Abstract

Park Intermediate School desires to become a **Next Generation School** by providing a Next Generation Learning Environment. The future is here, and our staff is ready to forge a path by redefining many aspects of current education, and by providing a successful model for other Idaho Schools. Our staff realizes that fully integrating technology is the key to meeting individual and collective educational needs.

With Idaho participating in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), educators must meet numerous, precise instructional goals and accountability measures at each grade level. Students must learn to discover answers— and solve problems on their own—but they must be guided along at an expeditious pace. Our **Next Generation School** will do both.

Our *next generation learning environment* will include an effective Unifi Enterprise wireless campus. We want to incorporate Pearson's WritetoLearn program to provide quality feedback to our students on 6 trait writing (and to free up hundreds of teacher hours of grading writing!). We will use Type to Learn4 to prepare our elementary students for the tech world, real life, and the SBAC. We will purchase a Chromebook lab and a Mobile Android 4.0 lab which will incorporate cloud based storage and enhance student access throughout the day to a variety of educational computer applications and programs. We will use Discovery Education Science Techbooks and position ourselves to be able to utilize future e-textbooks. This effort will transform our classrooms, improve student achievement through individualized learning, and allow students presentation opportunities while experiencing the best of tablets and computers.

Need. Without these grant funds our vision for a **Next Generation School** will be unattainable. Our district has not made AYP in 6 years. Just last month our school board negotiated 3 additional furlough days for next year due to reduced enrollment which causes reduced funding, lower salaries, and lower staff morale. Our building demographics are currently 68% free and reduced lunch, 31% Hispanic and 14% LEP. Our writing scores are consistently far below state averages in our building and district.

The enthusiasm among our staff for this opportunity is off the charts. Our teachers understand how this project could help them meet student needs, including: science, keyboarding, discovery learning, writing, language, math and student presentations.

Though there will be substantial start up costs, this effort will be sustainable and replicable to other districts across Idaho. By utilizing district funds and expertise to maintain our systems and by positioning ourselves to utilize e-books and e-textbooks, future expenses will be curtailed. We average 250 students per year in our building (4^{TH} & 5^{TH} grades). Over a 7 year period (better than our current WSD technology rotation!), this technology would impact: 7yrs X 250 students =1,750 students for a total cost of $54,596. That calculates to be: $54,596 / 1,750 students = **$31.20 per pupil** to provide a top education for our pilot and provides a replicable, sustainable model for Idaho.

Educational Need and Goals for the Project

Teaching the CCSS is going to be difficult for all schools and especially difficult for schools like ours with demographic challenges. Students are going to need to think critically, persevere on multi-step performance tasks, write argumentative essays by first reading passages and then citing references as they construct their responses. Students will need to write explanations for how they solved math problems. Besides our need to just improve writing skills, our *elementary students will be required to* ***type*** *their responses* on the SBAC assessment, so that a computer can grade their constructed responses. Wow!

Our teachers all agree that our most critical academic need at Park School is to improve writing skills. According to the ***CCSS for English Language Arts (ELA) p.18***: "To meet these (writing) goals, students must devote significant time and effort to writing; producing numerous pieces over short and extended time frames throughout the year."

Our Weiser School District has not made AYP in 6 years. Historically Park School (4th & 5th grade) was never able to meet the state average on the Statewide Direct Write Assessment (DWA). Writing has always been our lowest area when considering Statewide Assessments but has not been measured (statewide) since 2008-9 as Idaho dropped the test. [The chart below shows that our consistently poor writing scores are systemic in our district—not just our building —when compared to state averages.]

Based on the percentage of students proficient (w/scores of 3 or higher)

	DWA 06-07		**DWA 07-08**		**DWA 08-09**	
	Weiser Avg.	State. Avg.	Weiser Avg.	State Avg.	Weiser Avg.	State Avg.
5th	60%	74%	59%	61%	50%	70%
7th	71%	75%	49%	65%	47%	70%
9th	65%	77%	67%	74%	70%	73%

With the previous Idaho Direct Writing Assessment, students were assessed on writing in only: 5th grade, 7th grade, and 9th grade*. With the SBAC, students will be assessed on reading and writing every year in grades 3-11, and students will demonstrate their reading comprehension (and some math explanations) by how well they write! That is why improving writing will be a major focus in our* ***Next Generation School!***

Since the statewide Direct Write was dropped, our district has made an effort to continue the DWA by sponsoring a district-wide writing project called Write on Weiser (WOW). At Park School we used previous DWA writing prompts, state rubrics and rangefinders for the 5th grade as we continued this effort—to maintain the same standards previously held by the state. (We don't have writing scores from the 2012-13 school year as our district dropped this writing requirement to focus on the CCSS!)

