Ohio's Race to the Top Innovative Programs Grant Application

Application Period- March 11- May 20, 2011

Please ensure that ALL questions are answered completely in each of the four sections as incomplete applications will not be returned for modifications or completion.

Section A

1. General School Information

a) ***Name of Applicant (LEA)***: Columbus City Schools	b) ***Name of School(s)***: Westmoor Middle School
c) ***Superintendent of Schools*** ***(or equivalent)*** Name: Dr. Gene T. Harris Address: 270 E. State Street Columbus, OH 43215 Telephone: 614-365-5888 Fax: 614-365-5689 Email: gharris@columbus.k12.oh.us	d) ***LEA RttT Contact***: Name: Keith Bell Address: 270 E. State Street Columbus, OH 43215 Telephone: 614-365-5777 Fax: 614-365-6456 Email: kbell@columbus.k12.oh.us
e) ***School Vision***: At Westmoor Middle School, our primary goal is student progress and academic achievement. We acknowledge that individual differences exist and provide opportunities for each student to achieve his or her full potential. We will teach the skills necessary to enable students to become self-disciplined, responsible and productive citizens of our democratic society. We will provide a safe environment that invites and encourages all parents and the community to be involved in the education of our children.	f) ***School Mission***: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

g) ***Primary Goals of School:***	***Teacher/Student Ratio:***
Students will increase their 1. academic achievement 2. positive development	16:1

Names and titles of individuals who participated in the March 10th Innovation Symposium :

Columbus City Schools Attendees

(both registered and walk-in)

March 10, 2011 ODE Symposium on the Race to the Top Innovative Program Grants

DISTRICT LEVEL	
Name	**Title**
Dr. Gene Harris	Superintendent
Keith Bell	Deputy Superintendent – LEA Contact
Suzy Rhett	Executive Director, Curriculum Leadership and Development
Dr. John Farley	Director, Development
Rod Houpe	Chief Information Officer
Jacqueline Ralls	Director, School Improvement
Helena Dameron	Supervisor, Reading Curriculum
Sheila Scott	Director, Career Technical Curriculum
Twana Young	Director, Mathematics and Science Curriculum
Danny Graves	Director, Social Studies and World Languages Curriculum
Jill Dannemiller	Director, Federal Programs
Dr. Paul Lucas	Director, Instructional Information Services
Dr. Mary Jo Reinhard	School and Community Resources Coordinator
Nancy Butterman	World Languages Coordinator
Betsy Bhasker	School and Community Resources Coordinator
SCHOOL LEVEL	
Name	**Title and Location**
Ameer Kim El-Mallawany	Principal, International High School

William Doermann	Principal, Westmoor Middle School
Tim Donahue	Principal, Woodward Park Middle School
Daniel Martin	Principal, West High School

2. SCHOOL PROFILE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Grades served: 6-8

Enrollment (total number of students served in school applying for Innovative Program): 525

Grade Level	Enrollment
Pre K-5	
6	176
7	184
8	165
9	
10	
11	
12	

Ethnicity and gender data (% of enrollment):

Black: 25.33%	White: 60.38%	Male: 47.62%
Asian/Pacific Islander: 0.57%	American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.19%	
Hispanic: 7.92%	Multi-Racial: 5.90%	Female: 52.38%

Percent of students eligible for free/reduced lunch: 92.38%

Percent of students identified as special education: 16.95%

Names of current competitive grants LEA has been awarded (2010-2011):

State Grants	Federal Grants
Adult Full Service Center	Race to the Top
Alternative Challenge	Carl Perkins Adult
International Education	Carl Perkins Secondary
Parent Mentor	Title II-D EETT
School Psychologist Internship	Refugee Children Impact
High Schools that Work	Title I McKinney Vento (Homeless)
ABLE	Title IA Literacy Initiatives

STUDENT INFORMATION	
EL/Civics	Youth START Excellence Reading First Hearing Impaired OTIF Incentive Awards Teacher Quality Partnership Foreign Language Assistance Program NASA NSPIRES
Please attach 2009-2010 school Report Card: http://www.ode.state.oh.us/reportcardfiles/2009-2010/BUILD/040782.pdf	

