

6. Are you submitting your application as a consortium? Y/N (check box)

- **List all consortium members by name:(If Y selected above)**

Provide the following information for each additional consortium member, if applicable:

First name, 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

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.

7. Are you partnering with anyone to plan, implement, or evaluate your project? Y/N (check box)

- **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, 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

Overall description of project and alignment with goals

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

- *The current state or problem to be solved; and*
- *The proposed innovation and how it relates to solving the problem or improving on the current state.*

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.

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

- Student achievement (If checked, open box below for description)
 - Describe the specific changes in student achievement you anticipate as a result of this innovation (include grade levels, content areas as appropriate).
- Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast or positive performance on other approved fiscal measures(If checked, open box below for description)
 - Describe the specific reductions you anticipate in terms of dollars and spending categories over a five-year period 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.
- Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom (If checked, open box below for description)
 - Describe specific resources (personnel? Time? Course offerings?) that will be enhanced in the classroom as a result of this innovation.
- Implementing a shared services delivery model
 - Describe how your shared services delivery model will demonstrate increased efficiency and effectiveness, long-term sustainability, and scalability.

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.

10. Select one: Which of the following best describes the proposed project?

- 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.
- If applicable, upload the *Consortium Budget Worksheet* (included in appendix).
- Upload the *Financial Impact Table* (included in appendix).
- Upload the *Supplemental Financial Reporting Metrics* (included in appendix)

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 may also upload the Supplemental Financial Reporting Metrics to provide additional information about cost savings. Directions for the Supplemental Financial Reporting Metrics are located on the first tab. If this document does not apply to your organization, please provide an explanation below.

Educational service centers, 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?

- State the total project cost.
- Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget.

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.

13. Will there be any costs incurred as a result of maintaining and sustaining the project after June 30th of your grant year? (Y/N) (Check Box)

- If yes, provide a narrative explanation of your sustainability costs as detailed in the Financial Impact Table.
- If no, please explain why (i.e. maintenance plan included in purchase price of equipment).

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.

**14. Will there be any expected savings as a result of implementing the project? (Y/N)
(Check Box)**

- If yes, specify the amount of annual expected savings
- 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.

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 ~~net cost savings~~ increased costs as a result of maintaining and sustaining the project after June 30th of your grant year. The Governing Board will use 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 grant amount requested.

15. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is self-sustaining. Explain in detail how this project will sustain itself for at least five years after June 30th of your grant year.

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.

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.

- Name and Title
- Responsibilities (for this grant project)
- Qualifications
- Prior Relevant Experience

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.

17. Planning – Activities prior to the grant implementation

- Date Range
- List of scope of work (activities and/or events including project evaluation discussions, communication and coordination among entities).
- Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the planning phase

18. Implementation- Process to achieve project goals

- Date Range
- List of scope of work (activities and/or events, including deliverables, project milestones, interim measurements, communication, and coordination).
- Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the implementation phase.

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

- Date Range
- List of scope of work (activities and/or events, including quantitative and qualitative benchmarks and other project milestones).
- Anticipated barriers to successful completion of the summative evaluation phase.

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.

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.

E) SUBSTANTIAL VALUE AND LASTING IMPACT

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.

22. Describe the overall plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used in the project.

- 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.
- 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).
- 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.

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.

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.

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
- Spending Reduction in the five-year fiscal forecast
- Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom
- [Implementing a shared services delivery model](#)
- Other Anticipated Outcomes

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.

25. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio? Y/N (check box)

- Explain your response

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.

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).

APPLICATION SCORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS, CRITERIA AND RUBRICS

SCORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS

The application review process established by the Straight A Fund Governing Board for the Straight A Fund grant involves **two** separate steps:

- Application sustainability screening; and
- Application review

PROCESS FOR STEP 1: SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW

Applications will undergo an initial screening by three separate scorers to ensure that the proposal includes an explanation of how the project will be self-sustaining. If the project will result in increased, ongoing spending, the applicant shall show how the spending will be offset by verifiable, credible and permanent spending reductions.

This stage of the screening involves a fiscal review of application responses and budget documents to ensure that the description of the budget, the project proposal and potential project impact demonstrate sustainability. The screening also will determine whether reductions/reallocations (if proposed) are permanent and that the claims made in the application are verifiable and credible. Based on the scores of the three grant scorers, grant advisors will evaluate and make a determination of whether a proposal has demonstrated sustainability (see Scoring Process) and will recommend to the Governing Board if the applications should be rejected (not sustainable) or undergo further review (sustainable) in step two of the process. **Any project that has not met the criteria of a verifiable, credible plan for sustainability will be rejected and not be reviewed in step two of the process.**

Criteria

Fiscal scorers and screening evaluation will focus the scoring on how well the application responses and budget documentation meet the following criteria:

- Illustrate a concept that is sustainable with ongoing costs offset by verifiable, credible and permanent spending reductions.

