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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -345,473.00
Applicants shall respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.

**General Information, Experience and Capacity**

1. **Project Title:** To 1 Computing in A Small, Rural School

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.

   Walnut Township Local School District aims to improve student achievement and utilize a greater share of resources in the classroom by incorporating technology into its daily routine. The small, rural school will use Straight A funds to purchase a Chromebook for each student and staff in grades 5 - 12 and upgrade its technology infrastructure. This technology will be used to engage students in new ways of learning and enable teachers to deliver individualized, deeper content.

   400 3. **Total Students Impacted:**

3. **Lead applicant primary contact:** - Provide the following information:

   - First Name, Last Name of primary applicant: Carrie Brown, Technology Coordinator and Randy Cotner, Superintendent
   - Organization and name of lead applicant: Walnut Township Local School District
   - Unique Identifier (RIN/Fed Tax ID): 049904
   - Address of lead applicant: 11850 Lancaster St.
   - Phone Number of lead applicant: 740-467-2219
   - Email Address of lead applicant: jbrownfield@walnuttsd.org

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

   - First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: n/a
   - Organization and name of secondary applicant: n/a
   - Unique Identifier (RIN/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

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

   - n/a

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

7. **Letters of support for districts or in academic or fiscal distress only:**

   - 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.**

   Walnut Township Local School District (WTLS) formed an advisory committee made up of district administrators, teachers, and technology experts during the planning of this grant application. Members of that committee will share in the leadership of this initiative as it is implemented. The team has successfully implemented a Race To The Top grant and often mentors school districts in the region who are putting in place Common Core Standards, Student Learning Objectives, and the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System. We will build on those successes using Straight A funds. The advisory team is made up of the following individuals: Randy Cotner, Superintendent, Bachelors of Science, Masters in Educational Administration, Race to the Top Transformation Member 2, Jeff Stought, Principal, Millersport Jr/Sr High School, Bachelors of Science, Masters of Education, Race to the Top Transformation Member, Race to the Top SLO Committee Member 3, Angie Harrison, Principal, Millersport Elementary School, Bachelors of Science, Masters of Education, Race to the Top Transformation Member, Race to the Top SLO Committee Member 4, Joe Brownfield, Junior High / High School Technology Coordinator, Bachelors of Arts, Masters of Arts, Integrated Business and Computer Technology licensure, Race to the Top Transformation Member, Race to the Top SLO Committee Member 5, Mary Ford, Elementary Technology Coordinator, Bachelors of Arts, Masters of Arts 6, Kirk Grandy, Treasurer/CFO, School Treasurer's License 7, Craig Chalford, Professional Services Manager, X Tel Partners, EDGE and DBE certified by the state of Ohio, certified Lenovo dealer and warranty professional 8, Jennifer Sponseller, 7th/8th Grade Science Teacher, Bachelors of Science - Middle Childhood, Race to the Top SLO Committee Member 9, Carrie Brown, 5th/6th Grade Science Teacher, Bachelors of Science - Middle Childhood The advisory team will work alongside a pilot group of teachers to incorporate a Chromebook for every student in their classroom. The following individuals are tentatively selected to be on the Pilot Group: Additional classrooms may be selected to join the pilot group. 1. Jennifer Sponseller, 7th/8th Grade Science Teacher 2. Carrie Brown, 5th/6th Grade Science Teacher 3. Allison Davis, 9th/10th Grade English Teacher 4. Caitlin McClurg, 11th/12th Grade Math Teacher

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

9. What 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.**

   Walnut Township Local School District (WTLS) sits in a small, rural community located about 30 miles southeast of Columbus, Ohio. The community is at risk. It has seen a 1000% INCREASE in meth lab sites in the county in the last two years, with 22% of policed-identified labs located in the township. The district's 2013 ODE-issued report card shows a "C" in its ability to close achievement gaps among all students, and its 4-year graduation rate scored a "D". In 2013 only 12% of its 1044 residents held a bachelor's degree or higher and most residents were commuting about a half hour or longer to larger cities for work (city-data.com 2013). Nearly 1 out of 2 students (48%) are of poverty in the district and lack resources such as personal computers. Walnut Township students also lack access to big business and industry in the area, making it difficult for educators to forge partnerships that help students be college and career ready. Additionally, technology has become a fundamental tool in education and Walnut Township Local does not have devices to meet its current demand. Ohio students will be required in the next five years to take online assessments such as the PARCC and ACT to demonstrate academic proficiency, and the Walnut Township Local School District does not have the technology in place to implement this requirement. Currently the district has three computer labs that are overcrowded and have long wait times for teachers to sign up for the labs. The district's technology infrastructure is also out of date and not-equipped to handle additional devices. In the past 3 fiscal years the district's expenditures have exceeded its revenue by an average of $277,406.00 per year, and without assistance the district is projected to overspend its budget by an average of $1.12 million per year over the next 5 years. **OUR STUDENTS NEED ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND THE DISTRICT DOES NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO MEET THIS NEED.** The Straight A Fund grant will allow us to fill this need. We will raise student achievement and utilize a greater share of resources in the classroom by putting a technology device (Chromebooks) in the hands of each student and teacher in grades 5 - 12. We will also update the district's infrastructure to support the devices. Through this effort teachers will be able to connect students to resources outside of their community such as virtual class field trips to 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.