Section B

1. Please check circle(s) next to the specific Innovative Program(s) for which you are applying. Prioritize your preference order to the right of the program, with "1" being your first priority. ***A separate application must be submitted for each Innovative Program.***

☐ ***Asia Society (International Studies Schools Network)*** _____

x ***AVID * Year Two Implementation, 2012-13*** __4__

☐ ***Early College High School*** _____

☐ ***New Tech Network*** _____

☐ ***STEM**** _____

****Priority may be given to the lowest-achieving schools***

Section C

Questions Addressing Innovation Selected- Please answer these questions in the text boxes provided. Provide as many details as possible so that the reviewers can gain a good picture of your school.

1. Identify your selected Innovative Program and the reasons for selection.

Westmoor Middle School (WMS) has selected AVID as a much needed and desired Innovative Program. WMS is the feeder middle school for West High School which has been identified as a School Improvement (SIG) school in Ohio. With AVID at WMS, greater numbers of students will matriculate to West High School with the goal of achieving success in their high school courses and preparing themselves for the rigor of college. While Westmoor Middle School is not identified as a School Improvement Grant (SIG) school, it is a **low-achieving** school as indicated by the 2009-10 school report card which reports WMS as: Continuous Improvement status; AYP-Not Met; and 1 of 8 State Indicators Met.

The AVID program is selected as an Innovative Program at WMS to close the achievement gap by preparing all Westmoor students for college readiness and success in a global society. It has a proven 30-year record of increasing the college enrollment of traditionally underserved students, providing an intensive professional development program, and providing a school-wide transformational approach that increases the achievement of all students. AVID is able to support and strengthen the reform efforts currently in progress at WMS including the Middle School Redesign. It is cost effective to implement and sustain and WMS has the capacity to successfully implement the program beginning with school year 2012-13.

2. In what other school transformation strategies has your school been engaged and its/their status.

Beginning school year 2010-11, WMS implemented the Middle School Redesign model (all CCS middle schools) with teachers having common planning time, teaming, and providing literacy-across-the-curriculum strategies to all students and extra help to struggling students. Professional development was provided by The International Center for Leadership Education on increasing rigor, utilization of common planning time, integrating lessons and building teaming. The current school year is the second year for READ 180 to be offered to struggling readers. WMS also is a recipient of the Healthy & Fit Grant funded by the Osteopathic Foundation. These school transformation and support strategies will continue at WMS. The addition of the AVID program will strengthen the existing model.

3. Describe the capacity your LEA/school has to ensure a successful implementation.

LEA: The staff and administration at CCS, as well as the Columbus Education Association (CEA), are committed to successfully utilizing the RttT funds to transform the district. The district has the political expertise and human capital, including human resource experts, dedicated professional development staff, curriculum leadership staff, data analysts, budget and treasurer's office support, principals, and teaching staff to adequately support the RttT Plan. CEA members and the district leadership will work together to implement the reforms.

CEA and CCS have had a long and productive history of collaboration to improve teaching and learning in order to increase student success. Often sustained for up to twenty years or more, programs developed through this collaboration such as Peer Assistance and Review (PAR), and the Reform Panel (the review board responsible for the fidelity of implementation of RttT) have gradually, yet dramatically changed the culture and the climate towards collaborative leadership in CCS. CEA and CCS have had a long and productive history of collaboration to improve teaching and learning in order to increase student success.

The CCS AVID District Director, Dr. Mary Jo Reinhard, has completed the AVID District Leadership Training over the last two years and is fully prepared to implement the AVID program at WMS with fidelity. The AVID District Leadership Training began with participation in the AVID 2009 Summer Institute and continued with 4, 2-3 day trainings that included visits at AVID Demonstration Schools. She has established a relationship and rapport with the AVID Center personnel. Dr. Reinhard attended the ODE March 10 Innovation Symposium. An AVID District Co-Director has been identified and will begin training at the AVID 2011 Summer Institute. The CCS AVID District Co-Directors will be sure to utilize the AVID Center division staff to provide ongoing coaching, training and support to WMS to plan and implement the AVID program.

