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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -908,000.00
Please respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.

**A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information**

1. **Project Title:**
   Project FREE PASS - Finding Resources through Energy Efficiency to Provide Alternatives for Student Success.

2. **Executive summary:** Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.
   Improved energy efficiency is our mechanism for finding fiscal resources to redirect into a digital academy for our students. The digital academy will provide an alternative pathway for students struggling in the traditional classroom setting. As a result of the implementation of the digital academy, we anticipate a reduction in the loss of students to alternative public charter schools, which will reduce revenue losses and shore up the sustainability of both the energy savings and the digital academy.

   *This is an ultra-concise description of the overall project. It should not include anything other than a brief description of the project and the goals it hopes to achieve.*

3. **Total Students Impacted:**
   571

   *This is the number of students that will be directly impacted by implementation of the project. This does not include students that may be impacted if the project is replicated or scaled up in the future.*

4. **Please indicate which of the following grade levels will be impacted:**
   - Pre-K Special Education
   - Kindergarten
   - 1
   - 2
   - 3
   - 4
   - 5
   - 6
   - 7
   - 8
   - 9
   - 10
   - 11
   - 12

5. **Lead applicant primary contact:** - Provide the following information:
   - **First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant**: Kenneth Ratliff
   - **Organizational name of lead applicant**: Mohawk Local School District
   - **Address of lead applicant**: 295 State Highway 231, Sycamore, OH 44883
   - **Phone Number of lead applicant**: 419-927-6294
   - **Email Address of lead applicant**: ken.ratliff@mohawklocal.org

6. **Are you submitting your application as a consortium? - Select one checkbox below**
   - Yes
   - No

   If you are applying as consortium, please list all consortium members by name on the "Consortium Member" page by clicking on the link below. If an educational service center is applying as the lead applicant for a consortium, the first consortium member entered must be a client district of the educational service center.

   **Add Consortium Members**

7. **Are you partnering with anyone to plan, implement, or evaluate your project? - Select one checkbox below**
   - Yes

   **Add Consortium Members**
If you are partnering with anyone, please list all partners by name on the “Partnering Member” page by clicking on the link below.

Add Partnering Members

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with goals

8. Describe the innovative project: - Provide the following information

The response should provide a clear and concise description of the project and its major components. Later questions will address specific outcomes and the measures of success.

The current state or problem to be solved; and

In the 5th grade, teachers and building level administrators can readily identify those students who are consistently struggling to have success in the regular classroom setting in one or more subject areas. Some of these students are special education students, others are not. These students participate in the regular classroom and general curriculum and are provided supports in the form of co-teaching environments and differentiation. Learning however is a function of time. While differentiation and co-teaching for the struggling student do make the curriculum accessible, without extended time the achievement gap between struggling students and typical students grows. The achievement gap widens for these students as they move through grade levels and the curriculum increases in sophistication. Many of these students are not students with disabilities, but struggle, nonetheless, in the traditional classroom setting. As the struggle for these students increase, parents begin looking for alternatives where their child might have more success. Currently we have forty-six resident students attending charter non-public schools because they offer an alternative to the traditional classroom model. Parents make this choice because their child is not being successful in the traditional classroom setting. Our data shows this migration begins predominantly in the 7th grade. In the traditional school setting, pacing and scheduling is one size fits all. The traditional classroom has more distractions and presents social challenges for some students. The parents of these students seek out alternatives for their children. They seek alternatives that they hope will allow their child to be successful. In the 2013-2014 school year, Mohawk had 46 resident students enrolled in charter schools offering such an alternative. These school choice losses result in a $264,270 in lost revenues.

The proposed innovation and how it relates to solving the problem or improving on the current state.

This project will create a digital academy within our school. It will not be the creation of a digital charter school, but rather establish a school within a school. The digital academy will provide an alternative educational model that will be self-paced and individualized. This project will give Mohawk the ability to offer parents of students who are struggling in the traditional setting an alternative that we believe will be superior to those offered by the chartered public schools and keep their children involved with their home school. Staying involved in the home school gives their children access to extracurricular offerings in athletics, music, and social events that chartered public schools do not offer. Keeping the students here, keeps them connected to their community and their peers. The digital academy will be initially funded with energy savings generated through an upgrade and integration of an HVAC control system for all of our campus buildings.

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve? - (Check all that apply)

Applicants should select any and all goals the proposal aims to achieve. The description of how the goals will be met should provide the reader with a clear understanding of what the project will look like when implemented, with a clear connection between the components of the project and the stated goals of the fund. If partnerships/consortia are part of the project, this section should describe briefly how the various entities will work together in the project. More detailed descriptions of the roles and activities will be addressed in Question 16.

Student achievement (Describe the specific changes in student achievement you anticipate as a result of this innovation (include grade levels, content areas as appropriate) in the box below.)

