STRAIGHT A FUND

DESCRIPTION OF NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP

A partnership is an association between a grant applicant and educational stakeholder(s) in which the stakeholder agrees to provide human and material assets or access to academic and administrative resources to the grant applicant to develop or execute a Straight A Fund grant application. However, in a partnership, only the grant applicant is responsible for ensuring the grant is developed and executed according to the terms of the grant agreement with the Straight A Program Governing Board. Grant applicant partners are responsible only to the extent provided in their Partnership Agreement with the grant applicant.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Straight A Fund throughout the state, applicants are encouraged to partner with education stakeholders. Each applicant must identify its partners and attach a description of each respective partner's roles and responsibilities.

Each member of the partnership is responsible for the following assurances:

1. Be knowledgeable about the applicant's Straight A Fund grant proposal and application, including advocacy of the Straight A Fund program.
2. Maintain familiarity with the partner's services to enhance the proposal, including specific goals and practices.
3. Demonstrate a commitment to clear roles and responsibilities of each partner as it relates to the grant proposal and application.
4. Sustain consistent communication among partners and stakeholders with a shared vision of the goals of the grant proposal. This includes participating in regularly scheduled meetings for project management and identifying areas for improvement.
5. Ensure partners have appropriate access to data for purposes of grant program improvement and evaluation in accordance with state and federal law.
6. Develop a clear project management plan to sustain the project over time.

Specific Roles and Responsibilities Germane to Project

ReadySet*Soar* is a public private partnership in the Dayton, Ohio Region, focused on improving kindergarten readiness and third grade reading across Montgomery County. It was originally launched in the Fall of 2007 by the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council with the goal of improving kindergarten readiness and has since become part of Learn to Earn Dayton, the region's cradle-to-career initiative. In 2012 ReadySet*Soar* expanded its focus to include third grade reading proficiency. Through partnerships with child care and preschool providers, public schools, non-profit organizations, businesses and governmental agencies, ReadySet*Soar* is focused on implementing three research based strategies: 1) improving the quality and access of home visiting and preschool, 2) expanding access to high-quality after school and summer programs, and 3) improving school attendance. ReadySet*Soar* is building a strong network of

partners, and advocating for state and federal policy to support early learning. ReadySet*Soar*'s Advisory Cabinet includes key leaders from public school, Head Start, private child care, and non-profit organizations, who help identify priorities and strategies to improve kindergarten readiness.

ReadySet*Soar* is housed within Learn to Earn Dayton, the region's cradle-to-career initiative that is working to increase the number of post-secondary credentials in the region. ReadySet*Soar* is focused on ensuring children have a strong foundation in kindergarten and third grade, as research confirms that third grade reading is one of the best predictors of high school graduation. ReadySet*Soar* was selected as a Finalist in the Annie E. Casey Foundation sponsored Grade Level Reading Campaign All-America City Award in 2012.

University of Dayton is the fiscal agent for ReadySet*Soar* and Learn to Earn Dayton, and ReadySet*Soar* employees are on the University's payroll. Funds for the organization are raised from public and private entities.

The following is an overview of ReadySet*Soar*'s roles and responsibilities in support of this application:

1. Provide research and technical assistance regarding Attendance Works efforts, Summer Learning Loss, Grade Level Reading Campaign strategies and other evidence-based practices that might enhance Reading Success outcomes.
2. Assist with data collection and evaluation relative to reading achievement.
3. Provide access to longitudinal data regarding college completion for New Lebanon Schools via parent organization, Learn to Earn Dayton.
4. Provide analysis of attendance data via Richard Stock, Ph.D, Director of the University of Dayton's Business Research Group.
5. Disseminate evaluation data of successful strategies to other districts and schools in Montgomery County.
6. Convene meetings to facilitate transfer of knowledge with other districts.

Partnership Signatures

Applicant:	New Lebanon School District
Name:	Dr. Greg Williams
Title:	Superintendent
IRN:	048710
Phone:	937-637-13081
Email:	gwilliams@newlebanon.k12.oh.us
Address:	320 South Fuls Road
City:	New Lebanon
State:	Ohio
Zip:	45345

Sign: Hy Walker

Date: 10/25/13

Partner:	ReadySet*Soar*
Name:	Robyn Lightcap
Title:	Director
IRN:	31-0536715
Phone:	937-236-9965
Email:	robyn.lightcap@readysetsoar.org
Address:	4801 Springfield St.
City:	Dayton
State:	Ohio
Zip:	45431

Sign: Robyn Lightcap

Date: October 24, 2013