

\$ Revenue Review \$

WINTER EDITION: 2004/05
Compiled by Martha England

This newsletter is being compiled to help keep you informed of district revenue issues. It will contain summaries of funding sources that the district has been awarded as well as those in progress. Projects such as these can have a significant impact on the district's finances and its instructional opportunities. These projects also require a great deal of time and energy on the part of staff in both the treasurer's office and the curriculum department. For this reason, this review will include projects approved; projects in the planning stages and projects that are submitted. PLSD does not qualify for many state and federal competitive grants because it does not have enough students on free and reduced lunch, and it is not in school improvement status. For this reason, staff will continue to seek additional funding through corporate and foundation grants.

The economic picture has been very unclear and turbulent. Everyday an economist is predicting something different. The unpredictability of revenue streams in the last year has been very difficult. We continue to look at this picture in a very conservative manner.

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Concerns at the local level (last year FY04) included a moratorium, and its possible impact on tax figures and enrollment projections.

PLSD also had its first year ever of no increase in income tax (FY04). This is of great concern as an Income Tax is often a good measure of a community's overall financial strength. This happened even though the PLSD student population had its largest increase ever, and the first delinquency sweep occurred by the Ohio Department of Taxation. One could only assume from this that, on an adjusted basis, PLSD ran negative. The uncertainty of the pullout of big

Bear, Drug Emporium, and Montanan Mining Company on both sides of the tax equation also concerns us.

AT THE STATE LEVEL

The district continues to be very concerned about the condition of the state. The school system derives over 50% of its revenue from the state. **The district was cut over \$400,000 in FY03** and, from a larger perspective; the state reduced future year increases in per pupil aid from 2.8% to 2.2%, decreasing future year revenue estimates. The state has potentially exhausted its rainy day funds and had to institute a temporary increase in sales tax of one (1) cent. The debate over whether they will keep the temporary one (1) cent tax continues.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The Federal Government continues to raise short-term interest rates, which should help increase district interest revenue. The impact on long-term rates, such as mortgages, will possibly affect the current growth in enrollment. The current situation with commodity prices on the increase, will ultimately affect paper, natural gas, and gasoline prices. Administrators continue to monitor these situations for their effect on our utilities and supply accounts.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND WHAT PLSD IS DOING

The District currently sees property tax revenue possibly coming in stronger due to triennial updates, new construction and delinquency collection. Based on the first two quarters of FY05, the FYTD income tax revenues are possibly coming in stronger. However, since FY00 the district has had at least one quarter run negative. Administrators are currently waiting to see if this occurs again this year.

The district currently believes state foundation revenues will come in at or close to what was projected based on preliminary EMIS counts. The items on foundation that the district will be paying close attention to include special education and transportation. The preliminary figures indicate children in category 6 (special education students), the highest funded weighted average (based on severity) increased dramatically. This also helps further explain the need for additional aides in this area.

The increases in taxes will help offset potential decreases in state funding for FY06. The district is taking a defensive approach concerning the next Biennial Budget from the state. Administrators have talked to multiple people at the state level who are indicating not to expect much in the way of funding. This

indicates the uncertainty at the state level concerning their potential deficit. This is the first time that the state has rolled out a zero scenario. The Department of Education is recommending we use the 0% for projections.

Administrators are now looking at the district's staffing plan for the next year based on future enrollment projections.

***ITEMS THAT COULD
POTENTIALLY AFFECT THE
DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL
FORECAST***

1. State funding
2. Healthcare costs in FY06
(possible RFP March)
3. Transportation contract
4. Pending litigation

CCIP FLOWCHARTS

Also included at the end of this edition of the Revenue Review are flowcharts that outline the goals and funding sources included in the Consolidated Grants of the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan. These goals were established by members of the curriculum council in the spring of 2004 and are reviewed/revised yearly as the district's data is analyzed.

