**1.3 Policies, Procedures, Programs & Funding**

Candidates research, recommend, and implement policies, procedures, programs, and funding strategies to support implementation of the shared vision represented in the school, district, state, and federal technology plans and guidelines. Funding strategies may include the development, submission, and evaluation of formal grant proposals.

Reflection

The Technology Integration Grant Proposal (Grant Proposal) was completed as a way for me to demonstrate my ability to design a budget that aligns digital resources with instructional priorities. While the grant proposal project was not designed for implementation, I could always update the application and submit it later. The Technology Integration Grant Proposal Project illustrates the International Society for Technology in Education’s (ISTE) Essential Condition of Consistent and Adequate Funding- “ongoing funding to support technology infrastructure, personnel, digital resources, and staff development” (Williamson and Redish, 2009, p.12). Using the mini grant application packet, I read the information, researched technology that I thought would benefit the students I served, then completed the attached application. Later, I may update and submit the application, then implement the technology purchased with the award after having received the actual grant funding. I completed an application for a reputable local agency’s grant proposal that I can update and submit. The application that I completed was for grant awards up to five hundred dollars. Were I to apply and receive funding annually, I could design, develop, and support the implementation of instituting one-to-one devices for all students with disabilities in my building, one to two devices at a time.

Standard 1.3 Policies, Procedures, Programs and Funding outlines the criteria to research, recommend, and implement policies, procedures, programs, and funding strategies to support implementation of the shared vision represented in the school, district, state, and federal technology plans and guidelines. Additionally, funding strategies may include the development, submission, and evaluation of formal grant proposals. This artifact supports my understanding of how to complete a specific application for a grant proposal. The first four pages of the proposal packet included information about the foundation who would award the grant- A Bright Idea, The Education Foundation of Oconee County, Inc, and included details in a Q & A format that allowed the applicant to understand how to apply, who can apply, when to apply, how/ when the selected grant applicants will receive the award and subsequent funding, application deadlines, and how to prepare the proposal based on their specific guidelines. Additionally, the packet includes a statement about the ownership of materials purchased through the mini-grant programs. It is important for applicants to understand that the recipient of the grant award will have exclusive use of the materials purchased with the funds for as long as the project continues. After the conclusion of the project, the materials will become the property of the school where they received the grant.

Completing the Technology Integration Grant Proposal project gave me real world experience of how to apply for a grant. Before completing this proposal, I had never completed an application for a grant. In fact, I would not have thought to “practice” were it not for this assignment. Researching, recommending, and implementing policies, procedures, programs, are obvious skills that a Technology Coach should have, but applying for funding was not an obvious skill that I thought I would need as a technology coach. I learned that all grants are not created equal, and that grant application packets are very detailed and applicants must follow them to the letter to increase their chances of receiving an award. If I were to change this artifact, I would write the proposal requesting digital devices- laptops, notebooks/ tablets, or Chromebooks that support Google tools and applications. I currently work in a school district that has “gone Google”. Google is our preferred digital platform for instruction, collaboration, and communication. We are in year two of a system-wide implementation of using Google tools.

Completing the proposal packet did not impact school improvement because, the assignment was based on demonstrating the skills needed to write a proposal that was aligned with instructional needs and completing a grant proposal as practice to understand how grant writing is done. Although each grant proposal is different form the next, they all have specific instructions, strict deadlines, and monetary limits that applicants much adhere to for full consideration of possibly receiving each grant for which they apply. I can take my knowledge of The Education Foundation of Oconee County, Inc. grant proposal packet and teach others how to complete their own application. While I could not guarantee that each applicant from my school would receive funding, we could submit multiple applications to the foundation annually with well written proposals that are tied to technology integration and implementation for our school. The implications of this can significantly increase the number of digital devices that students have access to in our building. I can imagine the increased morale of the teachers’ whose proposals are awarded annually. Winning feels good. When teachers learn about a new source of funding for our school, they will want to tap into those resources by submitting their best proposal based on the organization’s guidelines. Teachers may choose to write proposals for extravagant technology-rich field trip opportunities that cost too much money for individual parents to fund. Just because an impact was not assessed when this artifact was created does not mean that we cannot make an impact in our building now, and very year going forward. I am a building resource for 1) having knowledge of the foundation’s grant, and for 2) assisting others in the completion of their own applications.