PIKE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
INNOVATION ZONE/FLEXIBILITY APPLICATION

Date Received: December 6, 2013

Synopsis: Creation of Virtual High School, Grades 9-12

Statute Affected: None listed

Status: Approved by the Alabama State Board of Education on March 12, 2014
November 7, 2013

Thomas R. Bice, Ed. D
State Superintendent of Education
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Dr. Bice:

Please find enclosed the Pike County Schools Innovation Zone\Flexibility Waiver for the creation of a virtual high school in Pike County. The goal and timeline for this project is to have Phase 1, all 10th graders and credit recovery situations, up and running for the start of the 2014-15 school year. Other grade levels will be added each year depending on demand and the availability of slots. This process will continue until the program is available to all 9th - 12th graders as well as year 13 students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. S. Mark Bazzell
Superintendent
Pike County Schools
Pike County Virtual High School (PCVHS)
Proposal 2014-15

Vision
To create the Pike County Virtual High School as a proactive solution for students in grade 9 – 12 who:
1) have not been successful in a traditional high school setting
2) qualify for credit recovery initiatives
3) are at-risk of or have dropped out of school
4) have specific social and/or educational needs that have prevented them from being successful in a traditional high school setting, and/or
5) wish to accelerate their academic instruction through ACCESS online dual enrollment or other similar programs.
Instruction will be provided in an on-line environment that is supportive, flexible, and individualized based on the specific needs of each student from an AdvancED accredited institution.

Enrollment
The Pike County Virtual High School is designed to target specific populations of students to include:
- Students at risk of dropping out of school. Including students in need of credit recovery and those facing socioemotional crises outside of school.
- Dropout recovery – Students who have dropped out previously.
- Students who have had difficulty in traditional school settings.
- Students currently attending homeschool or private schools who may wish to take advantage of this delivery model.
- Students who wish to accelerate their academic program or who wish to participate in dual enrollment programs.
- Students in the special needs program if the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines such a setting to be the most appropriate.

Students wishing to enroll in the Pike County Virtual High School must:
- Complete an application packet and be approved through the Office of Prevention and Support.
- Meet the general enrollment requirements established by the Pike County Board of Education.
- Complete and comply with the Pike County Schools Acceptable Use Policy for Technology.
Student Expectations

- Technology
  - Students must have access to technology meeting the minimum specifications or have reliable transportation to the PCVHS technology lab site.
  - Students must have consistent, daily access to the Internet.
  - Students must comply with the Pike County School System Acceptable Use Policy.
- Attendance
  - Students must adhere to the Pike County School System Attendance Policy.
  - Students must attend class each day (as monitored by PCVHS faculty/staff).
    - Log in to courseware daily to document attendance.
    - Physical attendance when directed or required by course
  - To remain in the program, the student may not have more than five (5) virtual unexcused absences or three (3) physical attendance absences
  - Overall goal of student attendance is 95%.
- Course Progression
  - Students are required to attend daily and keep up with course assignments/pace.
    - Faculty and staff will assist in setting a pacing schedule to ensure course completion.
    - Student are expected to keep pace according to the schedule established for him/her
  - Students may complete additional course during an academic term, once current (required) courses are completed. This is known as credit acceleration.
- Grades
  - Students are to maintain an overall passing average.
  - Students not maintaining a passing average will be subject to academic probation and possible dismissal from the program (referral to a more traditional setting).
- Proctored Evaluations
  - Students are required to take all course exams at the PCVHS site, unless otherwise specified.
  - PCVHS staff will monitor/proctor all course exams, including maintaining an attendance, sign-in log.
  - Exams not completed with PCVHS faculty/staff may be invalidated and subject to referral to the Office of Prevention and Support for further action.
  - Students/parents are responsible for transportation to and from the PCVHS site.
- Other
  - Students will adhere to the Pike County Code of Conduct.
Students will remain in "good standing" in order to remain enrolled at the PCVHS.