GRANT UPDATES

NIKE – Bowerman Track Renovation Grant

Staff members from PHS Central have been working with Vince Utterback, Barbara Geis and Martha England on a proposal for track renovation at Central. Barbara has obtained preliminary budget information from a vendor. Vince and Martha have met with members of Violet Township, the City of Pickerington, the Chamber of Commerce and corporate vendors to obtain in-kind and financial support for this project. This collaborative effort is necessary in the grant application process. The district submitted its application to Nike on December 23rd and expects to hear back in February. ***The Bowerman Track Renovation program awards \$50,000 in matching funds for track renovation.*** Estimates for the entire project are approaching \$200,000. This would include renovation of the track and all field events. Letters of support were included from Dr. Dan Ross, OHSAA commissioner; Bill Yaple and the Violet Township Trustees; Steve Carr, Pickerington Parks and Recreation; Cliff Stoudt, resident and formerly of the Pittsburgh Steelers; and MIDN 1st Class Samuel Brown at Annapolis, a graduate of Pickerington High School.

Target Foundation

Did you know that Pickerington Schools have earned over \$32,220 from Target for registrations that residents made of guest cards alone! Through Target’s “Take Charge of Education” program, Target will donate an amount equal to 1% of Target Visa or Target Guest Card purchases made at Target and target.com to eligible K-12 schools. All of Pickerington’s school buildings are registered in this program. Target awards funds twice yearly – August and March. ***In August PLSD schools earned over \$3,463 dollars. So far this school year PLSD buildings have accumulated over \$1,462.***

So if you give, or receive a Target Guest Card, please go on-line and register it for one of PLSD’s buildings. Go to Target.com and click on “community” at the bottom of the page; then click on “Education Initiatives”, then “Take Charge of Education”. You can search for a building by name or by using the following identifiers. When you get to the building you can click on “designate” and register the number of your Target Guest Card.

<u>Building</u>	<u>Identifier</u>	<u>Fall \$\$</u>
North	119901	\$55.42
Central	84152	\$339.22
Lakeview	119684	\$9.55
Ridgeview	84150	\$69.27
Diley	115206	\$37.86
Harmon	84153	\$82.93
Pickerington	84151	\$285.96

Tussing	2064	\$129.62
Heritage	117553	\$98.49
Violet	84154	\$195.08
Fairfield	84155	\$159.51

Expanded Learning Voyager Grant

In late September, Martha England and Sandy Meigel of the curriculum department joined efforts with the Voyager Learning Company to obtain resources for use in our elementary reading program. These funds were available through grant money provided in conjunction with the No Child Left Behind Act. ***The district was awarded materials and training valued at over \$10,704.***

Smart Ed. Services Grant

A representative of Smart Ed. Services has recently been demonstrating the use of smart boards throughout the district. Staff members of several schools have shown interest in purchasing one or more for their buildings if funding can be obtained. Mrs. England has completed a grant application on behalf of the entire district that was approved enabling any building to obtain hardware from this company at a ***discount of approximately 30% - this saves the district nearly \$500 per board purchased.*** Additionally, the buildings will likely seek matching grant funds through other sources. Making

application on behalf of the entire district has streamlined the process and saved the buildings considerable application time. ***This grant has already provided the district \$480 in its purchase of a Smartboard for the tech prep program at PHS Central.***

PENDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Math Applications

In late September, Martha England, and math resource teacher, Kay Wallace, joined efforts with Mrs. Janet Jones of Diley Middle School to make applications to SHOPA Foundation and Toshiba Foundation to seek funds to use math games to reinforce the new state mathematics standards for fifth grade. ***The two grants combined would provide Mrs. Jones with approximately \$1500 worth of materials.***
The Toshiba grant was awarded in the amount of \$1,000.

Improving Teacher Quality Grant

Martha England, and Cindy Roepcke of the curriculum department attended a seminar held by the Ohio Board of Regents regarding grant funds provided through collaboration with Ohio's Higher Education Institutions to improve math and science instruction.

Martha England, Cindy Roepcke, Kay Wallace, Debra Sawyer and Kristina Hulse collaborated with curriculum staff

from throughout the SE Region of Ohio and staff members of the University of Rio Grande to develop a plan to provide a summer academy for secondary special education teachers throughout the region. These academies would enable those in attendance to obtain "highly qualified status". Priority in registration will be given to teams consisting of a special education teacher and a regular education math or science teacher.