Columbus City Schools has a wide array of local corporate, foundation, and higher education support and will continue to engage these partners as we implement the AVID RttT Innovation Program. During the first two years of AVID implementation in CCS at two high schools, the AVID program has partnered with The Mentoring Center of Central Ohio to deliver training to college students who serve as tutors in the AVID classrooms; became an approved off-campus site for Federal Work-Study students at The Ohio State University and Columbus State Community College; arranged many student visitations to local, state, and out-of-state college campuses, and partnered with numerous business/community entities in career development activities. Westmoor Middle School will benefit from these partnerships and planned activities as well.

SCHOOL:
The leadership at WMS is also committed to implementing AVID with fidelity. The principal, William Doermann, explored AVID by attending the March 10 ODE Innovative Symposium. He along with the School Leadership Team understand the requirements of AVID and will insure that: an AVID Site Team is formed; 8 staff members are trained at an AVID 2012 Summer Institute; the AVID class is incorporated into the school schedule; students are recruited and selected to begin in fall, 2012; and the process of incorporating AVID methodologies school-wide is begun.

4. How will you integrate the specific Innovative Program into your school culture and current transformation plan/Scope of Work?

The school and district leaders have set the vision and the tone that promotes college readiness and high expectations for all students. This vision has laid the foundation for the successful integration of AVID into the school culture at WMS. Trained Site Team members at WMS will mentor and support all teachers in implementing AVID strategies, methodologies, and resource materials so that all students in the school may benefit. All classrooms will eventually model the AVID classroom to increase student achievement and parent engagement across the entire school. The AVID Center division staff and consultants will provide ongoing coaching, training and support to assist in transforming the culture. AVID is able to support and strengthen the reform efforts currently in progress at WMS including the Middle School Redesign.

5. How will implementation of this Innovative Program increase student achievement and progress in your LEA/school for ALL students?

According to the AVID website (www.avid.org), implementation of AVID at WMS will increase student achievement and progress for all students.

Highlights from AVID Middle School Research:

- Each site utilized data to assess and improve teaching methods.
- Transformation of school culture and school-wide use of AVID occurred through fidelity to the 11 AVID essentials, professional development and use of data.
- Increased creation of and enrollment in AP and honors courses occurred on nearly every campus.
- AVID students represented 17-47% of AP enrollees (on four campuses).
- District support for AVID tutorials was a key factor.
- Students improved in their own behavior as well as their expectations for other students in their cluster.

In addition, the percentage of eighth graders taking algebra is expected to increase given that of 60,841 AVID eighth graders, 61% were taking algebra compared to 22% nationally and 35% in the top 5 states. (Source: AVID Center-AVID General Data Collection 2009-10.)

With fidelity to the implementation of the AVID Program, WMS can also achieve these stellar results.

6. How will you sustain this Innovative Program post RttT?

AVID is an extremely cost-effective solution that embeds sustainability into a school through the methodologies and professional development that become part of the school culture. Implementation costs are frontloaded during the first three years of implementation so that sustaining the program in the long run is affordable. WMS plans to sustain AVID post RttT with TITLE dollars.

In addition, AVID Center helps to sustain the program by providing member schools with divisional training events, ongoing Site Team Support, Annual Certification Process, and ongoing technical assistance from Program Managers and consultants.

7. Describe any potential challenges or barriers with the mandatory professional development and Innovative Program requirements for the framework that you have selected. What strategies will your LEA/school implement to overcome these potential obstacles ?

CCS has submitted a proposal for a sister middle school, Buckeye, to be funded with RttT Innovative Program dollars to implement AVID beginning school year 2011-12. If awarded the grant, Buckeye Middle School will serve as a pilot in the district in the implementation of AVID and then assist WMS and the other two middle schools (if funded) in their implementation efforts.