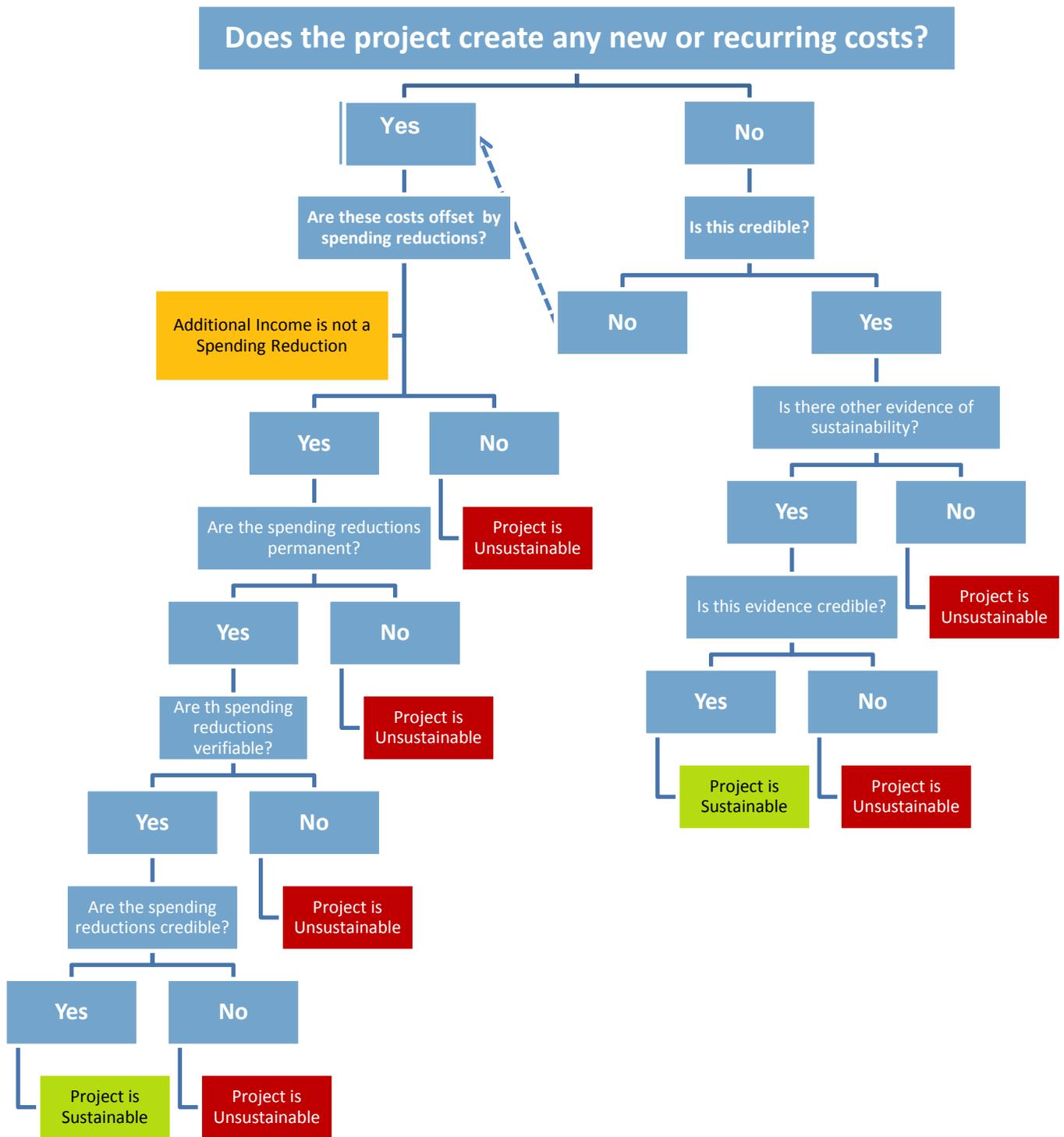
Using the financial documentation and the answers provided in the sustainability section (questions 11-15) of the application, scorers will score items on a yes/no scale to determine the likelihood of sustainability. The assigned score will be based on the overall strength of the answer and evidence provided.

Scoring Worksheet

Fiscal scorers will use questions 1 and 2 to help guide their analysis in answering question 3. Please use the sustainability logic diagram to inform the response to question 3.

