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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00
Remaining: -65,000.00
A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information

1. Project Title:
   On line learning

2. Executive summary: Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.
   This grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12, the utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom and spending reductions in the five-year forecast by updating the technology infrastructure throughout the district by increasing bandwidth and wireless capacity. Our hope is to increase our technology infrastructure to allow teachers and students to efficiently access all appropriate web-based educational opportunities and to lay the groundwork for every student and teacher to access those opportunities simultaneously at any single point in time. In addition, we believe that there will be a cost savings to the district because we will not need to hire outside contractors as frequently to make patch work fixes to our computer network whose problems stem from an antiquated infrastructure.

   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:
   1305

   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
   Mike Candela

   Organizational name of lead applicant
   Pymatuning Valley Local School District

   Address of lead applicant
   5571 State Route 6 West

   Phone Number of lead applicant
   4402936488

   Email Address of lead applicant
   mike.candela@neomin.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
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

This grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12, the utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom and spending reductions in the five-year forecast by updating the technology infrastructure throughout the district by increasing band-width and wireless capacity. Our hope is to increase our technology infrastructure to allow teachers and students to efficiently access all appropriate web-based educational opportunities and to lay the groundwork for every student and teacher to access those opportunities simultaneously at any single point in time. In addition, we believe that there will be a cost savings to the district because we will not need to hire outside contractors as frequently to make patch work fixes to our computer network whose problems stem from an antiquated infrastructure.

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

The project will meet the goal of increased student achievement because it will allow all students to efficiently and effectively use web-based academic interventions and blended-learning stretches while on campus. This is not possible with our technology infrastructure as it currently exists and the ubiquitous student use of wireless devices would be unthinkable. In addition, all of the proposed infrastructure improvements will contribute 100% to bringing more resources to the classroom, now and in the future. Finally, we have been forced to make piecemeal fixes and enhancements to our district's network that have been costly overtime where we have lost valuable instructional opportunities and can never seem to keep our system current with growing technical requirements (capacity). We will save money now and in the future by doing this right the first time!

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 grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12, the utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom and spending reductions in the five-year forecast by updating the technology infrastructure throughout the district by increasing band-width and wireless capacity. Our hope is to increase our technology infrastructure to allow teachers and students to efficiently access all appropriate web-based educational opportunities and to lay the groundwork for every student and teacher to access those opportunities simultaneously at any single point in time. In addition, we believe that there will be a cost savings to the district because we will not need to hire outside contractors as frequently to make patch work fixes to our computer network whose problems stem from an antiquated infrastructure.

- 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.)

We have spent $61,000 over the past 24 months on outside contractors to keep our network operable in addition to $36,000 for on-site tech support. The contractors have developed the plan that will stabilize our network and increase bandwidth. This upgrade will prevent the need for the district to contract services and will allow for the reduction of on-site tech staff by 20%. This will save the district $37,700 in the first year alone. The life expectancy of the equipment is 10-12 year providing a anticipated savings of $377,000 over the life of the project.

- 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.)

This grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12 and to utilize a greater share of resources in the classroom by putting technology directly in the hands of students and teachers. We believe that we must make a break from students and teachers primarily using analog tools for learning and teaching to digital ones in order to fully partake in the kinds of learning opportunities that are only accessible through the use of these tools; blended learning, digital student portfolios and productivity tools, new generation assessments, digital textbooks and research materials, laser focused interventions and stretch projects, and the ability for all learners (including faculty) to reflectively participate in multiple class and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Finally, we believe many more students will be able to successfully matriculate in a wide-variety of dual credit course offerings while in high school that can only be done using digital tools.

- Implementing a shared services delivery model (Describe how your shared services delivery model will demonstrate increased efficiency and...
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.

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.

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.

65,000.00 State the total project cost.

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget.

All of the buildings in our district are on one campus and share one network. We use a thin-client environment that was layered over a dated backbone. This has created many reliability issues. As the district prepares for the new online assessments and introduces on-line learning and an on-campus post-secondary option, we must have a dependable and reliable network to effectively implement the changes. The Straight A grant budgets will allow the district to divide the current network into three sub networks; each independent of one another. It will also provide for a wireless environment so that the students can access technology from any area in the district. RttT will be used to purchase the devices necessary to access the upgraded network. The budget reflects $66,000 to develop layer three and wireless technology. $30,000 is necessary for layer 3 hardware, $22,000 is required for wireless hardware and $9,000 is the one time labor cost for installation. The life span on the equipment is 10-12 years.