This project targets a specific population of students in grades 5-12. While the digital academy will be accessible to all students, the target population is students who are not being successful in the traditional classroom setting or students who are advanced in a particular subject and need an option for an accelerated curriculum. The digital academy will allow students to access grade level content aligned with state adopted standards at their own pace. Students that are consistently making D’s and F’s in their courses and falling further and further behind their peers will have access to grade level material at a pace the student can handle. The course can continue on in the summer and be accessible from home so the student can complete the curriculum and stay on pace with their peers. No longer will retention be the strategy for these students. Retention is a very limited strategy and research has shown it to be largely ineffective in the long run. Historically students have been passed on to the next grade level where they continue to have little or no success. This is the time when parents typically pull them out and enroll them in a digital charter, or area charter that provides an alternative to the traditional curricular delivery system. This project will stop this exodus. The Mohawk Digital Academy will provide an online self-paced alternative. It will also provide face to face support through an intervention specialist who oversees the program, provides individualized support to students and when needed coordinates assistance with a content certified teacher. Through this project we expect to see two changes. First we will see these students beginning to have success. Records will show that students are progressing through the curriculum and having success perhaps for the first time in their school career. Secondly, this project will stop the school choice loss that is occurring by simply offering a viable and superior alternative to the traditional classroom setting for these students.

Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast or positive performance on other approved fiscal measures (Describe the specific reductions you anticipate in terms of dollars and spending categories over a five-year period in the box below or the positive performance you will achieve on other approved fiscal measures. Other approved fiscal measures include a reduction in spending over a five-year period in the operating budget approved by your organization's executive board or its equivalent.)

Project FREE PASS has two components; an energy saving component and a student achievement component. The "FREE" stands for Finding Resources through Energy Efficiency and represents a significant reduction in electrical energy consumption in our district facilities. Our goal is to become one of the most energy efficient districts in the state of Ohio and a nationally ranked energy star district. In planning for this project we compared energy saving proposals from Brewer-Garrett, Johnson Controls, H.E.A.T, and Dynamix Energy Services. We
choose Dynamix Energy Services because they projected the most energy savings, they were the most familiar with our unique geothermal HVAC system, and they customized a proposal ideally suited for our needs. Dynamix Energy Services is an Ohio company that has undertaken several school district energy projects in Ohio and has exceeded their energy saving predictions in those projects. Through retro-commissioning, control system replacement, and remote monitoring the district will reduce electric energy consumption by 30% which translates to $91,314 savings annually under current rates. The "PASS" component of the project refers to Providing Alternatives for Student Success. This will be accomplished through the creation and implementation of the Mohawk Digital Academy. We have chosen Plato as the online curriculum provider after comparing Lincoln Interactive, A+, and the Virtual Learning Academy. The implementation of this project will result in reduced charter school choice losses for Mohawk. Currently our district averages one student per grade level K-6 attending a charter school as an alternative to the traditional public school. In grades 7-12 the average is 6 students per grade level. Conservatively, we believe that we can reduce new annual school choice loss by 50% by offering a similar but arguably superior solution. The majority of new losses occur at the 7th grade; therefore we would begin targeting students in the fifth grade and up who are experiencing little or no success in the traditional classroom setting. Successfully reducing the school choice loss by 50% will result in a saving of $17,235 (3 x $5745 per pupil) in the first year, $34,470, in the 2nd year, $51,705, in the 3rd year and so on. After six years we anticipate a minimum savings of $103,410. Again this is a very conservative estimate, it doesn't account for the possibility of pulling any students currently enrolled elsewhere back, and is accomplished by reducing new annual losses by only 3 students per year. The Mohawk Digital Academy will have a distinct advantage over online digital academies in that students will have access to live support all day every day from and intervention specialist. Students will also have access to content area experts from our certified teaching staff. The digital academy director would assist students in coordinating support from content area certified teachers. Each student's participation in the digital academy would be completely customized for their needs. We would take the least restrictive environment approach for all students participating in the program. To whatever degree the student could participate successfully in the traditional setting we would have them do so. For example a student may not struggle in art, music, or physical education in the traditional setting but may need all of his/her core academic subjects in a self-paced and structured environment. We would allow for extended completion times for courses through the summer and even into the following semester. The digital academy would not be bound by arbitrary starting and stopping points. Students who aren't complete can continue on into the summer and/or pick back up on the course in the fall.

Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom (Describe specific resources (Personnel, Time, Course offerings, etc.) that will be enhanced in the classroom as a result of this innovation in the box below.)