Our results are below**. A score of 3.0 is considered proficient.**

Park School used the 07-08 state writing prompt, rubric, and rangefinders to assign and score the tests below: (Idaho 5th graders were 61% proficient in 07-08)

Fall 2010 Results	
Score	# students
1	7
1.5	12
2	25
2.5	31
3	25
3.5	7
4	1
AVG 2.37 **31 % proficient**	

Spring 2011 Results	
Score	# students
1	3
1.5	4
2	36
2.5	22
3	29
3.5	12
4	6
AVG 2.58 **42% proficient**	

Fall 2011 Results	
Score	# students
1	5
1.5	10
2	25
2.5	24
3	30
3.5	8
4	7
AVG 2.53 **41% proficient**	

Spring 2012 Results	
Score	# students
1	2
1.5	9
2	25
2.5	25
3	27
3.5	10
4	2
AVG 2.52 **39% proficient**	

Part of the reason for our low writing scores may be our building demographics. We are currently 68% free and reduced lunch, 31% Hispanic and 14% LEP. Another reason: in our building, all teachers teach writing. However, as elementary teachers, none of them were specifically trained to be writing specialists.

To effectively bring students along in their development of writing, it is essential to have them write daily. It is also essential to give meaningful feedback which is time intensive. Pearson's WriteToLearn will incorporate automatic scoring and provide feedback for student writing that is specific, clear, focused on the individual student, and timely.

We currently utilize a 28 unit XP laptop computer lab where instruction is reinforced with additional practice. We use Study Island, Accelerated Grammar and Spelling, and Math facts. We also have two XP computers in each of 10 classrooms that are used primarily for Accelerated Reader. Each teacher has a laptop or I-pad attached to a ceiling mounted projector (4 yrs old) for instruction.

Our building currently offers **advanced opportunities** by ability grouping classes for reading instruction and by teaching one advanced math class at each grade level. We also partner with our local police and community to offer a 100 day per year after school program for needy students (grades 2-12), a 4-day summer academic experience for high performers (grades 4 & 5), and a summer program for our at-risk students. The technology and professional development listed in this grant will transform us to a new level in our school, our summer school, and our after school programs.

All of our staff signed a letter of support for this project—knowing that if fully funded, our daily approach to teaching will be transformed forever. **(See Appendix A)**

Scope and Sequence

Planning: When this grant opportunity became available, we met as a staff to discuss whether we wanted to try for the Idaho Technology Pilot Project (100% in favor). We designed two needs assessments by inventorying our current technology situation, then surveyed staff about what technology and programs could maximize student learning and drive our building to become a **Next Generation School**. **(See Appendices B-E)** The Park School Principal is also the Weiser School District Academic Achievement Director and Title 2A facilitator. Even prior to this grant opportunity he met with NNU, and set up the following professional development classes for the Weiser School District—which occurred this summer in Weiser. All Park staff participated in three or more of the following Summer Institute workshops for credit through NNU.

June 3 & 4 EDPD59401. (1) Discovery Ed

June 5 & 6 EDPD59402. (1) Schoolnet Resources

June 5 & 6 EDPD59403. (1) Curriculum Mapping

June 10 & 11 EDPD59404. (1) Common Core Writing

June 12 & 13 EDPD59405.(1) Curriculum Development

The above workshops were essential for our teachers, and they position us nicely if our grant is successful by having already trained staff in tying the CCSS to current curriculum and curriculum maps, writing effectively to the CCSS, utilizing technology to customize learning for students, using media that aligns with standards, and being exposed to all that Discovery Ed. and Schoolnet have to offer.

The Weiser superintendent and technology director are aware of this grant possibility and will be ready in early July to move forward with ordering and installing necessary components for our **Next Generation School**. Our Park School technology leadership team (3 staff and the principal) will participate in Edustat training and further Schoolnet training this summer and throughout next school year.

Involvement: The principal and five grant committee members (teachers) researched over 3 weeks finding the technology/programs/apps that will best fit our needs. That technology was then suggested to all Park staff, voted on, prioritized, and pared down. All teachers filled out needs assessment surveys, and we held a meeting to discuss. All staff signed a letter of support to implement the components of this grant. (Appendix A)

Preparation: Our Summer Institute Professional Development (listed above) is funded with Title 2A funds. Our district is committed to implementing the CCSS and integrating all beneficial technology to help in that effort. Future Title 2A and Title 1 funds will be utilized for future essential Professional Development to implement this grant. This past week we hired two teachers (replacing a retired teacher). Skills in technology were a major factor in our interviews and hiring. We have 4 staff in our building who are attending Edustat in June as we are an ISEE Phase 2 District. The teachers involved

are identified as a building level technology team and will be paid a stipend (using Title 2A funds) this year to help all teachers with technology and to effectively implement grant components.