Curricula
The Pike County Virtual High School intends to offer a full compliment of curricula and delivery models in order provide students the most comprehensive curriculum available while offering greatest amount of flexibility possible, on-line or in a hybrid model. This task will be accomplished via:

- ACCESS distance education, in partnership with Troy University
- Classroom delivery model via VTC (Video Teleconferencing)
- EXCELLERATE program (dual enrollment with Troy University)
  - On-line
  - Traditional
- Direct, individualized, computer-based instruction software/programs
  - OdysseyWare (or comparable) web-based instructional program
- Hybrid Model
  - Utilize a combination of instructional approaches to develop an appropriate education program for the individual

Evaluation/Assessments

- Proctored Evaluations
  - Students are required to take all course exams at the PCVHS site, unless otherwise specified.
  - PCVHS faculty/staff will monitor/proctor all course exams, including maintaining an attendance, sign-in log.
  - Exams not completed with PCVHS faculty/staff may be invalidated and subject to referral to the Office of Prevention and Support for further action.
  - Students/parents are responsible for transportation to and from the PCVHS.
- Students will be required to participate in all local and state mandated assessments.
  - Students must sit for mandated assessments at dates and times established by the Alabama State Department of Education and/or Pike County Schools.
  - Students are responsible for transportation to the designated testing site, as established by the Alabama State Department of Education and/or Pike County Schools, unless otherwise specified by the district testing coordinator.
- The PCVHS will be responsible school accountability measures, per local, state, and federal mandates. Students of the PCVHS will have the option of testing at the PCVHS site. Accountability data will be collected, submitted, and reported via local, state, and federal guidelines and integrated into the appropriate existing schools until the PCVHS becomes an independent cost center.
Student/Technical Support

- IEP students
  - PCVHS will make reasonable accommodations to support the needs of special education students, including gifted students.
  - The IEP committee must meet to determine that the PCVHS is the most appropriate least restrictive environment to meet the needs of the student.

- ELL/LEP students
  - PCVHS will make reasonable accommodations to appropriately accommodate these students.

- Extracurricular Activities
  - Initially, PCVHS will not have extracurricular activities available. However, students may be able to participate at their locally assigned school.
  - The hope is to eventually make some school/community-based activities available.

- PCVHS Center will
  - be housed in a facility under the control and operation of the Pike County Board of Education,
  - serve to house the administrative, counseling/guidance, and library-media/technology offices,
  - provide technology to assist students in the completion of daily assignments/assessments (i.e., computer lab), and
  - provide an opportunity for face-to-face instructional and technical assistance, including tutoring, training, counseling, and testing.

- Student Orientation
  - Prior to enrolling in the PCVHS, students will complete an application process.
  - Once selected, students will attend an orientation designed to acclimate the students to the available virtual instruction models. Orientation will be approximately 1 week and will cover the following topics:
    - Communication (email, discussion boards, etc.)
    - Time Management
    - Study Skills
    - Identifying and accessing various resources
    - Developing instructional plans based on student needs
  - Troy University will assist with the technical aspect of administering ACCESS.

- Counseling/Guidance Services
  - The PCVHS will make a Guidance Counselor and Career Coach available to assist with academic, career, and social needs, as they arise.
  - During enrollment/intake, the counselor will assist the students in developing a four-year educational plan based on student transcripts, standardized assessments, career interest inventories, aptitude tests, and other pertinent data. This educational plan will be reviewed periodically to assess its appropriateness and progress towards completion.
- Student Progress Monitoring
  - PCVHS staff will regularly monitor student attendance, course progression/pacing, and grades (both lessons and exams).
  - Information will be communicated to both, students and parents, on a bi-weekly basis.

- Tutoring
  - Students are will be expected to contact their on-line instructor as a first-line for instructional support.
  - PCVHS faculty/staff will be available for email/face-to-face academic support and resource acquisition.
  - PCVHS will work with the College of Education at Troy University to effectively utilize both graduate and undergraduate students for tutoring and enrichment opportunities.