Walnut Township Local School District will form a pilot group of teachers who will implement this concept from March 1 to May 1, 2013, and conduct an evaluation of the impact of the implementation on the classroom.

GOAL 1: RAISE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT Objective #1: Increase student preparation for online high stakes testing through the use of online formative assessments in the classroom. Through the Race To The Top grant, Walnut Township Local School District has increased its use of data to drive instruction. As of October 2013 70% of WTLS teachers report using formative assessment on a daily or weekly basis, with the remaining 30% using it on a quarterly basis. Ohio became a PARCC governing state in November 2011, indicating its movement towards online high stakes testing for all students. Our students PARCC scores will be more accurate if they are comfortable with the technology needed to complete the tests. Therefore, we will use the Chromebooks to conduct all formative assessments online.

Professional development days will focus on using Google Drive to automate grading and conduct deeper analysis of content. Objective #2: Increase student engagement through the use of technology in the classroom. Research shows that technology gives teachers and students more time to work one-on-one with small groups of students than the traditional classroom. Teachers will utilize technology in daily instruction to the department will continue to develop teachers' comfort level with face-to-face training, online instructional videos (i.e. YouTube), one-on-one coaching, and weekly newsletters. Students who are identified as “power users” will be partnered with teachers to identify online projects and content for the classroom. We believe incorporating youth voice will be key to engage students in their learning.

GOAL 2: UTILIZE A GREATER SHARE OF RESOURCES IN THE CLASSROOM Objective #1: Upgrade the district’s network and purchase a device (Chromebook) for every student and teacher in grades 5-12. Chromebooks are computers designed to quickly access educational and collaborative resources on the internet at a significantly lower cost than traditional PCs (IDC, April 2013). We will form a pilot group of teachers who will implement this concept from March - June 2013 in their classrooms. Teachers will use their experiences, current research, and case studies to make successful device roll-outs to implement the concept in grades 5-12 beginning in August 2014. Additionally, the district's network is outdated and does not have the capacity to host 450 additional devices. We will subcontract XTek Partners to upgrade our network and increase our capability to manage these devices.

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.

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?

345,473.00 $ Total project cost

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.

30,000.00 $ Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

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

60,000.00 $ Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

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 at least five school districts, 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.

NA: Financial Impact Template is attached

Our project will provide Chromebooks for every student and teacher in grades 5 - 12 and upgrade its network to capable manage the devices. We will purchase 450 Chromebooks at $406.00 per item ($173,667 for hardware and monitoring software), assuming a 5 year shelf life. In addition, each item also has a 2 year manufacturer's warranty that covers faulty products. The advisory team spoke with several districts who have implemented 1:1 computing and most related they budgeted approximately $3 per student per year to be spent on the replacement of Chromebooks ($30.00 per item for a total of $13,500.00). 22 Charging Carts @ $1,589 per item for charging and charging devices in each 5-12 classroom for a total of $34,958.50. Supplies to upgrade the district’s network and enable the use of Chromebooks in the classroom (i.e. - switches (lifetime warranty), modules, ports, transceivers, stacking cable, mountable racks and power supplies) for a total cost of $96,902.00.

SUPPORT SERVICE, PURCHASED SERVICE: $18,630.00, DIVIDED INTO: 1. XTek Partners for labor to set up classroom carts, tag and inventory assets, and configure and set up Chromebooks for $18,300.00. 2. XTek Partners for labor to upgrade district network (switches, ports, racks, cables, wireless, transceivers, power, etc.) for $300.00.

The budget is made up of the following purchases, delineated by project: COST to the district.