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.
achieving the goals of the project. The timeline should reflect significant and important milestones in an appropriate and reasonable time frame.

recognized that specific action steps may not be included, but the outline of the major implementation steps should demonstrate a thoughtful plan for 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 timeline should reflect significant and important milestones in an appropriate and reasonable time frame.

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 timeline should reflect significant and important milestones in an appropriate and reasonable time frame.

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.

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 timeline should reflect significant and important milestones in an appropriate and reasonable time frame.
17. Planning - Activities prior to the grant implementation

* Date Range 5-1-2014

* List of scope of work (activities and/or events including project evaluation discussions, communication and coordination among entities).

By May 1, 2014 the grant would be awarded. The BLT team will meet to confirm the project details and the award the contract to the most suitable company. With the decision of the team, hardware will be ordered and configured by the contractor. The largest barrier during this stage, will be the dependence on an outside contractor. Often they are working on several projects at one time. The BLT team will meet with the contractor to develop a timeline that is acceptable to the district with several checkpoints on going the way. The BLT team will monitor the timeline with the technology director having daily email correspondence with the contractor.

* Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the planning phase

The only problem may be that the hardware is backordered.

18. Implementation - Process to achieve project goals

* Date Range 6/01/2014

* List of scope of work (activities and/or events, including deliverables, project milestones, interim measurements, communication, and coordination).

All new hardware will be onsite and prepared for installation by May 3, 2014. Installation, testing, and debugging will occur the week of May 6th. This will allow for the migration to occur. The contractor will be able to install and test the system without disrupting the operation of the school.

* Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the implementation phase.

The largest barrier at this stage will be ensuring that the outside contractor stays on schedule. The timeline is a "must hit" date for the district. Often outside contractors don't understand the importance of not disrupting the school day. The technology director is responsible for monitoring the progress and ensuring that we hit that date.

19. Summative Evaluation - Plans to analyze the results of the project

* Date Range 7/01/2014

* List of scope of work (activities and/or events, including quantitative and qualitative benchmarks and other project milestones).

By July 1, 2014 the project will be completed. We will have a six week period, where school is in session, to debugged and test the new system while it is in full use. This will be full implementation and when the project is considered complete.

* Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the summative evaluation phase.

Barriers at this stage would be self created. If we do not monitor the progress closely enough it may cause problems. We must stay on top of all the issues to prevent problems at this stage of the project.

20. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

The response should illustrate the critical instructional and/or organizational changes that will result from implementation of the grant and the impact of these changes. These changes can include permanent changes to current district processes, new processes that will be incorporated or the removal of redundant or duplicative processes. The response may also outline the expected change in behaviors of individuals (changes to classroom practice, collaboration across district boundaries, changes to a typical work day for specific staff members, etc.). The expected changes should be realistic and significant in moving the institution forward.

Please enter your response below:

We expect to see a significantly increased number of students being able to use web-based interventions and various blended learning opportunities for either remediation or stretch throughout the school day. We also expect to find an increased usage of web-based assessment for formative and summative purposes by instructional staff.

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:

We believe that web-based interventions and blended learning opportunities provide the greatest variety of tools and the most efficient means for providing differentiated learning opportunities for all learners and a valuable tool for instructional staff striving to provide a variety of formative assessment opportunities for their students. Most important, hefty band-with and wireless capacity will allow us to start
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.

This project is ambitious in design but its overarching goal is simple. We seek to equip our teachers and students with enough digital tools that those tools will become the primary rather than the secondary means for instruction and learning. At the primary school level we would use these tools for basic skills acquisition in reading and math that would take advantage of a wide-variety of differentiated instruction and assessment. These tools would also be used to transition students away from analog tools to digital ones as the primary means for instruction and learning. At the middle school level we would continue to use these tools for basic skills acquisition in reading and math that would also take advantage of a wide-variety of differentiated instruction and assessment but we would begin to emphasize subject matter exploration and research. These tools would also would begin to help us replace textbooks, especially in mathematics and social studies. At the high school level we would continue to refine and expand upon the goals stated for the primary and middle school levels. However, we would aggressively use the technology to offer a large number of high school juniors and seniors dual credit offerings that can most easily be accessed with blended learning. It is our hope that many of our students will be able to use these credits to continue their education upon graduation from Pymatuning Valley. We believe that we will not only see a significant increase in student achievement, but this increase will lead directly to increased community support for K-12 education within the district. It will also provide our students with significantly increased opportunities to access post-secondary options that will lead to a community-wide expectation that our district provide these opportunities for all students.

* 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).