The energy saving component of this project involves retro-commissioning; upgrade and expansion of the HVAC control system; and remote HVAC monitoring to establish operational protocols that realize reduced energy consumption while maintaining all comfort and air quality standards. These changes will result in a 30% increase in operational efficiency and will yield $91,314 of savings in utility costs annually. These energy savings are guaranteed contractually. Dynamix will guarantee the 30% energy savings over the five years with the implementation of the annual service contract during that period. If the 30% is not met, Dynamix makes up the delta to the District. Dynamix monitors the system and energy bills during this period, provides a monthly summary for reporting to the Board, and identifies progress against the goal. We utilize the previous full year as a baseline for energy consumption, then energy usage is compared and weather adjustments are made at the end of the year if applicable. We will meet as a team and verify the District strategy for achieving the goal and help in communicating this to the staff. Dynamix will also implement the FMx software solution to help staff provide feedback on when systems need scheduled for after hour events as well as when areas appear to be too warm or cold. This allows instant feedback on performance and rapid adjustments to the systems. The energy savings will also be self-sustaining. Energy auditing and management is included in the first year of contract work. Beginning in the 2nd year and beyond, we will utilize $30,000 of the savings annually to maintain our HVAC system in an optimized state and to establish a technical services contract for energy auditing and management of our control system in order to insure that the energy savings is ongoing. Initially the entire $91,314 dollars will be utilized to establish the digital academy. The digital academy will require a director. We believe this should be a fully certified intervention specialist with salary and benefits estimated at $60,000 annually. We will purchase a wireless laptop cart, with 25 laptops, loaded with standard productivity software, and a network printer at an estimated cost of $25,000, Carpeting in the classroom (sound dampening) $4,000, 24 study carrels $4,000, Plato online course work licensing $10,000. In the first year we anticipate a reduction of school choice losses of 3 students for $17,235 of additional revenues. As school choice revenues rise, more and more of the energy savings will be set aside to maintain the HVAC systems in the districts. These systems are highly complex and repairs are costly. By the end of the 6th year the Mohawk Digital Academy will be entirely self-sustaining through the reduction in school choice losses. When that occurs all of the energy savings will go towards HVAC maintenance costs which will increase as HVAC system hardware ages.

Implementing a shared services delivery model (Describe how your shared services delivery model will demonstrate increased efficiency and effectiveness, long-term sustainability, and scalability in the box below.)

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one)

- New - never before implemented
- Existing: Never implemented in your community school or school district but proven successful in other educational environments
- Mixed Concept: Incorporates new and existing elements
- Established: Elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school or consortia partnership

C) SUSTAINABILITY - Planning for ongoing funding of the project, cost breakdown

11. Financial Documentation: - All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. The information in these documents must correspond to your responses in questions 11-14.

* Enter a project budget in CCIP (by clicking the link below)
**Enter Budget**

* If applicable, upload the Consortium Budget Worksheet (by clicking the link below)
* Upload the Financial Impact Table (by clicking the link below)
* Upload the Supplemental Financial Reporting Metrics (by clicking the link below)

**Upload Documents**

For applicants without an ODE Report Card for 2012-2013, provide a brief narrative explanation of the impact of your grant project on per pupil expenditures or why this metric does not apply to your grant project instead of uploading the Supplemental Financial Reporting Metric.

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The project budget is entered directly in CCIP. For consortia, this project budget must reflect the information provided by the applicant in the Consortium Budget Worksheet. Directions for the Financial Impact Table are located on the first tab. Applicants must submit one Financial Impact Table with each application. For consortium applications, each consortium member must add an additional tab on the Financial Impact Tables. Partners are not required to submit a Financial Impact Table.

Applicants with an "Ohio School Report Card" for the 2012-2013 school year must upload the Supplemental Financial Reporting Metrics to provide additional information about cost savings and sustainability. Directions for the Supplemental Financial Reporting Metrics are located on the first tab of the document. If your organization does not have an "Ohio School Report Card" for the 2012-2013 school year, please provide an explanation in the text box about how your grant project will impact expenditures per pupil or why expenditure per pupil data does not apply to your grant project.

Educational service center, county boards of developmental disabilities, and institutions of higher education seeking to achieve positive performance on other approved fiscal measures should submit the budget information approved by an executive board or its equivalent on the appropriate tabs of the Financial Impact Table. Educational service centers should use the "ESC" tab and county boards of developmental disabilities and institutions of higher education should use the "non-traditional" tab.

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**12. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?**

Responses should provide rationale and evidence for each of the budget items and associated costs outlined in the project budget. In no case should the total projected expenses in the budget narrative exceed the total project costs in the budget grid.

908,000.00 State the total project cost.

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget.

This will be a design build project through Dynamix Energy services. $908,000 of the cost goes toward the installation setup and 1 year monitoring of the HVAC control system control system called Tridium. This is a single line item amount for facilities under purchased services. This project will actually free up funds through utility cost saving and fund the creation of the Mohawk Digital Academy. The student achievement component of this project is made possible through the energy efficiency portion of the project which will create on ongoing savings of $91,314. Finding Resources through Energy Efficiency. Why would the state choose to fund an energy savings project through this grant when districts could fund such a project through House Bill 264? The answer is simple. HB264 provides a financing mechanism for energy saving projects. In other words, districts are taking out a loan to fund the energy saving project. The savings then goes for repayment of the debt. In this instance with an initial loan of $908,000, and projected annual savings of $91,314 we would be looking at a simple payback of 9.9 years. None of the savings would be redirected in the classroom in support of students. Worse yet, none of the savings would go into maintaining the HVAC system through the 10 years period of debt repayment and based upon experience these repairs will invariably total several hundred thousand dollars over this 10 year period. Not only are none of the saving redirected in the classroom, the repair costs also represent additional dollars that won't be going directly to the classroom. Thus despite improved efficiency all I end up doing is paying off the debt with no money left to sustain the efficiency.

