over time and replaced with electronic versions of the textbooks at a greatly reduced cost per unit. We are expecting to reduce textbook expenditures by $50,000 annually. Initially, these savings will be used for maintenance and replacement of current media tablet inventory and Bright Link system expansion. In the future, it is the School District's intention to use these projected savings to expand these systems to the 3rd through 5th grades.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation 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): 07/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

Upon approval of project we will: Order and take delivery of all equipment as soon as funds are available. Contract with SCOCA for network updates and expansion of wireless access points beginning July 1, 2014. Contract with Newtech Systems for the installation of Epson Bright Link Systems beginning July 1, 2014. Form a committee to develop policies for teachers and students for the 1 to 1 project which will be completed by June 15, 2014. Prepare media tablets for classroom use, this would include loading electronic textbooks, creating updated teaching plans, and installing necessary applications. Barriers to consider and prepare for are timely delivery of Bright Link Systems, installation of additional wireless access points, installation of necessary hardware and software for each building. We are mitigating these factors by partnering with SCOCA for installation of network and wireless access points, coordinating closely with vendors and contractors for timely installation and delivery. Additionally, all stakeholders within the School District are taking part in committee formation and policy and procedure planning.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 07/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

Beginning in July, teacher in-service sessions will be scheduled. Students, parents, and community members will be given the opportunity to attend numerous demonstrations and open house periods to familiarize stakeholders with the advantages of the new multi media tools being made available to the students. Program policies and procedures will be disseminated to teachers, students, and parents. This will include the guidelines and expectations we have set for our 1-to-1 program. Barriers to consider and prepare for are student/teacher acceptance and understanding of their responsibility in implementing the program. We will eliminate these challenges through appropriate training during the demonstration and open house periods and teacher in-service sessions.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 08/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

The effectiveness of the program will be assessed yearly using Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO's) from the state report card. This data will be compared to previous years, with the goal of increasing the percentage of AMO's met from the beginning of implementation to the end of program implementation. We are hesitant at this time to set a specific percentage due to the change in assessments at the state level, going from OAA and G&T assessments to end of course assessments that are based on common core standards.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication

19. 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.

During the 2012-13 school year the 4th grade students in our district had the opportunity to pilot the new state computer based assessments. Upon completion of these assessments student response was overwhelmingly positive, stating that the reason they preferred this type of assessment over paper based assessments was due to the fact that they could type their responses rather than write. Students appeared to be more engaged during the assessment, even though they lacked the understanding of technological terminology being used. Students who are in middle and high school often have their cell phones or other electronic devices with them during class time. Some of our teachers have begun to take advantage of this and ask students to use these devices in the classroom. We would like to expand this learning opportunity to all of our students who cannot afford these devices. Consistent with the observations that our teachers have reported about the use of technology in the classroom, administrators in schools who are implementing the Epson Bright Link Systems have reported that teachers and students collaborate more on lessons in the classrooms that have the Bright Link Systems than in those classrooms that do not. Students who are in these classrooms report that they understand things easier and think it makes learning fun. Furthermore, studies conducted by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to determine the effectiveness of 1 to 1 tablet programs has shown that 20% more students scored Proficient or Advanced in subject comprehension when using tablets rather than paper textbook
19. Has the project already met the expected savings?  

Yes [ ] No [ ]

20. What are the expected savings?  

$[ ]

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

Yes [ ] No [ ]

22. If so, how?  

[ ] By following the timeline and procedures set forth in this application, and also using the successes and errors that our district will experienced as a guide, any district in the state of Ohio would be able to replicate this project.

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

The Symmes Valley Local School District is an isolated rural community and has a poverty rate of 64%, therefore, many of our students do not have access to technology. The majority of our students do not have access to modern technology in their homes. This program will impact our students by putting modern technology in the hands of those who otherwise would not have access, thus putting them on equal ground with peers more fortunate and with greater access to this technology. This will allow our students to achieve a greater degree of pride and ownership in their education which will better prepare them academically and open their minds to the possibility of going on to higher education after high school graduation.

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 will improve on quarterly benchmark assessments and summative assessments.
* There will be an increase in positive school perception beginning with the first year of program implementation when compared to the prior year. 3. The percentage of graduating Seniors who go to college will increase. 4. There will be an increase in the number of teachers who embed technology in their classroom teaching. 5. There will be a decrease in total expenditures over the life of the program due to the savings realized through the purchase of electronic textbooks.

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).

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 [ ] Vanessa Honaker
Federal Programs Coordinator
Symmes Valley Local Schools 10/25/2013