Funding/Sustainability
- The PCBOE will provide funding for the implementation of the PCVHS. However, as enrollment reaches appropriate levels, PCBOE would seek ADM funding, as for a new school.
- Staffing
  - Administrator (1)
    - Public relations
    - Ensure student eligibility to enroll/participate
    - Ensure a rigorous, academic curriculum
    - Acquisition and allocation of resources
  - Counselor (1)
    - Academic
    - Testing
    - Records
    - Scheduling
    - Maintaining/ensuring student completion of program
    - Social
      - Provide individual/group guidance to ensure appropriate social integration.
      - Be available to address social and crisis needs.
      - Make student aware of community resources available.
    - Career
      - Assist in ensuring students remain goal oriented and completion focused.
      - Establishing/maintaining student focus on careers and/or after-graduation plans.
  - Library-Media/Technology
    - Ensure the proper functioning of local technology
    - Coordinate with Troy University ACCESS; OdysseyWare (or comparable system); and Troy University EXCELLERATE.
- Provide academic support and resources for instruction.

**Additional Information**

- Utilize existing Pike County Board of Education facilities initially.
- Utilize existing Pike County Board of Education equipment.
- Seek local, state, federal, and private grant funding opportunities.
- Utilize locally funded instructional units (initially). As PCVHS enrollment reaches appropriate levels, PCBOE would seek ADM funding.
- If the PCVHS becomes a cost center, it would earn state funding in the same manner as other schools (ADM) and additional staff would be added.
- Because of the nature of the PCVHS, various programs would be available year-round. This would necessitate the staff to be on 12-month contracts in order to facilitate student needs.

**Potential Implementation Timeline**

- **Year 1: 2014-15**
  - 1 staff – locally funded
  - Grade 10 and Credit Recovery students
  - Housed at existing PCBOE facility
    - TPCT – Troy-Pike Center for Technology
    - ALC – Alternative Learning Center
  - Anticipated enrollment = 35

- **Year 2: 2015-16**
  - 1 staff – locally funded
  - Grades 10, 11, and Credit Recovery students
  - Housed at existing PCBOE facility
    - TPCT – Troy-Pike Center for Technology
    - ALC – Alternative Learning Center
  - Anticipated enrollment = 50 - 75

- **Year 3: 2016-17**
  - 3 staff – locally funded
  - Grades 10, 11, 12, and Credit Recovery students
  - Housed at alternate facility to accommodate growth
  - Anticipated enrollment = 75 - 150

- **Year 4: 2017-18**
  - 3 staff – ADM (Cost Center)
  - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12, and Credit Recovery students
  - Housed at alternative facility to accommodate growth
  - Anticipated enrollment 150 - 250
Alabama State Department of Education
Innovation Zone/Flexibility Application

Please fill out all appropriate boxes and respond to all questions. The application/plan must be in 12 pt. font and is limited to 20 pages.

Section 1 - Applicant Information

School System: Pike County
Contact Name & Title: Dr. Mark Head - Administrative Assistant for Prevention and Support/Special Education
Telephone Number: (334)566-1850
E-Mail Address: mhead@pikecountyschools.com

Number of Schools Involved: 1
Number of Students Served/Affected by Plan: 35 yr 1; 75 yr 2; 150 yr 3; Target 250/year
Number of Teachers Involved/Affected by Plan: No current staff
Number of Service Personnel Involved/Affected by Plan: none

Please place a check beside the appropriate entity(ies) applying for Innovation Zone designation:
_____ School
_____ Department or Subdivision of School
_____ Coalition of Schools (fill out multiple listings below)
_____ Feeder System of Schools
X_____ District

Please complete the chart below for the District's leadership team that will support plan (add rows as needed):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Team Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mark Bazzell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Donnella Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mark Head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jeff McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Julie Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Stephanie Snyder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please complete the chart below for each school that will be involved/affected by the plan (insert additional rows as needed):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Section 2- Abstract and Waiver Requests

Provide a project summary that briefly describes the project’s vision, goals, activities, and key features for student success that will be addressed. Please include how the proposal reflects Alabama’s PLAN 2020. Please limit the length of the abstract to the text box found on this page only.