- 450 Management Consoles for Devices @ $30.00
- 450 Protective Covers/Cases for Chromebooks @ $7.25 per item for a total of $12,263.00
- 450 Management Consoles for Devices @ $30.00 per item for a total of $13,500.00
- 22 Charging Carts @ $1,589 per item for storing and charging devices in each 5-12 classroom for a total of $34,958.50
- Supplies to upgrade the district’s network and enable the use of Chromebooks in the classroom (i.e. - switches (lifetime warranty), modules, ports, transceivers, stacking cable, mountable racks and power supplies) for a total cost of $96,902.00.
- SUPPORT SERVICE, PURCHASED SERVICE: $18,630.00, DIVIDED INTO: 1. XTek Partners for labor to set up classroom carts, tag and inventory assets, and configure and set up Chromebooks for $18,300.00. 2. XTek Partners for labor to upgrade district network (switches, ports, racks, cables, wireless, transceivers, power, etc.) for $300.00.

- The school reported a cost savings on teacher grading time of homework and online testing, and anticipated a savings in cost of textbooks as they turned to more cost efficient online textbooks.
- The department will continue to develop teachers using face-to-face training, online instructional videos (i.e. YouTube), one-on-one coaching, and weekly newsletters. Students who are identified as “power users” will be partnered with teachers to identify online projects and content for the classroom.
- We believe incorporating youth voice will be key to engage students in their learning.

The estimated cost contributed by the Race to the Top grant by providing time during professional development days to provide training on the use of Chromebooks in the classroom and on how to create, deliver and use online formative assessments. The Race to the Top grant will also provide substitute teachers when needed to allow for teachers to spend time with the Technology Department as needed while learning to implement online formative assessments.

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.

30,000.00 $ Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

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

60,000.00 $ Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

A 2013 study by IDC states, “the most significant financial impact the schools experienced with their Chromebooks was the reduction of labor costs associated with deploying and maintaining computing devices.” IDC also relates Chromebooks have a high rate of reliability, meaning they require 82% less maintenance and downtime (i.e. power up time, frozen screen, etc.) when compared to a PC.

Finally, IDC’s study indicates Chromebooks required 69% less labor to deploy and 92% less labor to support than PCs. These statistics indicate district technology staff will have the time to support devices and help teachers successfully integrate them into their classroom. Walnut Township Local Schools also feels the integration of Chromebooks will allow the staff to be more efficient in their daily tasks. The Computing Technology Network (comptechnetwork.org, 2008) reported a school seeing costs in teacher grading time of homework and online testing, and anticipated a savings in costs in textbooks as they turned to more cost efficient online textbooks. The technology coordinator has piloted online formative assessments in his classroom and a study of his time shows on average, he can grade tests 50% faster than the current method.

This savings will allow teachers to further analyze data, pinpointing individual needs and identifying concepts the class needs to revisit. Tests are graded instantly using the Chromebook, allowing for teachers to address needs as soon as they arise. A 2013 survey of Walnut Township Local teachers shows about 70% of the staff conduct formative assessments daily or weekly. An estimated 30 teachers will use a Chromebook. If 21 teachers (70%) conduct a formative assessment on a daily or weekly basis, it is anticipated he/she will save 1 hour per week or 40 hours per school year through this method. This is an anticipated savings of 840 hours per school year among 5-12 staff. Finally, research indicates districts find the most savings from purchasing digital copies of textbooks instead of hard copies.

The research is varied regarding the exact amount saved by transitioning to digital textbooks. Individual textbooks from providers such as Houghton-Mifflin show a range of savings depending on each book from 30 - 80% of the cost. Furthermore, the Ohio Department of Education released a report stating a Digital Playbook and Digital Learning Playbook helps save approximately $300.00 per student per year.

The Playbook was developed by the Digital Textbook Collaborative, a joint effort of industry stakeholders, school officials and nonprofit leaders to encourage collaboration, accelerate the development of digital textbooks and improve the quality and penetration of digital learning in K-12 public education (http://www.fcc.gov, 2013). The Playbook cites research conducted by Project RED (http://www.projectred.org).

Saying on average cost savings for going digital (1:1 computing) are estimated at close to $600 per student per year due to increased teacher attendance, reduced copy and paper costs, using online...
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 the project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

The movement towards 1:1 computing is self-sustaining. As explained in question 41, Walnut Township Local Schools anticipates budgeting $30,012.60 per year towards the replacement of Chromebooks. According to ProjectRED’s national research described in question 816 we may be able to anticipate a yearly savings of $60,000.00 due to increased teacher attendance, reduced copy and paper costs, using online assessments, using digital versus print materials, online learning, and decreased dropout rates. The following assumptions are also made in the fiscal forecast to sustain the initiative.