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**13. Will there be any costs incurred as a result of maintaining and sustaining the project after June 30th of your grant year?**

Sustainability costs include any ongoing spending related to the grant project after June 30th of your grant year. Examples of sustainability costs include annual professional development, equipment maintenance, and software license agreements. To every extent possible, rationale for the specific amounts given should be outlined. The costs outlined in the narrative section should be consistent and verified by the financial documentation submitted and explained in the Financial Impact Table. If the project does not have sustainability costs, applicants should explain why.

**Yes - If yes, provide a narrative explanation of your sustainability costs as detailed in the Financial Impact Table in the box below.**

| Year 1 costs: Establish Digital Academy: Cost of Technical Contract for Monitoring Control system, Energy Usage, and Remote Assistance - Included in initial work. Digital Academy Director (Intervention Specialist Certification required) Salary and Benefits $60,000 Laptop Cart 25 laptops and network printer $25000 Carpeting (sound dampening) and Study Carrels 24 $8000 Subscription to complete curriculum Plato Learning $10000 Total $130,000 Year 2 costs Cost of Technical Contract for Monitoring Control system, Energy Usage Auditing, and Remote Monitoring - $30,000 Digital Academy Director (Intervention Specialist Certification required) Salary and Benefits $60,000 Hardware / Room upkeep and repairs $3000 Subscription to complete curriculum Plato Learning $10000 Total $130,000 Year 3 costs and beyond are the same. $130,000 |

**No - If no, please explain why (i.e. maintenance plan included in purchase price of equipment) in the box below.**

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**14. Will there be any expected savings as a result of implementing the project?**
Applicants with sustainability costs in question 13 or seeking to achieve significant advancement in spending reductions in the five-year forecast must address this response. Expected savings should match the information provided by the applicant in the Financial Impact Table. All spending reductions must be verifiable, permanent, and credible. Applicants may only respond "No" if the project will not incur any increased costs as a result of maintaining and sustaining the project after June 30th of your grant year. The Governing Board will use the cost savings as a tiebreaker between applications with similar scores during its final selection process. Cost savings will be calculated as the amount of expected cost savings less sustainability costs relative to the project budget.

40,019.00 If yes, specify the amount of annual expected savings. If no, enter 0.

If yes, provide details on the expected savings (i.e. staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If no, please explain.

In year 1 the energy savings will be $91,314 and the school choice savings will be $17,235. Total Savings $108,549. Total Costs $103,000.
Net Savings $5,549. In year 2 the energy savings will be $91,314. The school choice savings will be $34,470. Total Savings $125,784. Total Costs $103,000. Net Savings $22,784.
In year 3 the energy savings will be $91,314. The school choice savings will be $51,705. Total Savings $143,019. Total Costs $103,000. Net Savings $40,019.
In year 4 the energy savings will be $91,314. The school choice savings will be $68,940. Total Savings $160,254. Total Costs $103,000. Net Savings $57,254.
In year 5 the energy savings will be $91,314. The school choice savings will be $86,175. Total Savings $177,489. Total Costs $103,000. Net Savings $74,489.
In year 6 the energy savings will be $91,314. The school choice savings will be $103,410. Total Savings $194,724. Total Costs $103,000. Net Savings $91,724. An average annual saving of $40,019 over the first five years. In years six and beyond we expect to save $91,724.

15. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining.

All Straight A Fund grant projects must be expenditure neutral. For applications with increased ongoing spending as documented in question 11-14, this spending must be offset by expected savings or reallocation of existing resources. These spending reductions must be verifiable, permanent, and credible. This information must match the information provided in your Financial Impact Table. Projected additional income may not be used to offset increased ongoing spending because additional income is not allowed by statute. Please consider inflationary costs like salaries and maintenance fees when considering whether increased ongoing spending has been offset for at least five years after June 30th of your grant year. For applications without increased ongoing spending as documented in questions 11-14, please demonstrate how you can sustain the project without incurring any increased ongoing costs.

For educational service centers and county boards of developmental disabilities that are members of a consortium, any increased ongoing spending at the educational service center or county board of developmental disabilities may also be offset with the verifiable, permanent, and credible spending reductions of other members of the consortium. This increased ongoing spending must be less than or equal to the sum of the spending reductions for the entire consortium.

Explain in detail how this project will sustain itself for at least five years after June 30th of your grant year.

