Budget Request Form FY2019

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department: Children's Center

Program, Service, or Operation Requested
The Children's Center is requesting 15 iPads with protective cases and keyboards to fully implement an assessment tool that has online capabilities such as ePortfolios and family network system.

SAFAB Use Only	
YES	NO

General Description:

The iPads will be used in classrooms to enhance 21^s century learning skills. We currently utilize the Project Approach and children perform investigations; therefore, iPads will enhance access to information and knowledge. iPads provide opportunities for our student workers to aid seasoned teachers in technology enhancements. In addition, iPads will contribute positively in the following areas: assessments (data tracking for developmental ranges), documentation, parent communication, and increase our sustainability by using less paper and ink.

Request Type: ☐ Full   ☐ Increase   ☒ One-Time   ☐ Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested   ☒ UAF   ☐ Other

General Questions:
How does this address an important need and positively impact students?
The Children's Center is without technology other area child care centers currently use. The iPads will enable students and staff to capture more efficiently the developmental range of the children. Teachers will observe children and score them on a scale of 1-7 for each domain. We can use that data to track the developmental needs of individual children as well as classroom successes and improvements. The technology will support the use of online developmental portfolios and apps to collect daily information about the children to share with parents. iPads give the classrooms the ability to research and answer questions in the Project Approach learning used by the Becky Gates Children's Center. iPads prepare young children for school readiness by learning how to use the latest technology they will use in kindergarten. The State of Texas adopted TEKS for Technology Applications for kindergarten – high school.

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What department/Division Strategic Plan item does this support?
What is the impact if not funded?
Goal 5: Strategically leverage resources and develop new strategies to ensure our future effectiveness and sustainability. Without technology the Becky Gates Children's Center will fall behind instead of being progressive in the early education field. We are innovative by using the Project Approach; however, we are unable to fully benefit without technology. The time teachers spend with children will be impacted as well. Currently the teachers have to leave the classroom to use a computer. It is a best practice to have teachers in the classroom with the children with minimal interruptions.

Please provide any data, evidence, input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.
Teachers cannot leave the classroom without being in ratio (meaning one teacher per specific number of children depending on age group) making it difficult to access a computer for assessment and lesson planning purposes. It is a best practice to have teachers in classrooms engaging with children instead of leaving to work on a computer.   Other centers in the BCS area already utilize technology in the classrooms.

What actions have you implemented internally to address the identified need?
The former assessment tool was dated and not evidence based. The new tool, COR Advantage, increases kindergarten readiness, aligns with early learning standards, has the ability to create action plans from data, and the family network system increases communication with families. Currently, the teachers take notes on paper and pictures with camera, and then wait until they have a planning break to upload pictures and transcribe their notes onto the COR Online Assessment. The teachers have to print pictures and manually compose the child's portfolio.

Generally, what assessment tools will you use to evaluate this program/service?
Two assessment tools will be used to evaluate. First is the COR Assessment used for tracking development for children ages infant-kindergarten. The teachers will construct anecdotal notes of the children and enter and score the individual child. There are nine domains such as Language, Literacy, and Communication, Mathematics, and Science and Technology, and Social Studies. Within each domain are subdomains and then seven outcomes to score where the child is. We will track the growth of students to determine how effective our teaching methods are. The second tool is the annual family survey. The survey will ask specific satisfaction questions regarding technology in the classroom. Action plans are created based off the survey results.

How have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered?
Please explain.
Technology grants are highly competitive and we are currently building up the reserves. We are actively searching for additional opportunities through grant writing as well as donations to fund other projects not funded by SAFAB.

Funding Description:

	Dollar Amount
Total Estimated Cost	
15 9.7 inch iPads	$6,150.00
15 Ruggeg Messenger with Keyboard	$1,500.00
15 Tempered Glass Protectors	$150.00
Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if applicable)	
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	**$7,800.00**

SAFAB Comments/Notes:

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