1. The district will utilize graduating seniors’ opportunity to purchase a Chromebook. If 50% of each graduating class (about 22 students) purchase a Chromebook at $250.00 per unit the district will generate $5,500.00. 2. The district will charge a yearly student technology fee of $50.00 per student to students who are NOT economically disadvantaged. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch would not be assessed a fee. Walnut Local currently has approximately 400 students enrolled in grades 5-12, with 52% of students (208) above the poverty level. This practice would generate approximately $10,600.00 per year for technology replacement. 3. Walnut Township Local School currently operates a $2,500.00 yearly technology budget, which is not fully utilized each year. This amount would be available for product replacement. 4. The district currently budgets $25,000.00 per year for replacement of its textbooks and about $10,000.00 for printing costs. If we assume a 50% cost savings per year for both items the district will save $17,500.00 per year. These assumptions total $35,900.00. If we assume a 10% error margin ($3,990.00) the district still projects to sustain the initiative over a 5-year period if we use ProjectRED’s research as a guide and save $50,000.00 yearly in costs we will exceed our conservative estimates to sustain the initiative.

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): 03/30/2014

* Narrative explanation

By January 2014 1. Place order for purchase of 450 Chromebooks from XTek Partners 2. Finalize dates for upgrade of network. Our goal is to upgrade the network during Spring Break or in the first week of June, depending on XTek’s availability. XTek has signed the Straight A Partnership Agreement and given preliminary approval to upgrade during one of those two windows of time. If these dates are not available, we will first look to have the work completed in phases on the weekend. 3. During the planning phase of this grant the advisory team recruited a team of 4 teachers to pilot the technology in their classrooms from March 1st through May 22nd. Finalize dates with its members and review implementation dates with its members and review implementation dates with its members and review implementation dates with its members.

e) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE

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

Walnut Township Local Schools anticipates significant changes to the instructional climate in our district. In a 2013 survey of our teachers, 24% (6 out of 26) of staff said they rarely or never incorporated technology in their classrooms when each student received a Chromebook. Students could take practice OAA and PARCC assessments, using digital versus print materials, online learning, and decreased dropout rates.

20. Identify the stakeholders that will be engaged in the implementation of this project and describe their role.

Advisory Team will collect initial feedback from the pilot group on the implementation and use of the Chromebooks. Best practices and lessons learned will be collected from the pilot group and used to improve the rollout of the remaining devices. By June 2014. The network will be fully upgraded by XTek Partners. 2. The Advisory Team will measure immediate outcomes and use results to inform the rollout to remaining students and staff.

E) IMPACT, EVALUATION AND REPLICATION

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

Yes

22. Provide a description of how this project will be able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio.

Districts who want to incorporate 1:1 computing will need to consider several factors as they build a plan to implement. After reviewing multiple sources and case studies concerning the rollout of this
Technology to the classroom the advisory team came up with five essential elements any district should consider regarding 1:1 computing. The program's continuous improvement efforts consist of two methods of using data: formative and summative assessment. In formative assessment data is used as soon as it is collected to inform decision making. For example, if a teacher wants to assess student understanding of a concept based on student work assignments and adjust instruction accordingly, a formative assessment would be used. The Technology Development Department will also benchmark student and staff technology skills and will base their professional development plan on areas that reveal the most need. That data is recorded, summarized by members of the Advisory Team and used at mid-year and end of evaluating progress of outcomes. In time, this continuous improvement process will build quality and grow a sense of ownership among stakeholders. Summatively, the advisory team will measure progress made towards grant objectives at the end of the 2nd and 4th grading periods for each school year by collecting data from students, teachers and staff as dictated by the outcomes. For example, one objective listed is to increase student engagement through the use of technology in the classroom. In the short term we will look to outcomes 8, 9, 10 and 12 (see numbered list in question 24) to gauge if we are making progress towards increasing student engagement and ultimately increasing student achievement. By the 2016-2017 school year the advisory team will look to outcomes 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 to determine progress made in achieving the objective. The advisory team has mapped all outcomes listed in question 24 to one of the three identified objectives mentioned in this application. Several outcomes will require the advisory team to administer surveys, collect OTES evaluation results, conduct time studies, track student achievement data, and review fiscal expenditures. The advisory team will be responsible for collecting this information and will assign team members roles that are specific to their strengths. For example, the collection and management of data will be handled by the Technology Development, while the analysis of student achievement and engagement outcomes will be shared among principals, and the Treasurer will produce and share fiscal reports. This intentional, methodic way of examining outcomes will drive our team to successfully implement 1:1 computing in the district.

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.

Agree: Dr. Larry J. Brown Jr., Superintendent, Walnut Township Local School District; Agree: Kirk Grandy, Treasurer, Walnut Township Local School District; I Agree: Joe Brownfield, Technology Coordinator, Walnut Township Local School District