Beginning in year 2 Mohawk will maintain our HVAC system in an optimized state by implementing a technical services, energy auditing, and remote management contract with Dynamix Engineering. This contract will insure that we maintain our hardware and operations at optimal efficiency and continue with our minimum expected energy savings. The first year service contract is included in the project. Beyond in the second year, this contract will cost $30,000. The project will generate at least $91,314 in energy savings annually. The energy savings is guaranteed for five years by contract with Dynamix engineering. If we don’t meet 30% savings they make up the cost difference. The creation of the Mohawk Digital Academy will result in a reduction of revenue losses from Mohawk residence choosing to attend a charted public school. We have made a very conservative and attainable estimate for this savings of 3 students per year. That savings represents $17,235 per year, compounding each year for six years. By year six the Mohawk Digital Academy will be totally self-sustaining based upon the reduction of school choice losses alone and will be saving a minimum of $103,410. The savings are very likely to exceed this estimate. Currently Mohawk loses 46 students to charted public schools and the possibility exists that with some marketing of our successes we could eliminate nearly all of those losses which represent $264,270. We anticipate a minimum net savings of $5,724 in year one, $22,784 in year two, $40,019 in year three, $57,254 in year four, $74,489 in year five, and $91,725 in year six. This is a total savings of $291,819. From experience, we know that these modern and sophisticated HVAC system will begin experiencing component failures including compressors. These savings will be set aside to make the necessary repairs over the life of the HVAC system, making this system self-sustaining as well. The energy savings and the reduction in school choice losses sustain both the digital academy and the HVAC system into perpetuity.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, scope of work and contingency planning

16. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project, including other consortium members and/or partners.

This response should include a list of qualifications for the applicant and others associated with the grant. If the application is for a consortium or a partnership, the lead should provide information on its ability to manage the grant in an effective and efficient manner. Include the partner/consortium members’ qualifications, skills and experience with innovative project implementation and projects of similar scope.

Enter Implementation Team information by clicking the link below:

Add Implementation Team

For Questions 17-19 please describe each phase of your project, including its timeline, scope of work, and anticipated barriers to success.

A complete response to these questions will demonstrate specific awareness of the context in which the project will be implemented, the major barriers that need to be overcome and the time it will take to implement the project with fidelity. A strong plan for implementing, communicating and coordinating the project should be outlined, including coordination and communication in and amongst members of the consortium or partnership (if applicable). It is
recognized that specific action steps may not be included, but the outline of the major implementation steps should demonstrate a thoughtful plan for achieving the goals of the project. The time line should reflect significant and important milestones in an appropriate and reasonable time frame.

### 17. Planning - Activities prior to the grant implementation

* **Date Range**: 08/01/2013 - 6/20/2014

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<td>List of scope of work (activities and/or events including project evaluation discussions, communication and coordination among entities).</td>
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<td>We have been planning this project since August 2013. We compared energy saving proposals from Brewer-Garrett, Johnson Controls, H.E.A.T, and Dynamix Energy Services. We choose Dynamix Energy Services because they projected the most energy savings, they were the most familiar with our unique geothermal HVAC system, and they customized a proposal ideally suited for our needs. Dynamix Energy Services is an Ohio company that has undertaken several school district energy projects in Ohio and has exceeded their energy saving predictions in those projects. Through retro-commissioning, control system replacement, and remote monitoring the district will reduce electric energy consumption by 30% which translates to $91,314 savings annually under current rates. June 20, 2014 - Grant Award Finalist Notification June 20, 2014 - Job Posting on ODE website for Intervention Specialist / Digital Academy Director June 23, 2014 - HVAC system control hardware order placed, installation scheduled, system programming commences June 23, 2014 - Computer Hardware ordered, Subscription to PLATO digital curriculum will be placed, carpet will be ordered and installation will be scheduled, study carrels will be ordered. July 7, 2014 - HVAC control system installation commences July 7, 2014 - Interviews for Intervention Specialist / Digital Academy Director July 21, 2014 - Board of Education action to hire Intervention Specialist / Digital Academy Director July 22, 2014 - Carpet installed August 1, 2014 - All above ceiling work is complete. August 4, 2014 - Laptops configured, imaged, and cart staged and ready to use. August 4, 2014 - Study Carrels Assembled and Installed August 15, 2014 - System programming and installation complete in main building. September 1, 2014 - Control system installation for Field House and Mohawk Community Center commence. September 15, 2014 - Control system installation complete. System monitoring and energy auditing commences for integrated system.</td>
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<td>Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the planning phase</td>
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### 18. Implementation - Process to achieve project goals