Vision: To create the Pike County Virtual High School (cost center) as a proactive solution for students in grade 9 – 12: 1) who have not been successful in a traditional high school setting, 2) who qualify for credit recovery initiatives, 3) who are at-risk or who have dropped out of school, 4) who have specific social and/or educational needs that are barriers to them earning an Alabama High School Diploma, and/or 5) who wish to accelerate their academic program through online dual enrollment programs. Instruction will be provided in an on-line environment that is supportive, flexible, and individualized based on the specific student needs of each student.

Goal(s):
Create a new cost center within the Pike County School System dedicated to:
1. Providing an additional option for Pike County students to attain an Alabama high school diploma.
2. Using emerging technology and delivery models ensure that Pike County graduates are prepared for college and/or post-high school career success.
3. Reduce drop-out and increase graduation rates among Pike County students.
4. Offer a greater variety of electives and career technology opportunities.
5. Provide selected students with opportunities to accelerate their academic program.

Activities:
1. All required and elective courses will be offered in accordance with the Alabama State Department of Education Standards and will be provided via: a) ACCESS distance education, b) classroom delivery model via VTC (Video Teleconferencing), c) EXCELerate program (dual enrollment with Troy University), and/or d) direct, individualized, computer-based instruction software/programs.
2. All faculty and staff supervising instruction via ACCESS courses will be trained by the Troy University ACCESS Support Center.
3. Pike County Schools will provide the required L.I.F.E. Physical Education course in a blended format (i.e., computer-based instruction for theory and content, live hands-on activities for practical application and demonstration).
4. Career technology courses will be provided with flexible formatting and scheduling.
5. Pike County Schools will provide the opportunity for accelerated advancement through ACCESS, Dual Enrollment partnership with Troy University, and/or to offer learners the opportunity to earn their Alabama High School Diploma through a flexible, personalized learning experience available online and hybrid formatting.
6. Pike County schools will provide vocational opportunities through its existing Community Workforce Development program via Troy-Pike Center for Technology (TPCT).
7. Pike County Schools will provide support services to all Pike County Virtual High School (PCVHS) students to include the PCVHS Technical Center, the proctoring of all course exams, administration of all assessments mandated by the Alabama State Department of Education, orientation to online
learning, academic and social guidance and counseling, activity and progress monitoring, tutoring, and access to technology and additional digital resources through the Pike County Virtual High School.
8. Accountability data will be reported in accordance with Pike County Schools and Alabama State Department of Education guidelines.

Target Population:
1. Students at risk of dropping out of school, including those falling behind their cohort peers or who are facing socioemotional crisis out of school.
2. Dropout recovery – Students who have dropped out previously.
3. Students who have had difficulty in traditional school setting.
4. Students currently attending homeschool or private schools who may wish to take advantage of this delivery models.
5. Students who wish to accelerate their academic program or who wish to participate in dual enrollment programs.
6. Students in the special needs program if the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines such a setting to be the most appropriate.

Key Program Features:
7. Flexible and personalized learning experiences.
8. Flexible and personalized content delivery method.
9. Full compliment of available course offerings.
10. High school plans customized to individual students, based on need.
11. College credit opportunities (i.e., dual enrollment).
12. Workplace experience opportunities in collaboration with Troy-Pike Center for Technology.
13. Support Services for all enrolled students (academic, career, and social counseling/guidance).
14. Early graduation, credit acceleration, and credit recovery options available.

The PCVHS will adhere to the official policy of the Pike County Board of Education that no person shall; on the grounds of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, sex, religion, belief, marital status, or age; be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, employment, re-employment, or advancement. For further information, contact Dr. Mark Head, 504 Compliance Coordinator, Title VI Coordinator, and Title IX Coordinator, at 334-566-1850, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Alabama PLAN 2020

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (2013), the national graduation rate is around 75%, a number that the U.S. Department of Education boasts its highest marks since 1974. The overall graduation rate for Alabama is also around 75% (ALSDE, 2013). The Pike County School System currently holds a 78% graduation rate (ALSDE, 2013). The state goal for the overall graduation rate is 90% and the Pike County Schools are working to not just meet the goal, but exceed it.