The grant was submitted earlier in November and is valued at over \$146,000 if awarded. The district will receive notification in late January.

AED grants:

In December, grant applications were completed by Mrs. England to obtain AED's for each of the K-6 buildings. The Ohio Legislature made this funding available. Both junior high and high schools already have AED's on site. If awarded their implementation and AED/CPR training of staff members will be completed by the district's nursing staff under the direction of Sharon Schmitz. Currently both office and administrative staff are trained yearly at these grade levels. ***The value of seven AED's is nearly \$14,000.***

TEACHER FUNDING AWARDS

Tussing Elementary EPA Grant Awarded

The Environmental Protection Agency awarded Tussing Elementary School a \$50,000 grant for environmental education within the school. The grant money will come from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund. In addition to the EPA funds, Tussing Elementary PTO has generously pledged additional funds of at least \$20,000.

In previous years, through two additional EPA grants, Tussing Elementary has developed innovative curriculum through the investigation of environmental issues within the community. This has been a collaborative effort with musicians, artists, filmmakers, and authors, as well as with an extremely supportive staff and over 830 students.

The newest grant will allow the students and staff of Tussing Elementary to continue relationships with many of the same professionals in order to record the history of Tussing Elementary and the surrounding areas. Additional activities will include creating a film documentary, a field guide to identify local landmarks, a bi-lingual calendar, a children's book, and a stepping stone pathway. Funds will also be used to create workshops where students work directly with artists, musicians,

filmmakers and school children in Alaska.

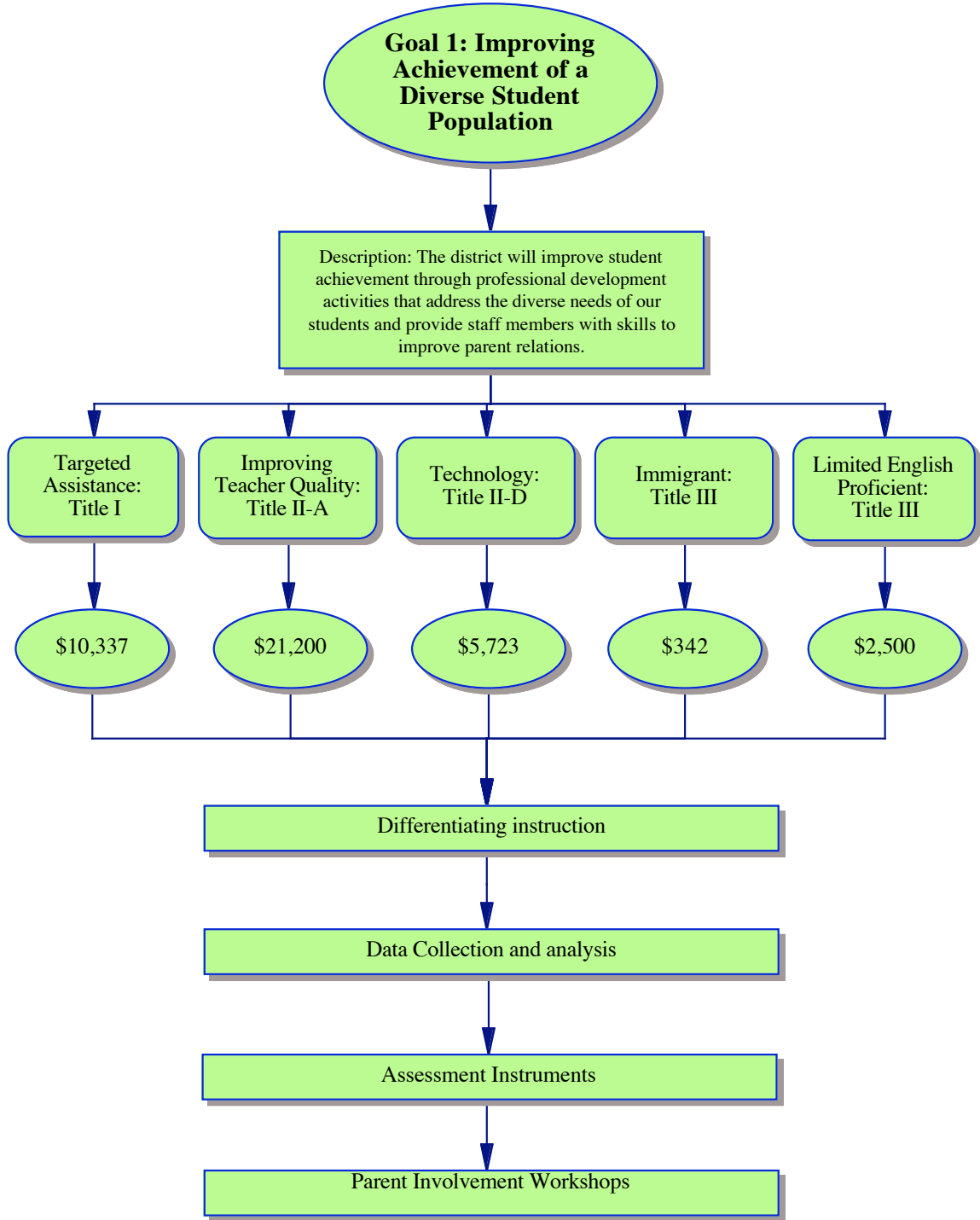
A team of teachers wrote the grant from Tussing Elementary including: Mary Sheridan, Mary Hopkins, Jeff Strausbaugh, Tammy Arnold and Lisa Mahan.

