STRAIGHT A FUND

STRAIGHT A FUND APPLICATION
Fiscal Year 2017

A) APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Project Title

2. Project Tweet: Please limit your responses to 140 characters. *This is an ultra-concise introduction to the project.*

3. Estimate of total students at each grade level to be directly impacted each year.

	Grant Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Pre-K Special Ed						
K						
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						

This is the number of students who will receive services or other benefits as a direct result of implementing this project. This does not include students who may be impacted if the project is replicated or scaled up in the future. It excludes students who have merely a tangential or indirect benefit (such as students having use of improved facilities, equipment, etc., for other uses than those intended as a part of the project).

*The **Grant Year** is the year in which funds are received from the Ohio Department of Education. Years 1 through 5 are the sustainability years during which the project must be fiscally and programmatically sustained.*

4. Explanation of any additional students to be impacted throughout the life of the project (1000 characters).
This includes any students impacted indirectly and estimates of students who might be impacted through replication or an increase in the scope of the original project (1000 characters).

5. Lead applicant primary contact.
Provide the following information:
First and last name of contact for lead applicant;

Organizational name of lead applicant;
Address of lead applicant;
Phone number of lead applicant;
Email address of lead applicant.
Community School Applicants: After your application has been submitted and is in Authorized Representative status, an email will be sent to your sponsoring entity automatically informing the sponsor of your application.

6. Are you submitting your application as a consortium? Y/N
List all consortium members by name: (If Y selected above)
Provide the following information for each additional consortium member, if applicable: First name and last name of contact for each additional consortium member; organizational name of each additional consortium member; unique identifier (IRN); address of each additional consortium member; phone number of each additional consortium member; email address of each additional consortium member.

7. Are you partnering with anyone to plan, implement or evaluate your project? Y/N
List all partners (vendors, service providers, sponsors, management companies, schools, districts, ESCs, IHEs) by name: (If Y selected above)
Provide the following information for each additional partnering entity, if applicable: First name and last name of contact for each additional partner; organizational name of each additional partner; unique identifier (IRN); address of each additional partner; phone number of each additional partner; email address of each additional partner.

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

a. The current state or problem to be solved (1000 characters); and
b. The proposed innovation and how it relates to solving the problem or improving on the current state (4000 characters).

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

9. Select which (up to four) of the goals your project will address. For each of the selected goals, please provide the requested information to demonstrate your innovative process.

a. Student achievement Y/N (check box)
   i. List the desired outcomes (1000 characters). *Examples: fewer students retained in third grade; increase in graduation rate; increased proficiency rate in a content area; etc.*
   ii. What assumptions must be true for this outcome to be realized (1000 characters)? *Examples: early diagnosis and intervention are needed to support all children learning to read on grade level; project-based learning results in higher levels of student engagement and learning; etc.*
   iii. Describe any early efforts you have made to test these assumptions (pilot implementation, etc.), or how these are well-supported by the literature (4000 characters).
   iv. List the specific indicators that you will use to measure progress toward your desired outcome (1000 characters). *These should be measurable changes, not merely the accomplishment of tasks. Example: Teachers will each implement one new project using collaborative instructional skills, (indicates a change in the classroom); NOT teachers will be trained in collaborative instruction (which may or may not result in a change).*
   v. List and describe pertinent data points that you will use to measure student achievement, providing baseline data to be used for future comparison (1000 characters).
   vi. How are you prepared to alter the course of your project if assumptions prove false or outcomes are not realized (2000 characters)?

b. Spending reductions in the 5-year forecast Y/N (check box).
   i. List the desired outcomes (1000 characters). *Examples: lowered facility cost as a result of transition to more efficient systems of heating and lighting, etc.; or cost savings due to transition from textbook to digital resources for teaching.*
   ii. What assumptions must be true for this outcome to be realized (1000 characters)? *Example: transition to "green energy" solutions produce financial efficiencies, etc.; or available digital resources are equivalent to or better than previously purchased text books.*
   iii. Describe any early efforts you have made to test these assumptions (pilot implementation, etc.), or how these are well-supported by the literature (4000 characters).
   iv. Please enter the Net Cost Savings from FIT (140 characters).
   v. List and describe the budget line items where spending reductions will occur (1000 characters).
   vi. How are you prepared to alter the course of your project if assumptions prove false or outcomes are not realized (2000 characters)?

c. Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom Y/N (check box).
   i. List the desired outcomes (1000 characters). *Example: change the ratio of leadership time spent in response to discipline issues to the time available for curricular leadership.*
   ii. What assumptions must be true for this outcome to be realized (1000 characters)? *Examples: improvements to school and classroom climate will result in fewer disciplinary instances, enabling leadership to devote more time to curricular oversight.*
   iii. Describe any early efforts you have made to test these assumptions (pilot implementation, etc.), or how these are well-supported by the literature (4000 characters).
   iv. Please provide the most recent instructional spending percentage (from state report card data) and discuss any impact you anticipate as a result of this project (1000 characters). *Note: this is the preferred indicator for this goal.*
   v. List any additional indicators that you will use to monitor progress toward your desired outcome. Provide baseline data if available (1000 characters). *These should be specific outcomes, not just the accomplishment of tasks. Example: fewer instances of playground fighting.*
   vi. How are you prepared to alter the course of your project if assumptions prove false or outcomes are not realized (2000 characters)?

d. **Implementing a shared services delivery model Y/N (check box).**
   i. List the desired outcomes (1000 characters). *Examples: increase in quality and quantity of employment applications to districts; greater efficiency in delivery of transportation services, etc.*
   ii. What assumptions must be true for this outcome to be realized (1000 characters)? *Example: neighboring districts have overlapping needs in administrative areas that can be combined to create efficiencies.*
   iii. Describe any early efforts you have made to test these assumptions (pilot implementation, data analysis, etc.), or how these are well-supported by the literature (4000 characters).
   iv. List the specific indicators that you will use to monitor progress toward your desired outcomes (1000 characters). *These should be measureable changes, not the accomplishment of tasks. Example: consolidation of transportation services between two districts.*
   v. List and describe pertinent data points that you will use to evaluate the success of your efforts, providing baseline data for future comparison (1000 characters). *Example: change in the number of school buses or miles travelled.*
   vi. How are you prepared to alter the course of your project if assumptions prove false or outcomes are not realized (2000 characters)?