* **Date Range**: 6/20/2014-9/15/2014

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<td>Immediately upon notification that the grant has been awarded we will sign contracts for work to commence. Bricker and Eckler, the attorneys representing Mohawk on this matter, are already prepared to initiate contracts based upon the unique solution offered by Dynamix Energy Solutions. Dynamix is prepared to commence with the project immediately on execution of the contract. We anticipate all installations will occur during the summer break. The control system upgrade and install will be implemented in such a way to insure a seamless transition to the new control system. In other words, our student and staff occupants won't know the difference. Comfort and building air quality will be maintained to insure no disruption to the educational process. Work will be complete in the main building by August 15, 2014. From that point Dynamix Energy services will begin closely monitoring our energy consumption and operational parameters to maximize our energy efficiency. Energy consumption reduction of 30% is a conservative estimate and we anticipate realizing that level of savings in the first month of operation under the new control system. The Digital Academy Director will be closely monitoring student progress and success in the Plato program. The director will communicate weekly progress reports to parents and with regards to their child's success, effort, and support from classroom teachers that has been provided. Our goal will be to provide sufficient structure and support to insure success for these students. Success of students in the program will be what is insure growth of the program and continued reduction in school choice losses.</td>
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<td>Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the implementation phase.</td>
<td>This is not a really complex project. Energy saving projects of this type and magnitude are fairly common. Digital Academies in the form of online charter schools already exist. We are simply going to tap into their popularity, and beat them at their own game by providing a choice that is superior to what our competitors can offer. It's the home school advantage, we keep the connected to their community, we provide the access to electives, extracurricular programs, and social experiences they simply can't get from a charter school. The biggest barrier is that the students that we are targeting with this program typically are not the most motivated students in the school. We believe we can overcome this barrier by providing these students the structure they need and crave. We also believe it is vitally important that we hire the right director of our digital academy. We will seek a dynamic and student centered individual who will motivate and encourage students to success.</td>
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### 19. Summative Evaluation - Plans to analyze the results of the project

* **Date Range**: 9/15/2014-6/30/2015

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<td>List of scope of work (activities and/or events, including quantitative and qualitative benchmarks and other project milestones).</td>
<td>Monitoring of our energy consumption will begin immediately with completion of the project. Each year thereafter, and through our technical services contract we will look for ways to improve upon our efficiency and increase resources aimed at improving teaching and learning. We also will look for any unintended consequences. Did we have any issues with the comfort level of our building which could have a negative impact on teaching and learning? We will closely monitor our charter school loss numbers; we anticipate a reduction of school choice losses from the average annual loss of six students to an average annual loss of three or less. We believe this is a very conservative goal and expect to easily achieve this goal. We will also utilize the Plato curriculum to provide students flexibility in their schedule which can be a problem in a small school. Plai also provides the opportunity to utilize the program to provide targeted interventions to identified areas of improvement for individuals deemed in danger of not passing one or more of the state assessments administered for their grade level. Having an effective digital academy director will be crucial for the success of this program. People make programs not the other way around. We need a student centered individual committed to meeting the needs of each individual enrolled in the academy. This individual will be responsible for coordinating face to face support for students by a content area certified teacher when needed. 50% of this teacher's evaluation will be based upon the performance of their students.</td>
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**E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication**

The responses in this section are focused on the ability to design a method for evaluating the project's capacity for long-term sustainable results. Therefore, the questions focus on the method of defining the problem(s) the project hopes to solve and the measures that will determine if the problem(s) have been solved.

21. 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.

The response should provide a concise explanation of items which provide rationale that will support the probability of successfully achieving the goals of the project. Answers may differ based on the various levels of development that are possible. If the proposal is for a new, never before implemented project, the response should provide logical, coherent explanations of the anticipated results based on some past experience or rationale. For projects that have been implemented on a smaller scale or successfully in other organizations, the response should provide the quantifiable results of the other projects. If available, relevant research in support of this particular proposal should also be included.

Please enter your response below:

Mohawk has struggled financially. In 2010 we made our first excellent rating by showing above expected student growth for one year. At the end of that year we made nearly $300,000 cuts to balance our budget. In 2011 we met 26 of 26 indicators and achieved our second excellent rating. At the end of that year were forced to make $400,000 additional cuts in order to balance the budget. On the 2012 Local Report Card we had very disappointing results. We met only 20 of 24 indicators, and in the area of student growth we had dismal results. Student growth showed an F overall, a D for gifted students, an F for students with disabilities, and an F for students in the lowest 20% in achievement. We believe the digital academy will promote and improve student academic growth for gifted students, students with disabilities, and students performing in the bottom 20% of achievement, which will reflect in an overall improvement in student growth. We have made cuts to the bare bones in order to keep a balanced budget. In an effort to accelerate student access to current technology we asked the voters to support a 1.5 mil permanent improvement levy in November 2012. They overwhelmingly voted against the measure. In FY14 our district lost $264,270 in school choice issues to digital charters and charters providing alternatives to the traditional classroom setting. As a point of reference the 1.5 mill levy that was defeated would have generated roughly $140,000. We have the ability to improve our financial situation by simply providing an alternative to students not having success that doesn't require them to enroll elsewhere. We currently lose 46 students to charter schools providing such alternatives. The average loss of students for grades K-5 is only one student per grade level. The average loss of students per grade gor 7-12 is 6 students per grade level. We conservatively estimate that we can reduce the 7-12 loses by 50% through the creation and successful implementation of the Mohawk Digital Academy. Reducing school choice losses by 50% will save the district $132,158, which is just shy of what our failed levy would have raised.
22. Describe the overall plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used in the project.