APPLIED, BUT DENIED

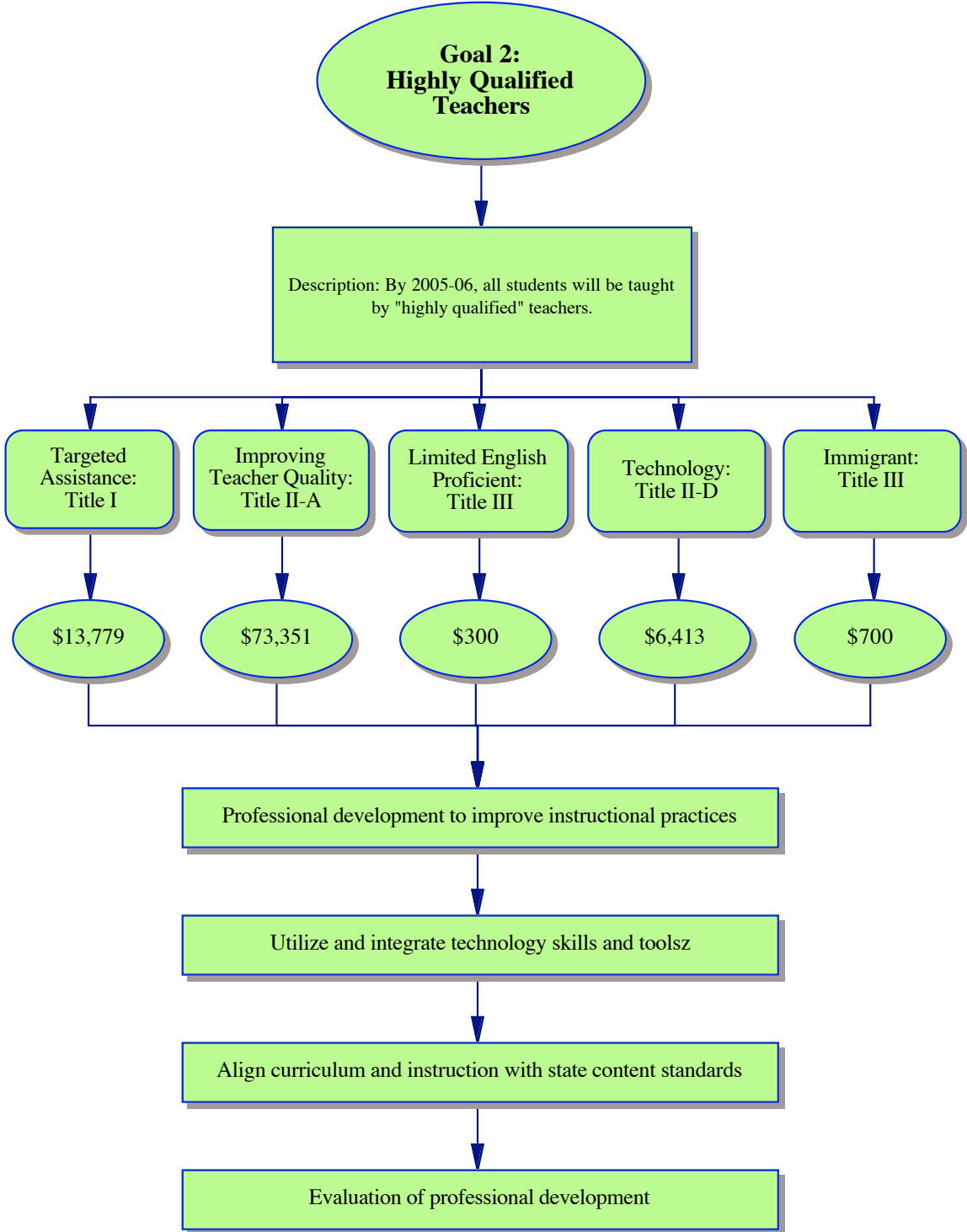
Science Applications

In late September, Martha England, and Cindy Roepcke of the curriculum department joined efforts with Ms. Susan Martin and Mrs. Karen Virden to make applications to SHOPA Foundation and Toshiba Foundation to seek funds to enhance the new third grade science curriculum at