Implementation: Approximately 90% of all students and parents will attend Back-to-School Night on Thursday, August 22. As a part of the program that night, we will explain the key components of this grant. The following goals will be set and tweaked as needed in the implementation process.

August 15—all items listed in our budget will have been purchased and functional.

August 20 & 21—all staff (Including our After School and Community Partners Staff) will receive training on Pearson's WriteToLearn program.

August 26 (our first day of school) students will begin a lab rotation to begin learning to type with TypeToLearn 4.

2013-14 School year. Our technology team will provide monthly training in components of this grant by demonstrating best practices and inviting peers to observe lessons.

The Weiser School District and our local Weiser Police have a partnership and jointly run both an after school and summer program involving grades 2-12, adult GED, and parent education services. Components of this grant will be shared.

Grade level teachers have a 1 hour bi-weekly common prep time for planning. Our building technology team will provide ongoing training throughout the year.

Evaluation: Our grade level teams will meet bi-weekly to continually plan, look at measurable data aligned to our objectives, and evaluate. We will generate reports and measure improvement in typing, writing, and reading comprehension (with interim assessments). The principal will give progress reports to all staff, the district administrators, and the school board on a monthly basis. We will survey staff and parents during parent/teacher conferences. Student academic achievement gains will be measured utilizing TypeToLearn 4 and WriteToLearn software as well as the SBAC:

- Our students will average typing 30 words per minute by May 15.
- All students will have composed/typed and received feedback on 20 full-page essays using TypeToLearn software by May 15, 2014 and each successive year.
- We will implement the WOW again with the same rubric and rangefinders. Our students will be 70% proficient (or higher) next year and each subsequent year.
- Our students will score above the state average on all writing assessments, and will be one of the top 30 schools in the state in each grade level in reading, language, science and math on the SBAC.
- Students will prepare and present quarterly multimedia presentations utilizing devices, programs and software outlined in this grant.

Sustainability and Scalability

Once our **Next Generation School** concept has been proven to work in Weiser, it can be exported to other schools or school systems in Idaho. We will meet our yearly goals (listed previously under Evaluation), and our staff and student morale will rise to match our improved scores. Our students will give quality, multimedia presentations typically only found in board rooms! Our school will be a shining example of what education can be in Idaho.

The energy, enthusiasm, knowledge and leadership at Park Intermediate School is ripe for this project. Prove skeptics wrong. Researchers who study education often state that the greatest predictor of a school's success on standardized test scores is the socio-economic situation that surrounds those schools. We have never believed that. We will prove that theory wrong and provide an example for others. Considering the makeup of our staff, if our school (for once) has state of the art technology tools that are often available in wealthier districts, we will compete and score higher than most schools—in every area! Then, our doors will be open to representatives of other Idaho schools to come see what has been accomplished for an affordable/replicable price.

In the business world and perhaps in richer school districts, a 4 year old computer may be considered old and needing to be replaced. That sounds great, however, in our world, we have many computers in use currently that are 10 years old—because we make them last, and we make do with the funding we have. Last year we finally unplugged our Windows 98 and 2000 computers as they could no longer be virus protected on the internet. Most of our newest computers are XP models and are 7-10 years old. If this grant is funded, we will plan for the equipment to be used for at least 7 years (our project duration).

The total of our grant request is **$54,596.** We average 250 students per year in our building (4^{TH} & 5^{TH} grades). Over a 7 year period (better than our current WSD technology rotation!), this technology would have the following impact/cost: 7yrs X 250 students = 1,750 students for a total cost of $54,596. That calculates to be: $54,596 / 1,750 students = **$31.20 per pupil per year** (not counting after school and summer programs) to provide a top education. This plan provides minimum costs and maximum educational benefits.

Ask yourself: what could you do with $31.20? How about dramatically change the educational experience of future Park Intermediate School students. According to multiple sources, education spending per student in Idaho for 2011 was $6,824, the second lowest per pupil rate in the U.S. besides Utah. An extra $31.20 per student per year for 7 years (across the state) would not be unreasonable.

Though the initial purchases will be substantial: $54,596, this project will be sustainable and scalable. This project will have a profound effect on our school, district, and community by bringing our classrooms into the 21^{st} century. Once these initial purchases have been made, the district and Park School will take responsibility to maintain these components. Our annual district technology modernization budget will

plan to fix or replace 10% of our new devices each year. Our superintendent and district technology coordinator have agreed to commit resources for that purpose. We will meld Federal funding of Title 1, Title 2A and ISEE Phase 2 funding to provide ongoing staff development at no cost to this grant. The WSD will provide the necessary infrastructure by wiring our Room #8 to include electrical outlets for our new Chromebook lab.