This plan should include the methodology for measuring all of the project outcomes. Applicants should make sure to outline quantitative approaches to assess progress and measure the overall impact of the project proposal. The response should provide a clear outline of the methods, process, timelines and data requirements for the final analysis of the project’s progress, success or failure. The applicant should provide information on how the lessons learned from the project can and will be shared with other education providers in Ohio.

* Include the name and contact information of the person who will be responsible for conducting the evaluation and whether this will be an internal or external evaluation.

Evaluation of the energy saving component will be conducted internally. The Mohawk Local School District Treasurer, Roy Swartz will be responsible compile a monthly spread sheet based upon energy usage at each our districts buildings. These month to month comparisons of electricity and propane use will be compared to the three year average use. And we will monitor show a cumulative percent reduction in use where the electrical consumption is measured in Kilowatt Hours and Propane is consumption is measured in gallons. The projected savings referenced in this document are using utility rates from last year which could change, therefore we will be looking the percentage decrease in consumption and expect to meet or exceed 30%. Dynamix Energy Solutions will be monitoring building temperatures and energy consumption continuously and insuring that we are remaining within certain parameters, if we are not we will find out why and make the necessary corrections. This is a relatively simple process. The total of our electrical energy consumption and our propane fuel consumption will be reduced by 30% when compared to three year average energy consumption for the same facilities. Treasurer contact information, email: roy.swartz@mohawklcal.org, phone 419-927-2414 The evaluation of the digital academy performance will be internal. The High School Principal Mr. Brett Graham will be responsible for collecting performance data on each participant in the Mohawk Digital Academy. He will present an annual report on the number of students enrolled in the digital academy. The number of courses attempted by each student. The number of credits earned (or courses passed) by each student, and the passage rate on state mandated achievement assessments for each student. High School Principal contact information, email: brett.graham@mohawklcal.org phone: 419-927-6222 The EMIS coordinator, Deb Long will provide data on the number of charter school losses each year.

* 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 project’s progress).

Energy consumption data will be collected and analyzed monthly. The information will be collected from the actual utility bills. Consumption information will be reported at monthly public Board of Education meetings. Data on student performance in the digital academy will be presented one each semester. Data will include; the number of students enrolled in courses, the number of courses attempted, the number of courses passed, and the percentage of students participating in the digital academy that showed above expected growth on their achievement assessment performance. Data on charter school choice participation will be presented by the EMIS coordinator once annually. Data will be broken down by grade level, school, and district. The data will be compared to this school year (2013-2014) base line data.

* Include the method, process and/or procedure by which the project will modify or change the project plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet project objectives.

Dynamix Energy Service establishes daily targets for energy conservation. If they see we are not meeting our targets we will immediately start looking at why and make the necessary adjustments. The savings is guaranteed, if we don’t meet the 30% savings, they write us a check for the difference. This guarantee remains in place so long as we continue with a service contract for energy auditing, remote monitoring, and remote management. The progress of students participating in the digital will be monitored continuously. We will reach out to the parents of students not making progress and attempt to determine what type of support the student may need in order to make progress and begin experiencing some success. The Intervention Specialist / Digital Academy Director will be responsible for finding ways to motivate the student, we simply will not give up on a single student in this program, we must find a way to reach every student.

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

The response should provide specific quantifiable measures of the grant outcomes and how the project will lead to successful attainment of the project goals. Applicants should describe how the program or project will continue after the grant period has expired.

Please enter your response below.

Project FREE PASS - Finding Resources through Energy Efficiency to Provide Alternatives for Student Success. We started with a concern. What can we do to serve students who are not as successful in the traditional school setting despite co-teaching and differentiation supports? What is happening to those students currently? Currently those students continue to flounder, generally in elementary school we pass them on, perhaps they are retained once but always reluctantly because we know that the research shows that retention has a minimal impact on student success in the long run. Then as they move onto 7th and 8th grade the lack of success gets more pronounced and often they are retained. Even the threat of retention drives many of the parents of these students to begin seeking alternatives to the traditional setting and they turn to charter schools as a choice. In FY14 Mohawk Local School District Lost 46 students and $264,270 to public charter schools. We believe in-house alternative would be preferred for these students. We want this alternative to allow for individualized pacing and provide face to face support from certified teachers for these students. We like that an in-house alternative would keep students connected to their peers and community and afford them the opportunity to participate in elective, extracurricular, and social opportunities available at the home school. We believe the solution is to start our own Mohawk Digital Academy, a school within a school, and a mechanism for providing a variety of electives and an alternative for those students struggling in the traditional setting. We will fund the project through energy savings. We will install a modern HVAC control system in each of our three existing buildings. Study and analysis of this strategy shows we can achieve a 30% energy usage reduction with this strategy. This translates into an annual savings of $91,314. We will install a modern HVAC control system in each of our three existing buildings. Study and analysis of this strategy shows we can achieve a 30% energy usage reduction with this strategy. This translates into an annual savings of $91,314. We will install a modern HVAC control system in each of our three existing buildings.