Heritage. We regret that Heritage was not a recipient of these funds. ***The two grants combined would have provided Heritage with approximately \$1500 worth of materials.***

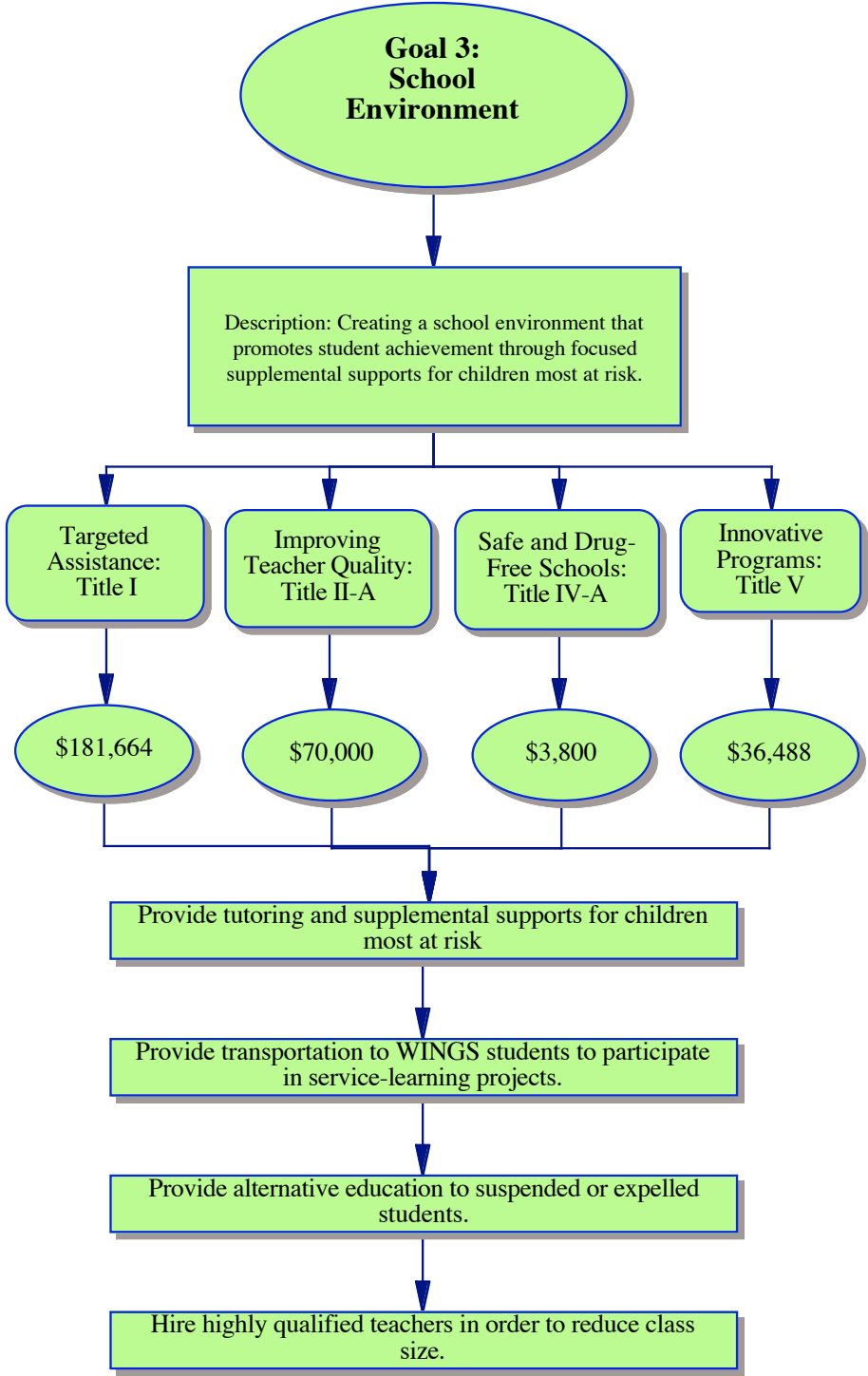
Our mission is to provide all children an efficient and nurturing environment which creates lifelong learners who are socially responsible citizens.