Our district is characterized as a high property, rural district. There are two significant institutions in the district; school and church. Many if not most of the after school activities that our students participate in are an extension of these institutions. One of the great strengths of the district is the communitarian values evidenced in the people. We see that in the significant numbers of people who attend our athletic contests, plays and concerts and a wide variety of other special events. In addition, we enjoy a broad based support for our schools' mission and good school behavior is the normative expectation by all stakeholders. We believe that this plays a significant role in the districts' record of relatively high achievement.

* 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.

Our greatest challenges, however, are sustaining the high levels of academic achievement as students progress through our system and helping our graduates choose some kind of post-secondary option upon high school graduation. Approximately only 35% of our students choose to continue their education immediately after high school including a four year baccalaureate, two year associate or simply a certified career path of any type. In addition, our students cannot be expected to purchase current, up to date technology to use at school or home as their primary learning tool and many cannot afford to be connected to high speed internet at home (both from an economic and availability perspective).

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.

This grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12 and to utilize a greater share of resources in the classroom by putting technology directly in the hands of students and teachers. We believe that we must make a break from students and teachers primarily using analog tools for learning and teaching to digital ones in order to fully partake in the kinds of learning opportunities that are only accessible through the use of these tools; blended learning, digital student portfolios and productivity tools, new generation assessments, digital textbooks and research materials, laser focused interventions and stretch projects, and the ability for all learners (including faculty) to reflectively participate in multiple class and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Finally, we believe many more students will be able to successfully matriculate in a wide-variety of dual credit course offerings while in high school that can only be done using digital tools.

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.

The applicant should provide details on the quantifiable measures of short- and long-term objectives that will be tracked and the source of benchmark comparative data points. Responses should include specified measurement periods and preliminary success points that will be used to validate successful implementation of the project. If a similar project has been successfully implemented in other districts or schools, identification of these comparable benchmarks should be included.

* Student Achievement

We believe that we need to provide our students with as many paths toward college and career as much as possible while in school if they are going to make a post-secondary education choice; be it an associates or bachelors degree or a certified career path offered by A-Tech these choices are more easily made with college credits in hand or the opportunity to access adult education close to home.
* Spending Reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast

We have spent $61,000 over the past 24 months on outside contractors to keep our network operable in addition to $36,000 for on-site tech support. The contractors have developed the plan that will stabilize our network and increase bandwidth. This upgrade will prevent the need for the district to contract services and will allow for the reduction of on-site tech staff by 20%. This will save the district $37,700 in the first year alone. The life expectancy of the equipment is 10-12 year providing a anticipated savings of $377,000 over the life of the project.

* Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

This grant request aims to achieve an increase in overall student achievement in grades K-12 and to utilize a greater share of resources in the classroom by putting technology directly in the hands of students and teachers. We believe that we must make a break from students and teachers primarily using analog tools for learning and teaching to digital ones in order to fully partake in the kinds of learning opportunities that are only accessible through the use of these tools; blended learning, digital student portfolios and productivity tools, new generation assessments, digital textbooks and research materials, laser focused interventions and stretch projects, and the ability for all learners (including faculty) to reflectively participate in multiple class and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Finally, we believe many more students will be able to successfully matriculate in a wide-variety of dual credit course offerings while in high school that can only be done using digital tools.

* Implementation of a shared services delivery model

We can continue to share a techonolgy coordinator and it will lead to mor on-line learning where we can share teachers between local distices once the system is up and stable.

* Other Anticipated Outcomes

We believe that we will not only see a significant increase in student achievement, but this increase will lead directly to increased community support for K-12 education within the district. It will also provide our students with significantly increased opportunities to access post-secondary options that will lead to a community-wide expectation that our district provide these opportunities for all students.

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

Yes

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 project would be easy to replicate and should be looked on as a meta-project. We all are aware that changing technology requires changing technological capacity. For us, and we suspect many other districts, band-width must be increased as well as wireless capacity. Any district wishing to utilize current and near-future web-based instruction/assessment solutions and increase student use of digital productivity devices simply needs to assess their infrastructure's current capacity and determine what it needs to be if each and every student were to use a wireless device throughout the school day.

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).

Michael A. Candela
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No consortium contacts added yet. Please add a new consortium contact using the form below.
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## Implementation Team

The implementation of this project is the responsibility of the district's leadership team. The Superintendent will lead the team and this project. Other members of the team include the building principals, curriculum director, special education coordinator, buildings and grounds supervisor, teachers, and the technology coordinator. There are two technology people on the team and two curriculum experts and the school treasurer. Combined totals for the team is over 70 years experience in schools and school technology.

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<tr>
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<td>Candela</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Implementation of this project is the responsibility of the districts leadership team. The Superintendent will lead the team and this project. Other members of the team include the building principals, curriculum director, special education coordinator, buildings and grounds supervisor, teachers and the technology coordinator.</td>
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