In order to improve its overall graduation rate, while integrating innovative initiatives, the Pike County Schools would like to develop the Pike County Virtual High School (PCVHS). If approved, the PCVHS would be only the second virtual or online high school in Alabama. The PCVHS would focus on learners who 1) have not been
successful in a traditional high school setting, 2) students qualifying for credit recovery initiatives, 3) students at-risk or currently dropped out, 4) student that have left the public schools for private or home school options, and/or 5) individual students with specific social and/or educational needs that impact their ability to participate in a traditional setting.

Currently around 30 states already utilize technology to offer some version of virtual school alternatives to their students (Miron, Horvitz, & Gulosina, 2013). In fact, many states require some aspect of a student’s academic career be delivered via a virtual format. Among non-profits, for profits, and independent educational agencies, nearly 200,000 students are currently enrolled in full-time virtual high schools around the United States (Miron, Horvitz, & Gulosina, 2013).

Virtual schools are termed as any educational organization that offers instruction via internet or web-based instructional methods (Cavanaugh, Barbour, & Clark, 2009). Technology has become a part of our daily existence, regardless of age. Some benefits to virtual education include encouraging higher levels of motivation, expanding educational access through unique course offerings, providing high-quality learning options, improving student outcomes and skills, allowing greater educational choice, and overall administrative efficiency (Cavanaugh, Barbour, & Clark, 2009).

See attached proposal to Alabama State Department of Education November 8, 2013.

**Waiver Requests**

Indicate the specific type(s) of policy or code that prohibit or constrain the project that you wish to request a waiver from:

___ Specific waiver requested of ALSDE policy
___ Specific waiver requested of *Alabama Administrative Code* (AAC) statute

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALSDE Policy Waiver Request (Specify memo, etc., outlining policy)</th>
<th><em>Alabama Administrative Code</em> (AAC) Statute Waiver Request (Specify AAC Rule No., etc.)</th>
<th>Impact of the Waiver (What will the waiver enable the school to do differently, etc.?)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NONE</td>
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REQUIREMENTS THAT CANNOT BE WAIVED

- Those imposed by federal law
- Those related to the health and safety of students or employees
- Those imposed by ethics laws
- Those imposed by open records or open meetings laws
- Those related to financial or academic reporting or transparency
- Those designed to protect the civil rights of students or employees
- Those related to the state retirement system or state health insurance plan

NOT ALLOWABLE FOR WAIVER

- May not compensate an employee at an annual amount that is less than the amount the employee would otherwise be afforded through the State Minimum Salary Schedule
- May not involuntarily remove any rights or privileges acquired by any employee under the Students First Act of 2011, Title 16, Chapter 24C, Code of Alabama 1975
- May not deny any right or privilege granted to a new employee pursuant to the Students First Act of 2011
- May not authorize the formation of a charter school

Section 3- Vision and Needs Assessment

Creative Vision for the Project

1. What is the purpose and expected outcome of this project (include expected outcomes for students)?

To create the Pike County Virtual High School (cost center) as a proactive solution for students in grades 9-12: 1) who have not been successful in a traditional high school setting, 2) who qualify for credit recovery initiatives, 3) who are at-risk or who have dropped out of school, 4) who have specific social and/or educational needs in order to earn an Alabama High School Diploma, and/or 5) who wish to accelerate their academic program through online dual enrollment programs. Instruction will be provided in an online environment that is supportive, flexible, and individualized based on the specific student needs of each student.

2. Explain how the school’s or school district’s current data influenced the need for the project described in Question 1 above?

The overall graduation rate for the Pike County Schools for the 2011-12 school year was 68% for all students; 50% for special education; 65% for African American; 72% for white; and 70% for free/reduced meals. The overall graduation rate, although showing improvement over past years, was significantly below the state goal of 90%. According to census data (2012), less than 80% of the county population has a high school diploma or equivalent. Median income for Pike County residents is $31,179, which is nearly $12,000 or 28% below the state average. Also, the percentage of residents at or below the poverty level is 27.1% in Pike County, which is 9.5% higher than the state average of 17.6%.