We have a full time, qualified and trained, district technology director (Mike Garrison) who is a Novell Certified Network Engineer (CNE) and a Microsoft certified professional. He has worked with PC's and networks for 28 years. Mike is excited about this grant opportunity and willing to do what is needed to get us set up and running in August. Last month we upgraded our district Internet bandwidth from 18 mbs to 50 mbs. which improves our capability and will allow for running programs and streaming videos at a fast rate through our new wireless system. Without this grant, we will struggle to keep pace moving into Idaho Common Core implementation. According to Mike Garrison, currently about 90% of the computers in our district are XP's. According to an article found at http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/endofsupport.aspx , support for XP's will discontinue after April 8, 2014. This article begins with: "WHAT? What does end of support mean to customers? It means you should take action. After April 8, 2014, there will be no new security updates, non-security hotfixes, free or paid assisted support options or online technical content updates." We are concerned.

The Weiser Technology plan for 2013-2015 (appendix F) outlines our technology integration plans and goals. A short excerpt from that plan under the "Technology vision statement" section states:

> **Goal 1**: Students are capable information technology users. Students receive the necessary instruction, modeling, and practice to effectively use various technologies by…
>
> - Understanding the nature of and operation of technology systems and keyboard basics.
> - Providing on-going skills instruction to students and staff.
> - Becoming grade level proficient in the use of technology … .

These are great goals for our district and state, and goals where we want to excel, but they are impossible for us to implement without adequate technology.

This project will continue beyond the initial funding period and impact the district, its school(s) and the State of Idaho. Park School (4th & 5th grade) educates all students in the district as they move through Weiser schools. The Weiser District has not made AYP in 6 years. Park School must provide a solid foundation for students before they move into our Middle School. Without these two years being strong academically (in essential reading, math, English, science, etc.), a link in the educational chain is broken and our Middle School and High School will always struggle to maintain or raise students to grade level. If our school is strong, we can propel students forward and give them the background skills and momentum to succeed in higher grades. Schools across Idaho will be able to observe our program, our demographics, and our high student scores, and then replicate our affordable plan.

Budget Narrative

$750 3 Pro stations ($250.00 ea)--Unifi AP Enterprise wireless network for all wireless devices at Park School. This system will provide a seamless connection throughout our school tied to the district's 50 mbs Internet bandwidth.

$5,580 WriteToLearn. A web-based tool designed to teach and assess reading comprehension and writing skills. WriteToLearn combines summarization and essay writing activities. Used for both instruction and assessment, WriteToLearn gives students immediate, targeted feedback needed to develop the reading comp and writing skills that are critical for academic success. (yearly fee)

$1,900 WritetoLearn--1 day inservice package of 6 total hours to train all Park Staff. Includes access to Pearson's "My Training Connection" which includes a library of video components that teachers can access 24/7.

$7,470 30 Samsung Chromebooks wi-Fi, 11.6" (30 @ $249.ea). These will connect to the internet and allow students to use all internet based resources and allow students to utilize cloud based storage. They will be used for using Study Island, typing documents to be graded by the WriteToLearn program and more

$9,786 14 HP Probooks 4540s laptops ($699 each), (13 teacher 1 Principal) These laptops will allow teachers the versatility and power of a laptop and will utilize Windows 8.

$14,970 30 Samsung Galaxy note (Android 4.0 tablets) $499 ea. w/keyboards/headphones). This mobile Android 4.0 lab will incorporate cloud based storage and enhance student access throughout the day to a variety of educational applications. These will have keyboards and head phones and will allow students access to the best of tablets as well as our local network keyboarding program and internet capability/WriteToLearn, etc.

$900	Keyboards	$30 ea	one time fee
$450	Headphones	$15 ea	one time fee

$2,490 1 Billy Goat charging and storage cart (#50677) without side shelf. This cart will recharge 39 Samsung Galaxy Android 4.0 tablets. This cart is made for simultaneous content synching over wi-fi.

$9,500 Discovery Education Science Techbooks. $38 per student (6 year contract) includes customized professional development (A comprehensive digital program that replaces traditional textbooks, fuels digital transformation, and supports common core state standards.)

$800 Type to Learn 4 Our elementary students must learn to keyboard. The upcoming SBAC requires that students type constructed responses. This is an excellent program for young students to learn typing skills.

$54,596 total cost--/250 students = $218.38 per student for **Next Generation School.**