ACCESS
Advancing Education Technologies

Date: April 11, 2014

Subj: Mahoning Valley Academic Cloud - Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this Letter of Support for the Mahoning Valley Academic Cloud (MAC). ACCESS fully supports this proposal, and will bring our full effort to the project.

ACCESS is one of twenty-two Information Technology Centers (ITCs) in the State of Ohio, responsible for delivering technology services to schools in Mahoning and Columbiana counties. ACCESS provides two services which will be critical to the success of this project, namely Internet and Email services, as well as Student Information System (SIS) services, as described below.

As part of our Internet and Email service offerings, we will enable this project through both access and identity management. ACCESS provides a Wide Area Network (WAN) that connects all of the schools in both counties together. Further, ACCESS has the ability to provide a managed wireless service to the schools, enabling wireless deployment anywhere in the district or building, removing a significant barrier to access for both school-owned devices and student-owned devices. ACCESS also provides every teacher, administrator, and student with a username, password, and email account through the Google Apps for Education service offering. The student accounts are created automatically upon enrollment in a school building, and the username and password are also available to the teacher through the Student Information System (SIS) as well as their online gradebook program. Districts can control what programs and features are available to their students.

ACCESS maintains the Progress Book Suite's "Student Information" SIS program. This SIS manages, among other things, all student demographics (including e-mail username and password), as well as all teachers, courses, and course enrollments. As part of this project, ACCESS will write the software programs necessary to integrate the SIS with the MAC, ensuring that all of the school setup, teacher accounts, student accounts, courses, and course enrollments are up-to-date. This level of integration will ensure the absolute minimum of administrative overhead necessary to use the MAC, enabling the teachers and students to focus on teaching and learning rather than administrative busywork.

ACCESS is fully engaged and excited to be part of this innovative project! Please do not hesitate to contact me directly for any clarification or additional information.

Sincerely,

John LaPlante
Executive Director

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