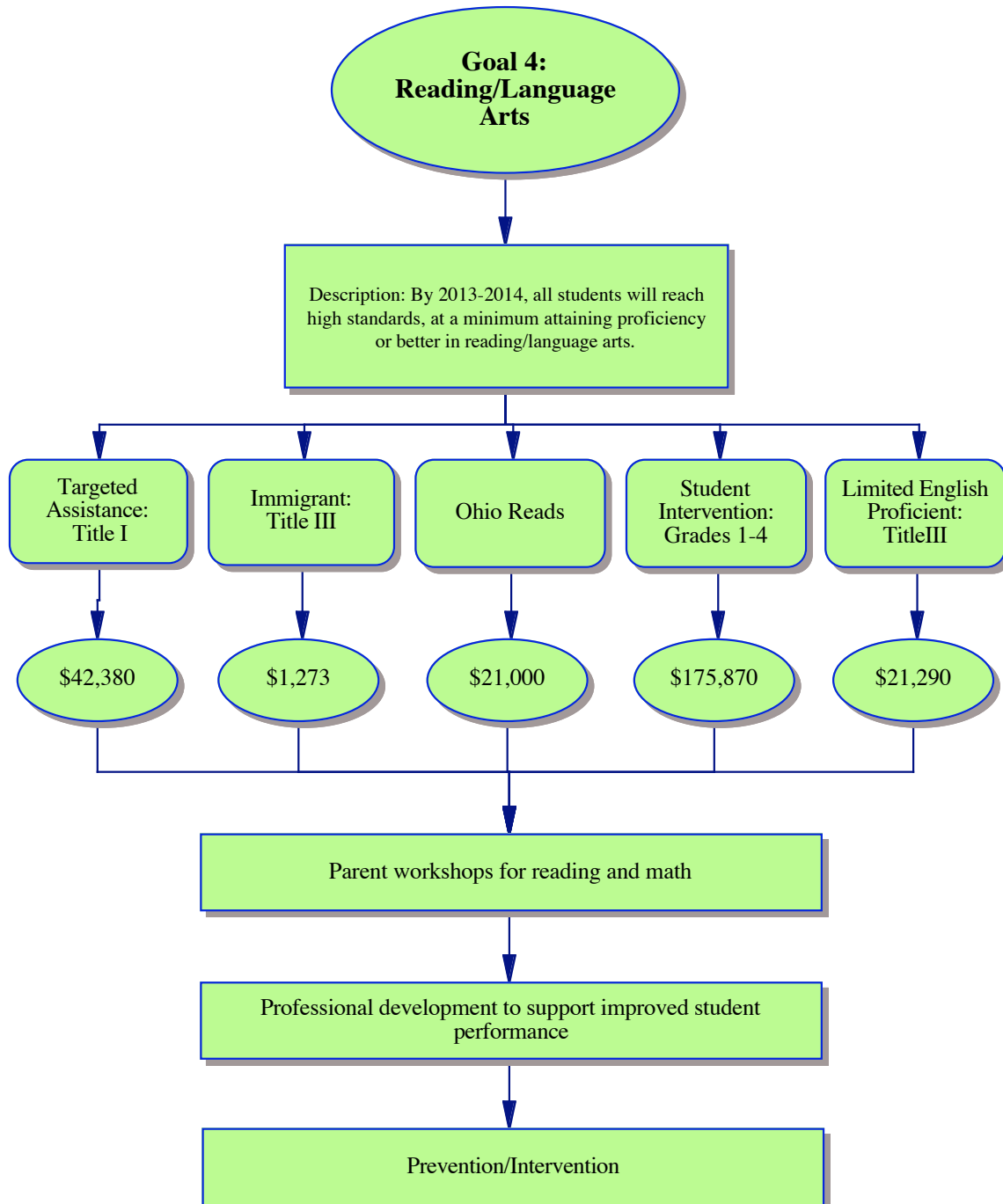
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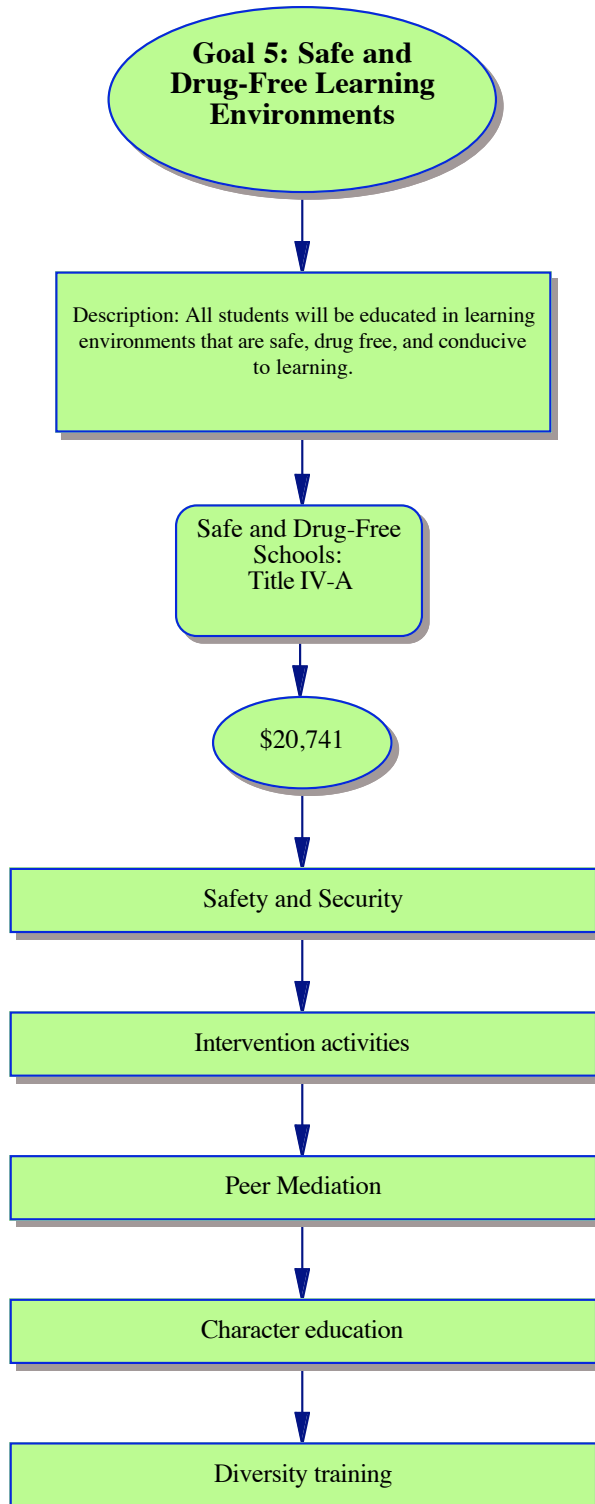
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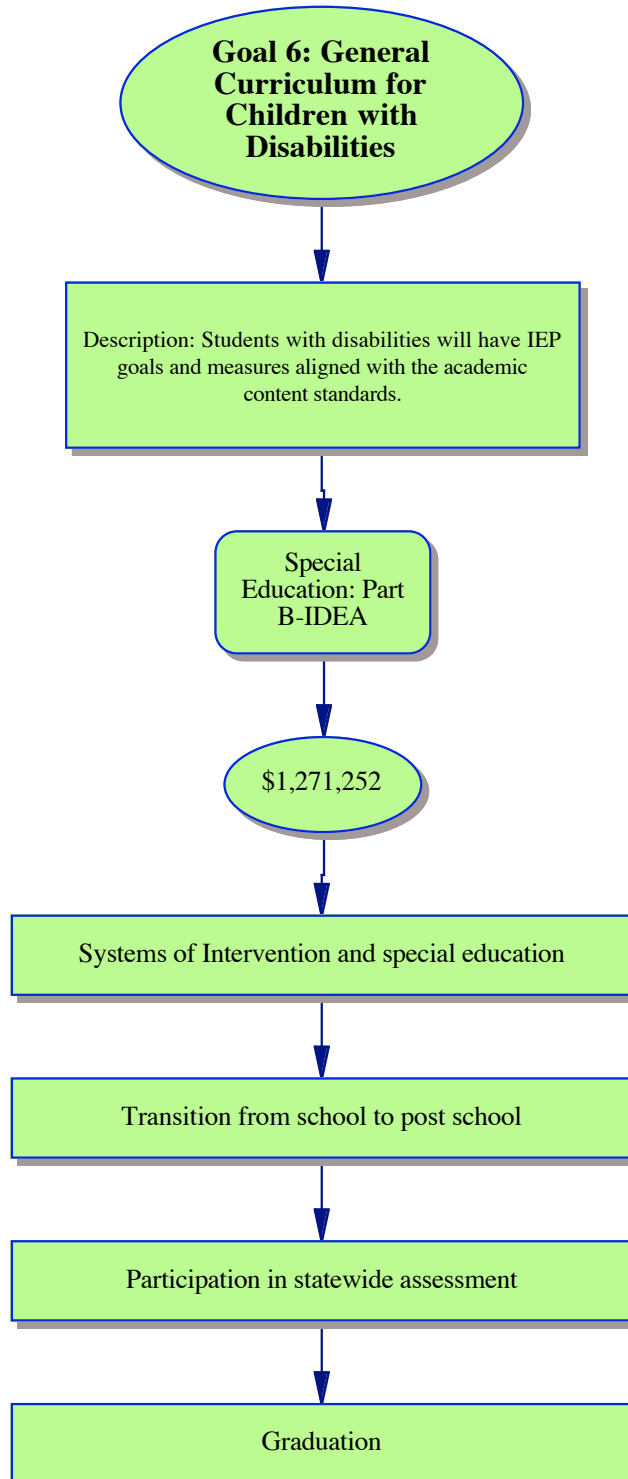
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**Goal 7: Career
Technical
Education**

Description: Students will be prepared with the academic and technical skills needed to be successful in post-secondary education and the workplace. All students will be provided the career knowledge needed to make informed career decisions.

CTAE
Supplemental
equipment grant

\$877

Develop, improve and expand the use of technology