3. How is this project linked to Alabama’s PLAN 2020? How is this project linked to the school’s or district’s strategic plan?
The mission of the Pike County School System is to develop individuals who will possess the knowledge, skills, and values essential to becoming productive citizens. As part of this mission, the Pike County Schools acknowledge that a traditional classroom setting may not be a best-fit for all students. For this reason, we hope to offer a virtual high school setting to better accommodate students for whom a traditional classroom setting has not been successful. PCVHS offers a flexible, creative opportunity that will complement the strengths of individual students and provide a path for every child to graduate. Additionally PCVHS will use available technology to offer these students the greatest opportunity for personal student success, either via a college preparation or career/technical path - another link to PLAN 2020.

4. How is the school's or district's project connected to best practice and current research in reference to raising student achievement and preparing students to be college- and career-ready?

We hope to provide a continuum of technological options to assist a greater number of students towards high school graduation and/or career readiness. These options include, but are not necessarily limited to: ACCESS Distance Education, classroom delivery via video teleconferencing, computer-based software instruction, dual enrollment, and possible combinations of the aforementioned delivery methods. This provides a full-complement of standards-based instruction in a flexible, differentiated delivery model. In addition, using technology will allow for the Pike County Schools to offer electives presented by highly qualified faculty that have not previously been available. This model of instruction will allow students to move through their personalized instruction at their own pace. For students whom require additional assistance with more troublesome concepts, tutoring and re-teaching opportunities would be available via Pike County School System faculty. All graduates will meet the minimum Alabama High School graduation standards.

5. How will this project be supported and monitored for implementation by the district?

The Pike County Virtual High School would provide an administrator, a guidance counselor, a facilitator, and a library media specialist that will monitor and support the on-going instruction at PCVHS. Initially the PCVHS will be housed at the Troy-Pike Center for Technology where current Pike County Schools staff will provide orientation, tutoring/remediation, counseling and guidance, proctored exams, technical support, state assessments, and instructional support. The Career Technical Director will serve as the administrator. Once enrollment grows enough to justify expansion, the system will provide a stand-alone facility to house this program.
## Section 4- Goals, Objectives, Evaluation, Timeline

### GOALS:

- Identify the measurable objectives that will be used to determine success in achieving these goals (Must be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely goals [SMART])

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All students enrolled in PCVHS will maintain a 95% attendance rate.</td>
<td>Student daily attendance verified by course instructor via course login; physical attendance, when appropriate.</td>
<td>Administrator, guidance counselor/facilitator, and/or media/technology specialist</td>
<td>Daily monitoring starting 8/2014</td>
<td>Indicate budget requirements and funding source (include formulas used to derive totals in budget sections, e.g., 3 subs @$143/day=total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall student graduation rate will be 90% or higher.</td>
<td>Graduation rate will be observed by local and ALSDE academic indicators.</td>
<td>Administrator, guidance counselor/facilitator, and/or media/technology specialist</td>
<td>Daily monitoring starting 8/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All students enrolled in the PCVHS will maintain an overall passing average.</td>
<td>Students will receive instruction via ACCESS distance education, classroom delivery model via VTC (Video Teleconferencing), EXCELLERATE program (dual enrollment with Troy University), and/or direct, individualized, computer-based instruction software/programs</td>
<td>Administrator, guidance counselor/facilitator, and/or media/technology specialist</td>
<td>Daily monitoring starting 8/2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. How will you evaluate and report the impact this innovation project has on increasing student success and/or other stated goals and objectives?

2. How will this innovation project be sustained?

- Public
- Alabama State Department of Education
- Troy University - College of Education
- Troy University - ACCESS
- Pike County Board of Education

Reported to:

*PCVHS students will participate in all state assessments including but not limited to those listed here.

+ Students/Parent Surveys/Interviews

- Attendance Rate (Percentage)

- Any additional assessments required by the state

- End of course results

- ACT scores (PLAN and ACT Writing)

Evaluation Methods

Section 5 - Project Evaluation and Sustainability
Appendix

Record of Commitment

Use this form to report staff, parent, and public commitment regarding the innovation application and plan. Use a separate form for each school.