Application Screening Worksheet (Used to support the response to sustainability)	
1. Is the project budget credible?	Yes No
2. Does the project have sustainability costs?	Yes No
a. If yes, independently calculate the sustainability costs.	\$ _____ N/A
b. If yes, are these costs offset by spending reductions?	Yes No N/A
i. Independently calculate the total spending reductions.	\$ _____ N/A
ii. Do spending reductions meet or exceed the sustainability costs?	Yes No N/A
iii. Are these spending reductions permanent?	Yes No N/A
iv. Are these spending reductions verifiable?	Yes No N/A
v. Are these spending reductions credible?	Yes No N/A
b. If no, is the absence of any sustainability costs credible?	Yes No N/A
i. Is there other evidence of sustainability?	Yes No N/A
ii. Is the other evidence of sustainability credible?	Yes No N/A
Application Sustainability Screening	
3. Is the project sustainable?	Yes No

Sustainability Logic Diagram



PROCESS FOR STEP 2: APPLICATION REVIEW

Upon documenting the sustainability of the project, the applications and questions will be scored by three independent reviewers and receive scores. In order to receive the maximum number of points, an application must be of the highest quality and the applicant must provide a clear, strong narrative that the project will achieve the stated goals of the Straight A Fund. Applications will be scored and evaluated based on the extent to which the proposal reflects an innovative project containing a thoughtful implementation plan, a method to benchmark the project, and demonstrate substantial value and lasting impact.

The scores of the separate scorers will be analyzed (see Scoring), and a final score based on this analysis will be issued for each project. Grant advisors will evaluate the scored proposals and issue a recommendation for funding to the Governing Board.

Criteria

The overall Criteria for the Straight A Fund application review are listed below. Scorers will determine how well the responses:

- Propose a strong argument for an innovative concept that represents bold and visionary thinking;
- Outline a thoughtful implementation plan;
- Propose a thoughtful description of quantifiable results of the project that can be benchmarked; and
- Demonstrate substantial value and lasting impact.

Each answer will be rated on a scale that moves from vague/unclear/lacking innovation to strong evidence/exemplary/highly innovative. The assigned score will be based on the overall strength of the answer and evidence provided.

Rubric

Score	Description
0	Inadequate No evidence or information not provided
1	Weak Minimal evidence; limited potential; vague; weak concepts; limited likelihood of success; limited in innovative thinking; lacks sufficient information
2	Marginal Some evidence; partially developed concepts; some potential for effectiveness and success; some inconsistencies; needs work; some innovation present; requires additional information/clarification
3	Good Convincing concepts with enough examples of evidence to indicate a good chance for success; clear and complete; innovative
4	Strong Very convincing concepts with strong examples of evidence throughout potential; well-conceived and thoroughly developed with a high likelihood for success; very innovative
5	Exemplary Excellent concepts; exceptional evidence; well-thought out with an extremely high likelihood of success, exemplary, highly innovative

Scoring Items

Project Description (Questions 8-10)

Item 1. How well does this proposal identify bold and innovative solutions that will advance the goals identified by the applicant?*

Item 2. How well does this proposal describe this innovative project?*

Implementation (Questions 16-20)

Item 3. How well does the application identify the participants' qualifications, skills and experience in being able to successfully conduct this project?*

Item 4. How well does the proposal describe the partners/consortia members (if relevant) qualifications, skills and experience as well as their role(s) in helping to achieve success in this initiative?*

Item 5. How well does this proposal describe how the various personnel/consortium/partners will manage and achieve the specified outcomes?

Item 6. How well does the proposed time line reflect significant and important milestones in an appropriate time frame?

Item 7. How well does the proposal provide evidence of how the applicant, consortium/partnership (if relevant) or member school(s) will communicate, administer and manage the project to successfully carry out the scope of work over the life of the grant?

Item 8. Are realistic barriers to the work identified and are reasonable solutions to the barriers being proposed?

Item 9. How strong is the plan for implementing, communicating and coordinating the project with its various activities and events?

Item 10. Are the expected instructional and/or organizational changes realistic and significant in moving the institution(s) toward the project goals?

Item 11. How strong is the project plan to meet the intended outcomes of the initiative?

Substantial Implementation and Lasting Value (Questions 21-25)

Item 12. How strong is the proposed evaluation plan to assess both the process of implementation as well as outcomes/benchmarks identified in the proposal?*

Item 13. How well does the proposal describe the evaluation methodology and resources the consortium/partnership and member school(s) will use to determine the success of the project at the end of the grant period?*

Item 14. How strong is the underlying rationale, theoretical model and/or research supporting this initiative?

Item 15. How impressive and reasonable are the expected outcomes to be achieved by this initiative?

Item 16. How strong is the likely substantial impact and lasting value of the proposed project?

Item 17. How well does the proposal cite a plan that describes continuation of the project at the end of the grant period?

Item 18. How well does the proposed work lend itself to become part of a model so that schools across the state can take advantage of the learnings created through this proposal?*

Summary

Item 19. How reasonable and appropriate is the relationship between the proposed budget and the attainment of the propose goals and objectives?

Item 20. Overall rating of this proposal?

*These items are weighted items and will receive additional points during scoring