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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -154,766.15
1. Project Title: HUB

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.

The HUB project will introduce cutting-edge technology needed to support the transformation of the West Geauga Schools into 21st learning environments by front-loading all of the equipment necessary to move teachers philosophically, teaching strategies and assessments of individual students by June, 2014. The HUB project will provide an outside consultant to work hand-in-hand to support the learning needs of staff members using his expertise in moving from traditional teaching to learner-based environments utilizing technology to systematically build up the skill levels of staff. The HUB project will increase student achievement as each individual student will have an individual learning plan based upon the immediate delivery of skills acquisition progress.

3. Total Students Impacted:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:
   - First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Geoff Palmer
   - Organizational name of lead applicant: West Geauga School District
   - Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 047225
   - Address of lead applicant: 8615 Cedar Road
   - Phone Number of lead applicant: 4407295900
   - Email Address of lead applicant: geoff.palmer@westg.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 (IRN/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).

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 Core Team will include Geoff Palmer, Nancy Benincasa, Ed Chandlier, James Russo, Sean Whelan and Brenda Harriss. Geoff Palmer's entire educational career has been involved with utilizing technology as a tool to bring academic success. His first-hand experiences also included the position of a district technology coordinator. Geoff's expectations of educators is to utilize technology to enhance teaching and this is modeled regularly at administrative, board and community meetings. Curriculum Director Nancy Benincasa has changed the way educators do our work at West Geauga. Current Core work is being created 100% online. Teachers are mapping, pacing and developing SOLs in a collegial manner while remaining within their respective schools or from home. Monitoring and support allow for immediate feedback as grade levels work together or dialogue over individual philosophies. West Geauga Technology Director Ed Chandlier and Operations Manager James Russo have implemented improvements already as a result of our Rtte grant. One of the commitments of the Rtte grant involved utilizing online testing. The IOWAs and CogATs have both utilized online testing. These activities have opened up technical issues that needed to be addressed. The transitional move toward 21st Century Skills was approved by the Board with the creation and funding of two new positions beginning in the 2013-2014 school year. Sean Whelan, the instructional technology coach has provided hands-on support, professional development, problem-solving on how to integrate technology into our students' learning experiences.

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 an existing project that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project:
The HUB project will allow us to systematically support and change the way we teach in West Geauga Schools. No longer will we rely upon paper pencil activities and outdated textbooks. No longer will our teachers and students need to wait to provide effective feedback or analyze individual or group data. HUB will be at the core of each of our four schools and provide the hands-on, visual, concrete model for all levels of teaching staff and learners. The premise of HUB is threefold. First, HUB will provide the tools for our tech-savvy teachers to transform their teacher-directed ways into learner-centered days. Second, HUB will build the expectation and also support and build confidence within the rest of the teaching staff by helping transition them into 'Blenders'. This will be accomplished by providing each student and staff member with an individual tech tool that will be used daily for formative assessments that will bring about data to enhance instruction. This will also provide immediate feedback, which research tells us is critical for quality learning. Last, HUB will provide methods for professional development based upon assessments of teacher/student needs in August, November, February and June. The Common Core standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world. We know that they reflect the skills and knowledge that our students need to be successful in the real world and to be college ready and productive citizens. In order to accomplish this, we need to provide a quality education that is based upon technology as a way of learning, problem-solving and collaborating. The HUB will be a media-intensive learning environment at the core of each school. Microsoft Surface tablets, touch-screen computers, wall talkers, mobile carts of tablet PCs, data acquisition equipment, video projectors and 3-D projectors will be ready for our core group of tech-savvy teachers. Simultaneously, the additional teaching staff will have their classrooms equipped with individual student devices that will be used daily for web-based skills remediation, formative assessments that drive classroom instruction, and immediate student feedback during skill development. The expectation and monitoring of this daily practice will assist staff to see the merit in analysis of data and the merit of using technology to move from teacher-directed to learner-centered lessons. The new Common Core requirements and assessments to measure student achievement are driving change in our instructional practices to move away from the teacher-dominated classrooms to learning environments that are learner-centered. The HUB approach will include personalization and integrating the skills of communication, collaboration and critical thinking. Our student will engage in active learning experiences to process concepts...
Instead of just learning facts, the highest levels of Bloom’s taxonomy will become the standard within all teaching strategies. Last and the critical need for success is systematic professional development change the thinking and practices of our teachers. The district already has tech support in place at each of our schools. These include a webmaster, audio-visual interventionist and a technology support teacher. HUB will bring these support people together by training them to support the growth of each staff member as we role out the map and planning for the transformation of teaching practices.