School: ________________________________________________

School District: ___Pike County Schools ____________________

Notice of Meeting(s) (Date provided to faculty, department, parents, community, etc.): 11-12-13___________

*Meeting Date(s): ___11-21-13 Flyers were posted, Newspaper ad was run, Announcement placed on the website and a "Notify Me" message was sent out via email and/or text however no parents attended the forum________________________

Parent Representatives:

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

We certify that this application/plan is supported by the school’s PTA/PTO.

Continuous Improvement Leadership Team Representatives:

N/A as this project is not within a specific school, it is at the district level

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Name: ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

We certify that 80 percent of the faculty affected by the application/plan has voted to support the application/plan.

Record of Public Discussion and Input

District and School Representatives:

Name: ___Mark Head ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Name: ___Julie Simmons ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Name: ___Donnella Carter ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

We certify that multiple opportunities were provided for public discussion and input of this plan.
Local Education Agency Report of Support or Concerns

Use this form to report the school or district and superintendent support or concerns, or both, about the innovation to the principal and faculty. Use a separate form for each school.

School: Pike County Virtual High School (PCVHS)

School District: Pike County Schools

Date of School/Department/Subdivision Receipt of Application: September 2013

Date of Regularly Scheduled Board of Education Meeting: September 23, 2013;

Local School Board of Education Members:

Name of President: Mrs. Linda Steed

Name Vice President: Mr. Greg Price

Name of Member: Mr. Wyman Botts

Name of Member: Dr. Clint Foster

Name of Member: Mr. Earnest Green

Name of Member: Mr. Chris Wilkes

Signature: [Signature]

Signature: [Signature]

Signature: [Signature]

Signature: [Signature]

Support:
On Monday, September 23, the Pike County Board of Education members voted unanimously in support of pursuit of the Pike County Schools to obtain a waiver from the Alabama State Department of Education for the creation of the Pike County Virtual High School.

Resolution granted by the Pike County Board of Education during regular meeting on Monday, October 28, 2013.

Concerns:
None

(Report of the Local Education Agency must be forwarded to school/school district for submission to Alabama State Board of Education with the application/plan).
Community Partner Support

Use this form to document community organization/agency support and partnership for the innovation plan/project. Use a separate form for each community partner.

School/Schools: Pike County Virtual School

School District: Pike County

Date(s) of School/School District/Community Partner Dialogues: September to November 2013

Name of Community Organization/Agency: ACCESS Distance Learning

Contact Person: Reba Davis

Contact Person E-mail Address: rmdavis@troy.edu

Contact Person Telephone Number: 334-670-5808

Contact Person Address: 1101 S Brundidge Street, Troy, AL 36082

Explain the community organization’s/agency’s commitment to the Plan/Project:

The Troy ACCESS Support Center plans to support the Virtual School in Pike County by providing online teachers for the courses provided by the ALSDE through ACCESS. The Troy Support Center will train the teachers and keep them updated with online pedagogy and technology updates.

List the resources and contributions (not monetary) that the organization/agency is making to this Plan/Project:

The Troy ACCESS Support Center plans to support the Pike County Virtual High School by making staff available by phone, visits and training. Troy ACCESS will host faculty meetings and provide professional development. The Troy Support Center will train the teachers and keep them updated with online pedagogy and technology updates. The Troy Support Center will evaluate the teachers and assign mentors to new teachers as needed.

Agency Representative (Name) Reba Davis

Title: ACCESS Director

Signature: Reba Davis
Community Partner Support

Use this form to document community organization/agency support and partnership for the innovation plan/project. Use a separate form for each community partner.

School/Schools: Pike County Virtual High School

School District: Pike County Schools

Date(s) of School/School District/Community Partner Dialogues: Tuesday, October 15 (Meeting); Friday, October 18 (Email); and Tuesday, October 29 (Email).

Name of Community Organization/Agency: Troy University, College of Education

Contact Person: Dr. Kathryn Hildebrand, Professor and Dean, College of Education

Contact Person E-mail Address: khildebrand@troy.edu

Contact Person Telephone Number: 334-670-3365

Contact Person Address: 335 Hawkins Hall, Troy University, Troy, AL 36082

Explain the community organization’s/agency’s commitment to the Plan/Project:
The Pike County Virtual High School has the potential to be an innovative alternative to traditional course delivery. The Troy University College of Education will support the Pike County Virtual High School through ACCESS as well as other means as needed. I believe the Pike County Virtual High School has great potential to become a leader as a 21st Century high school education provider.

