



# I-3 Federal Department of Education Grant

Investing in Innovation

# Investing in Innovation (I-3)

- The purpose of this program is to **provide competitive grants** to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, **innovative practices that are demonstrated** to have an impact on improving student achievement or student growth, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment and completion rates.

# The Award-ACCESS ( A Culture of Creating Effective Systems for Success)

- Out of 26 Applications, MCS was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest score out of the LEA's. The score for MCS was 94/100.
- What is the grant about? Developing a system of digital learning by providing expanded access to connectivity, teaching practices, digital learning community, and virtual learning environments both for student and teachers.
- Its about creating a digital learning culture
  - devices are only one part of the grant which includes a device for 6-12 out of the I-3 while looking at other grants for K-5.
- Total award was 3.0 million with a \$455,000 local match.

# Key components of our Grant

- **Three key barriers were addressed: high teenage pregnancy, low-income and rural settings that typically impeded access to college level courses, the lack of resources to provide highly qualified teachers in all courses** (French, Latin, Spanish, ect.)
  - Solutions include providing 24/7 connectivity to curriculum where possible
  - Continue to expand our CCP offerings by adding Polycoms between participating colleges and our schools
  - Moving our learning culture to a digital based system where access to a teacher is not limited by location, content is available online 24/7, teachers collaborate and share through in person and digital platforms, and professional development becomes a mixture of face to face and digital

# Grant specific targets

- **Goal one-provide high quality teaching and learning resources** and engage students in support anytime, anywhere access
- **Goal two-expand the reach of effective teacher through connecting teaching, instructional redesign, and high-quality professional learning**
- **Goal** three-create a systematic process for real-time teacher-student access to online assessment data to improve instruction monitor progress in meeting college and career ready standards

# Overview of key personnel

- **Project advisor**-provides strategic direction as the ACCESS advisory Council Chairman and a management team member, oversees the project director and grant deployment-Dr. James
- **Project director**-provides program oversight leadership and physical accountability-a hired position
- **Management team**-The management team meets monthly to provide guidance and implementation of key strategies including project evaluation. Members include: Project Advisor, Chief Financial Officer; Dir. Of technology; Director of Curriculum Support; Director Secondary Education/CTE; Director of Elementary Education/AIG; Director of Exceptional Children; and Director of Community and Business Partnerships



# Overview of key personnel

- **Instructional technology specialist- (ITS)**- 4 hired positions
- **Technology technicians**- 2 hired positions
- **External evaluator**- hired position requiring an RFP process

# Lessons learned-Submitted by Friday Institute

- If your school or school system is contemplating a 1:1 learning environment, you may wish to heed the following Lessons Learned from the 1:1 Learning Initiative Pilot:
- **First and foremost: Take Time to Plan!**
- **Six months to a year is a reasonable planning timeline**
- The most important discussion you will have with stakeholders is what you want your classrooms to look like in a 1:1 environment



# Lessons learned continued-

- **Think infrastructure first**
- Make sure technology personnel (building-level technology facilitator and technician) are hired and in place before any computers are ordered
- **Focus on teacher professional development and empowerment**
- Plan to give every faculty member and administrator the same technology
- Provide professional development opportunities throughout the summer before whole-school roll-out

# Lessons learned continued-

- Once a vendor is determined, prepare for delivery delays
- With global distribution systems and individual school/LEA images, weeks or even months delivery delays are a reality. Prepare accordingly
- Include loaner computers, extra battery chargers, replacement batteries, electronic textbook fees, and laptop bags (if school-provided) in your initial budget
- **Leadership, Leadership, Leadership!** This project cannot be successful without strong leadership from the technology facilitator, the media coordinator, and *especially the principal*

# Lessons learned continued-

- **Professional development should be on-going and targeted!** It should be planned carefully year after year for both new teachers and those who have been part of the 1:1 since its inception
- Both general and content-specific professional development (PD) should be provided for all participating teachers and administrators
- **Learning to teach in a 1:1 environment takes time.** Provide as many opportunities as possible for teachers to carve out larger blocks of time for lesson planning and collaboration

# Lessons learned continued-

- **One of the greatest challenges is the dual responsibility of keeping students safe and enabling the use of educationally appropriate, digital resources**
- Make sure that district and school technology personnel understand and appreciate the educational uses of online resources and services as well as their technical characteristics
- Plan on several years to move to a fully implemented process

# Next Steps

- We have met the program Match of \$455,000
- We have secured an additional grant from Golden Leaf for \$200,000 to help supply infrastructure and PD
- Hire ITS and TT-----timeline 3/15/2015
- Complete assessment of our LMS 3/15—bidding process
- Purchase and setup 1:1 infrastructure and devices—6/15

# The Grants MCS has Secured in the past 8 months

- Tippee Grant-----\$400,000
- Digital Literacy Grant---\$40,000
- Project LEAD math grant-----\$50,000 (estimate)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Grant-----\$1.6 million
- Golden Leaf -----\$200,000
- I-3-----\$3.5 million including in-kind match (secured without Golden Leaf)
- Total grant dollars-----\$5.8 million!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

# The SAGA Continues

- Current grants under submission
  - After-school improvement grant \$500,000 per year for 2 years (M.S. Stem)
  - SREA—Regional grant spear-headed by MCS for 1 million
  - Under-review seeking a partner is the Carol M. White Physical Education Program---up to 750,000 per year for 3 years.