This would generate savings of $17,235, $34,470, $51,705, $68,940, $86,175, $103,410 in each of those six years and assuming no additional reduction of electricity and propane use will be compared to the three year average use. And we will monitor show a cumulative percent reduction in use where the electrical consumption is measured in Kilowatt Hours and Propane is consumption is measured in gallons. The projected savings referenced in this document are using utility rates from last year which could change, therefore we will be looking the difference. This guarantee remains in place so long as we continue with a service contract for energy auditing, remote monitoring, and remote management. The progress of students participating in the digital will be monitored continuously. We will reach out to the parents of students not making progress and attempt to determine what type of support the student may need in order to make progress and begin experiencing some success. The Intervention Specialist / Digital Academy Director will be responsible for finding ways to motivate the student, we simply will not give up on a single student in this program, we must find a way to reach every student.

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Currently we average about $60,000 annually in HVAC repair costs. As our system ages we will see some more costly repairs but through...
24. Describe the specific benchmarks, by goal as answered in question 9, which 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

As a result of the digital academy implementation we anticipate seeing improvement in the student growth measures on state assessments and third party assessments for grades 6, 7, and 8 in reading, mathematics, social studies and science. We expect to see improvement in the growth measures for gifted students, students with disabilities, students in the bottom 20% of achievement, and overall value added. We will monitor these values annually, but expect values to steadily increase with a goal of all values be at expected growth or higher by the end of the 5th year. We also want to track the improvement of the students struggling in the regular classroom who opt for the digital academy. This is a small number of students, 2 or 3 per grade levels 7-12, so we are looking at 12-18 students. These students struggle to stay on pace with their peers to graduate. By the end of the 5 year period we will achieve and a letter grade of A for both the four-year and five-year graduation rate. We will track these students closely and our goal will be for every student to stay on pace and graduate. We do acknowledge that this goal may not be realistic, but we cannot allow ourselves to set a goal that says its ok for some students not to graduate.

* Spending Reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast

This project will result in a net reduction in spending of $5,549 for year 1, $22,784 for year 2, $40,019 for year 3, $57,254 for year 4, and $74,489 for year 5. These savings are based conservative estimates for energy savings by a firm with a track record of exceeding their estimates; and savings resulting from a reduction in school choice losses to charter schools of only 3 students per year.

* Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

For an initial investment of $908,000 our district will have savings over a 10 year period of $1,688,715. $1,030,000 will be utilized to support the digital academy over the same 10 year period. The remaining savings will be used to keep an aging HVAC system maintained and efficient. The maintenance expenditures then are saved as well, which protects the general fund from being deprived of resources that had previously gone to the classroom.

* Implementation of a shared services delivery model

* Other Anticipated Outcomes

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

- Yes
- No

If the applicant selects "Yes" to the first part of the question, the response should provide an explanation of the time and effort it would take to implement the project in another district, as well as any plans to share lessons learned with other districts. To every extent possible, applicants should outline how this project can become part of a model so that other districts across the state can take advantage of the learnings from the proposed innovative project. If there is a plan to increase the scale and scope of the project within the district or consortium, it should be included here.

* Explain your response

This is not a complex project. It is a simple project that uses straight forward ideas. The problem is simple; there are a percentage of students who are not being successful in a traditional school setting. If we in public school districts don’t do something to address the needs of these students, then we can expect the following consequences: 1. These students will show less than expected growth on value-added measures. 2. Some of these students will fall behind their peers and their parents will seek out educational options. 3. Some students will stay in the home school continue to fall behind their peers and eventually drop out. This project provides a solution for the problem and funding for the solution. The project uses energy savings to establish a digital academy. The digital academy addresses the needs of the students with an alternative for success. This provides a viable choice for parents to keep their children at the home school which saves the district money. We present a choice that is superior to the charter alternatives and thus the school choice losses continue to decrease over time compounding the savings. Ultimate enough savings is generated to self-sustain the HVAC system and the digital academy operations. Most importantly a traditionally underserved population of students are experiencing success and graduating from high school.

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 time frame. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct an evaluation of the project and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups and other related data on behalf of the General Assembly, Governor and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant, and any or all identified consortium members or partners, that all supporting documents contain information approved by a relevant executive board or its equivalent and to abide by all assurances outlined in the Straight A Assurances (available in the document library section of the CCIP).

I Kenneth D. Ratliff, Superintendent of Mohawk Local School District, do hereby agree, on behalf of this applicant, and any or all identified consortium members or partners, that all supporting documents contain information approved by a relevant executive board or its equivalent and to abide by all assurances outlined in the Straight A Assurances (available in the document library section of the CCIP).
No consortium contacts added yet. Please add a new consortium contact using the form below.
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