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above. If school/district receives school improvement funds/support, include a brief explanation of how this project will advance the improvement plan.

The HUB project will meet all three of the goals of the Straight A Fund. First, it will improve student achievement for all students currently enrolled in K-12 in the West Geauga Schools. This will be accomplished by having Common Core taught in a technology-rich, learner-centered environment. These media-intensive, collaborative, learning environments will allow students to ‘ liken’ with problem-solving as a means of producing final projects. Weekly modeling sessions with staff will be lead by the tech support teams to begin with then turn over to the tech-savvy teachers and finally have the ‘blender’ (teachers blending their comfort level teaching styles with the technology-based tools that can enhance their instruction. Immediate student data will be used to build individual teaching resources. The continuous monitoring and assessment of transformational teaching will provide the critical element necessary. The second goal of reducing spending in the five fiscal year forecast will be met by utilizing the Straight A grant to purchase and completely equip each school with the technology to provide quality programming, savings will be seen in the ability to move professional development in-house, reduction of paper and shipping costs, transportation savings for our secondary students and the ever-growing need of personal to support remediation in specific skills. The third goal of utilizing a greater share of resources available to our students will be met by tapping into our intervention specialists teaching skills because HUB move each teacher to have an individual learning plan for each student. Resources will be focused on individual student needs across the school as the technology support will provide laser focus to be needs of our 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 fiscal 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.

N/A

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

1,955,000.00 * 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, RTF 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 HUB project budget includes $250,000 for each of the four schools to upgrade the bandwidth and purchase the technology tools needed for the media-intensive learning environment at the core of each school. Microsoft Surface tablet/screen computers, wall talkers, mobile carts of tablet PCs, data acquisition equipment, video projectors and 3-D projectors will be ready for our core group of tech-savvy teachers. Simultaneously, the additional teaching staff will have their classrooms equipped with individual student devices that will be used daily for web-based skills remediation, formative assessments that drive classroom instruction, and immediate student feedback during skill development. The budget to complete this portion of the HUB project will cost $800,000 to complete the purchase of an individual technology device for each student. Three MacBook Pros have a budget cost included into this expense. Professional development expenses will be $34,766.16 and the outside consultant will be $120,000. The additional $40,233.84 will be budgeted for the additional support services to maintain the administration and organization of the HUB Project.

15. What new/recurring costs of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

0.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

The current five-year forecast includes $140,000 yearly for technology expenses. This will be used to service and replace equipment as needed. The current textbook funds will be used for digital resources and these costs are already included in the forecast. The district currently provides for the technology support personnel at each of the schools out of the general fund. Therefore, the maintenance of the project is provided for within the five year forecast.

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

1,800,000.00 * 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 expected savings is the total amount of technology equipment purchases that will take place in April, 2014 with the Straight A funding that West Geauga School District has been unable to purchase within the current budget.