WMS is fully aware of the requirement for staff members to attend AVID Summer Institute: 8 in 2012, 5 in 2013, and 5 in 2014 (not funded by RttT dollars) as well as the need for fidelity to the 11 AVID essentials and use of data. There are no challenges or barriers identified at this time for the implementation of AVID at WMS beginning school year 2012-13. If any arise, WMS will collaborate with the AVID District Director, other district personnel and AVID sites to work through the issues. Local AVID Program Managers and consultants can provide technical assistance and support by phone, e-mail or in-person.

8. How will the implementation of this Innovative Program increase college and career readiness of all students?

The mission of AVID is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. The AVID College Readiness System works because it: accelerates under achieving students into more rigorous courses, teaches academic skills not targeted in other classes, provides intensive support with in-class tutors, creates a positive peer group for students, develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination. In Ohio AVID schools, 99.2% of AVID students are enrolled in a "College Prep" track of courses. (Source: AVID webinar, March 31, 2011)

9. Identify a timeline to achieve a successful implementation.

The foundation for successful implementation of AVID at WMS has already been laid: the principal participated in the ODE Innovative Symposium, March 10, 2011 and the plan of how AVID will be incorporated into the existing grade-level teams has been completed. Upon receiving the AVID Innovative award, WMS will enter into contract with AVID for the 2012-13 school-year, send 8 staff members to AVID Summer Institute for professional development during the summer of 2012, and carry out their plans to implement for school year 2012-13. Ongoing, the AVID Site Team will work to implement with fidelity the 11 AVID Essentials.

10. Why should your LEA/school be awarded an Innovative Programs grant?

Westmoor Middle School should be awarded the AVID Innovative grant because they need it, want it, and they are capable of successfully implementing the program.

The students and staff of Westmoor Middle School need AVID. While Westmoor Middle School is not identified as a School Improvement Grant (SIG) school, it is a **low-achieving** school as indicated by the 2009-10 school report card which reports WMS as: Continuous Improvement status; AYP-Not Met; and 1 of 8 State Indicators Met. Many parents do not promote a college education for their children. Research shows that children are most influenced by their parents. WMS needs assistance in building that college bound culture. AVID is the Innovative Program that can assist them in achieving that goal.

The staff members of WMS want AVID at their school. They have investigated the program and are enthusiastic and committed to its implementation with fidelity.

Westmoor Middle School is the feeder middle school for West High School which has been identified as a School Improvement (SIG) school in Ohio. With AVID at WMS, greater numbers of students will matriculate to West High School with the goal of achieving success in their high school courses and preparing themselves for the rigor of college.

WMS is capable of implementing the AVID program with fidelity. The infrastructure of a district-wide AVID program already exists with a trained AVID District Director in place, a Co-Director identified, partnerships for AVID tutors in place, and a collaborative, supportive system for school sites new to AVID. The WMS school leadership team is committed to AVID and enthusiastic about the opportunity to implement it at Westmoor Middle School.

SECTION D

Please include LEA Name, IRN#, and proposed Innovation Program information at the top of this table. Include a breakdown of the annual expenditures anticipated in each budget category during each grant-year that equals the total dollar amount of the innovation program selected.

Columbus City Schools IRN# 043802	Proposed Innovation: AVID				
Budget Categories	**FY2011**	**FY2012**	**FY2013**	**FY2014**	**Total**
Salaries (100)					$ -
Retirement/ Fringe Benefits (200)					$ -
Purchase Services (400)		$16,870.00	$14,188.40		$31,058.40
Supplies (500)		$4,370.00			$ 4,370.00
Capital Outlay (600)					$ -
Other (800)		$3,760.00	$3,811.60		$ 7,571.60
9. Total Costs		$ 25,000.00	$ 18,000.00		$ 43,000

Budget Narrative:
Purchased Services – AVID Summer Institute Fee, Travel
Supplies – AVID Middle School Curriculum Library
Other – AVID Membership Fee, Indirect Cost of 1.62%

Interested LEA/Schools are required to submit the requested grant information electronically to jay.keefer@ode.state.oh.us no later than Friday, May 20, 2011.

Questions may be directed to

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