STRAIGHT A FUND

10. Which of the following best describes the project?

a. New: Never before implemented.
b. Existing: Never implemented in your community school or school district but proven successful in other educational environments.
c. Replication: Expansion or new implementation of a previous Straight A Project.
d. Mixed Concept: Incorporates new and existing elements.
e. Established: Elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school or consortia partnership.

C) BUDGET AND SUSTAINABILITY

11. Financial Information

a. Enter project budget in CCIP.
b. If applicable, upload the Consortium Budget Worksheet.
c. Upload the Financial Impact Table.

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 of the worksheet. Applicants must submit one Financial Impact Table with each application. For consortium applications, please add additional sheets instead of submitting separate Financial Impact Tables.

12. What is the amount of this grant request?

13. Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget (2000 characters).

Responses should provide a 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.

14. Please provide an estimate of the total costs associated with maintaining this program through each of the five years following the initial grant implementation year (sustainability costs). This is the sum of expenditures from Section A of the Financial Impact Table.

a. Sustainability Year 1
b. Sustainability Year 2
c. Sustainability Year 3
d. Sustainability Year 4
e. Sustainability Year 5

15. Please provide a narrative explanation of sustainability costs (2000 characters).

Sustainability costs include any ongoing spending related to the grant project after June 30 of your grant year. Examples of sustainability costs include annual professional development, staffing costs, and equipment maintenance and software license agreements. To every extent possible, rationale for the specific amounts given should be outlined. The costs outlined in this 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 any sustainability costs, applicants should explain why.

16. What percentage of these costs will be met through cost savings achieved through implementation of the program?

Total cost savings from section B of the Financial Impact Table divided by total sustainability cost from section A of the Financial Impact Table.

17. Please explain how these cost savings will be derived from the program (2000 characters).
Applicants who selected spending reductions in the five-year forecast as a goal must identify those expected savings in questions 16 and 17. All spending reductions must be verifiable, permanent and credible. Explanation of savings must be specific as to staff counts; salary/benefits; equipment costs, etc.

18. What percentage of sustainability costs will be met through reallocation of savings from elsewhere in the general budget?
Total reallocation from section C of the Financial Impact Table divided by total sustainability cost from section A of the Financial Impact Table.
Note: the responses to questions 16 and 18 must total 100 percent.

19. Please explain the source of these reallocated funds (2000 characters).
Reallocation of funds implies that a reduction has been made elsewhere in the budget. Straight A encourages projects to determine up front what can be replaced in order to ensure the life of the innovative project.

D) PROJECT EXECUTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

20. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project, including other consortium members or partners.
a. Name and title;
b. Responsibilities (for this grant project);
c. Qualifications;
d. Prior relevant experience;
e. Education;
f. Percent of FTE dedicated to this project

This response should include a list of qualifications for the applicant and others associated with the grant. Please list key personnel only. 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.

21. Planning
a. Date range;
b. Scope of activities—include all specific completion benchmarks (2000 characters).

22. Implementation (grant funded start-up activities).
a. Date range;
b. Scope of activities—include all specific completion benchmarks (2000 characters).

23. Programmatic sustainability (years following implementation, including institutionalization of program, evaluation and communication of program outcomes).
a. Date range
b. Scope of activities—include all specific completion benchmarks (2000 characters)

For Questions 21-23 please describe each phase of your project, including its timeline and scope of work.

A complete response to these questions will demonstrate awareness of the context in which the project will be implemented and the time it will take to implement the project with fidelity. A strong plan for

implementing, communicating and coordinating the project should be apparent, including coordination and communication in and amongst members of the consortium or partnership (if applicable). Not every specific action step need be included, but the outline of the major steps should demonstrate a thoughtful plan for achieving the goals of the project. The timeline should reflect significant and important milestones in an appropriate time frame.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE

24. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution (2000 characters).

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 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.

25. Please provide the name and contact information for the person and/or organization who will oversee the evaluation of this project.

Projects may be evaluated either internally or externally. However, evaluation must be ongoing throughout the entire period of sustainability and have the capacity to provide the Ohio Department of Education with clear metrics related to each selected goal.

26. Describe the overall plan for evaluation, including plans for data collection, underlying research rationale, measurement timelines and methods of analysis (4000 characters).

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, processes, and timeline and data requirements for the final analysis of the project's progress, success or shortfall. The applicant should provide information on how the lessons learned from the project can and will be shared with other education providers in Ohio. Note: A complete and comprehensive version of the evaluation plan must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education by all selected projects.

27. Please describe the likelihood that this project, if successful, can be scaled-up, expanded and/or replicated. Include a description of potential replications both within the district or collaborative group, as well as an estimation of the probability that this solution will prove useful to others. Discuss the possibility of publications, etc., to make others aware of what has been learned in this project (2000 characters).

The response should provide an explanation of the time and effort it would take to implement this 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 this 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 noted here.