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining. If there are ongoing costs associated with the project after the term of the grant, this explanation should provide details on the cost reductions that will be made that are at least equal to the amount of new/recurring costs detailed above. If there are no new/recurring costs, explain in detail how this project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

The HUB project will take advantage of the current technology infrastructure and assist in the planning/mapping based upon the individual school needs. Our outside consultant will train, model and demonstrate the most effective ways to support the HUB tech-savvy staff as well as the development of our ‘blenders’ teaching staff. July will bring sessions offered through West Geauga University’s professional development training that will be conducted by administrators and current school technology staff. These sessions will be offered to all teaching staff members on a voluntary basis. Parents, community members and students will be provided detailed information as well as open-houses in early August to communicate the transformation that will be occurring with the schools. The District Professional Development Day in August will be dedicated to an overview and vision of the transformation of teacher-directed instruction to learner-centered environments. Weekly professional development will be take place at each school led by our outside consultant and based upon the data provided by progress monitoring the growth of each school’s staff.

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 include parents, community leaders, foundation support and businesses, as well as educational personnel in the affected entities.)

* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 01/01/14-03/15/14

* Narrative explanation

The hiring of consultant Andrea Johanson will be the first order of business. Mr. Johanson will conduct a needs assessment in January to confirm the specific technology upgrades needed in each facility as well as final count of individual student devices needed. The comprehensive report will be given to the administrators by 03/15/14/comprehensive report will and bids will be accepted for the technology equipment and facility upgrades to accommodate the HUB project. Ordering will be done in consultation with Apple and Mr. Johanson with a delivery timeline of March, 2014. The physical structure needs will be completed during the months of June, July and August, 2014.

Implementation (MM/DD/YYYY): 04/01/14-08/30/14

* Narrative explanation

Implementation of the HUB project will begin with the emersion of West Geauga’s Instructional Leadership Team, which is comprised of the Superintendent, Directors and Coordinators, Principals and Assistant Principals. The HUB project’s vision and goals will be embedded into our daily work. We will calibrate our communication and understanding of the stages involved and support needed to transform teaching practices as we move forward. Monitoring and feedback of each of the schools will take place weekly. In June, the current technology support staff at the four buildings will be immersed in the transformational stages and assist in the planning/mapping based upon their individual school needs. Our outside consultant will train, model and demonstrate the most effective ways to support both the HUB tech-savvy staff as well as the development of our ‘blenders’ teaching staff. July will bring sessions offered through West Geauga University’s professional development training that will be conducted by administrators and current school technology staff. These sessions will be offered to all teaching staff members on a voluntary basis. Parents, community members and students will be provided detailed information as well as open-houses in early August to communicate the transformation that will be occurring with the schools. The District Professional Development Day in August will be dedicated to an overview and vision of the transformation of teacher-directed instruction to learner-centered environments. Weekly professional development will be take place at each school led by our outside consultant and based upon the data provided by progress monitoring the growth of each school’s staff.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/15/14
Narrative explanation

The August baseline data will be compared to the June data to determine the level of success through the district as well as each school. The three goals of increased student achievement, spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast and utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom will be assessed. In addition, the level of HUB usage and movement of teaching Common Core in a technology rich, higher level learning-centered environment will be reviewed based upon the 360 Walk-Through data. ‘Blender’ comfort levels and technology development will be assessed through the use of an online survey. Successes will be celebrated and areas of need identified.

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

The HUB project will be the impetus for the transformation of our instructional practices to move from the current pencil-paper activities into collaborative learning. It will provide our teaching staff with the tools and professional development to move away from teacher-directed instruction toward learner-centered environments. HUB will also cultivate the consistent use of formative assessment practices, analyzing data to form instruction and the ability to provide immediate feedback and individualized instruction for each student.

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

Yes

22. If so, how?

The two key components to replicate the HUB project are the ability to equip each school with ALL of the necessary technology that is ready for teacher usage and the second is to embed expectations and professional development into each teacher’s daily work.

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

The HUB project will increase student achievement with all students being able to make at least a year’s worth of progress each academic year.

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.

The HUB project will provide individual students with individual educational plans based upon their skill levels that teachers will be able to manage using technology. Teachers will become experts in the ability to teach students using the most current 21st Century practices.

25. Describe the plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used.

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

Brenda J Harriss
Coordinator of Testing, Grants, and Special Projects
West Geauga School District
October 25, 2013