List the resources and contributions (not monetary) that the organization/agency is making to this Plan/Project: Possible support opportunities include, but are not necessarily limited to: 1) research potential into the viability of virtual education in a 9-12 environment, 2) facilitating supplemental tutoring through College of Education students, 3) possible assignment of practicum and intern students to assist with implementation and enrichment, 4) encouraging students to enroll in the EXCELLERATE (dual enrollment program), and 5) educational technical support and guidance.

Agency Representative (Name): Dr. Kathryn M. Hildebrand

Title: Dean, College of Education, Troy University

Signature: [Signature]
November 8, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express support for the Pike County Virtual High School. The Pike County Virtual High School has potential to be an innovative alternative to traditional course delivery. Students most likely to benefit from this delivery system are those who, for some reason, are not flourishing in our traditional high school settings. These include those who have social and/or educational needs, have qualified for credit recovery, and those participating in homeschool co-ops. Those who have dropped out of school or are at risk of doing so are also candidates for the Virtual High School. For many of these students, there are currently few or no other education options.

Courses delivered via the Virtual High School will comply with Alabama State Department of Education requirements. The curricula will be closely monitored to ensure they comply with the Alabama State Department of Education standards and that student-learning outcomes match those of their traditional course counterparts. Proven course delivery methods will be employed, such as ACCESS distance education, EXCELLETRATE programming, instructional delivery via Video Teleconferencing, and the use of direct individualized computer-based instructional software/programs.

Support services necessary for the success of the Virtual High School program and its students will be provided through the Pike County Public Schools. These include course exam proctoring, Alabama State Department of Education assessment administration, academic progress and activity monitoring and academic guidance and counseling. Additionally, the Pike County Public Schools will provide online learning orientation sessions, access to technology and additional digital resources, and tutoring.

The Troy University College of Education will support the Pike County Virtual High School through ACCESS as well as other means as needed. I believe the Pike County Virtual High School has great potential to become a leader as a 21st Century high school education provider.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M Hildebrand
Dean, College of Education
Troy University
Resolution

Subject: Pike County Schools, pursue a flexibility/innovation waiver regarding the creation of a virtual high school in Pike County.

Whereas: The Pike County Board of Education has a mission to develop individuals who will possess the knowledge, skills, and values essential to becoming productive citizens. The school district believes that keeping several key promises to its constituents is essential to achieving this goal. Our promise is to provide Clean and Safe Schools, Friendly and Courteous Service, Academic Accountability, and Fiscal Responsibility.

Whereas: The Pike County Superintendent, Dr. Mark Bazzell, presented an outline of details regarding the creation of a virtual high school at the September 23rd Board Meeting and the school board did indicate its initial support of such a proposal.

Therefore be it resolved: That the Pike County Board of Education does fully support the pursuit a flexibility/innovation waiver from the Alabama State Department of Education to authorize the creation of a virtual high school within the Pike County School System.

Signatures:

Linda Steed, President

Mr. W. Greg Price, Vice-President

Mr. Clint Foster, Ph.D.

Mr. Wyman Botts

Mr. Chris Wilkes

Rev. Earnest Green

Date: 9-23-13

101 W. Love Street, Troy, Alabama 36081 Telephone: (334) 566-1850 Fax: (334) 566-2580
PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board of Education

Mrs. Linda Steed, President
Mr. W. Greg Price, Vice-President
Mr. Clint Foster, Ph.D.
Mr. Wyman Botts
Mr. Chris Wilkes
Rev. Earnest Green

Dr. Mark Bazzell
Superintendent

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

This document assures that the Pike County Board of Education will provide consistency in leadership and commitment to state standards, assessment, and academic rigor for the Pike County Virtual High School.

Superintendent

President

Vice President

Member

Member

Member

Member

101 W. Love Street, Troy, Alabama 36081 Telephone: (334) 566-1850 Fax: (334) 566-2580

11-18-13
Date