C.4 Instructional Resources

Instructional supplies
Instructional supplies are budgeted at $2,000 for start up and $8,000 for Year 1. With the assistance of Every Voice in Action Foundation, the Western Institute will open a line of credit for $10,000 for instructional supplies. This will allow purchases as necessary and appropriate to support the Principal, consultants, and teachers during the planning phase and allow appropriate preparation of classrooms prior to August 2011, as well as covering replenishment of supplies throughout the school year. Upon notice of acceptance of our charter application, we will apply for an AZCSIP grant. Thereby, we hope to be able to upgrade the type and amount of instructional supplies and curriculum resources we can provide to our teachers and students. At this time, we are planning for only the most basic and essential classroom supplies: paper, teachers' planning books and desk supplies, markers and erasers, cork boards, portable storage, extension cords and surge protectors, recordable CDs, external drives, art supplies, exhibition supplies, and specialized supplies for the science classroom. We will give each of the five teachers in year one a $500 credit card for discretionary purchases and project supplies, and encourage development of community partnerships to boost class resources. For Years 2 and 3, we have budgeted $18,000 and $25,000, respectively, for instructional supplies, reflecting the addition of 50 students to the student body each year.

Curriculum and Resource Materials
Similarly we have budgeted and will arrange a credit line for $14,000 for curriculum and resource materials for grades 9 and 10 from start up through Year 1, $16,000 in Year 2, and $20,000 in Year 3. We will use Alliance Book Company and other educational and commercial vendors to develop subject-specific resources for each classroom as well as a small, school-wide library. During the school start up phase, the Principal, curriculum specialist, and first year teachers in the core subject areas—English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, and Media Arts—will determine the specific resources they need for the year, including literary texts, textbooks, workbooks, tools, science kits, models and other learning resources. Similarly, the Special Education director/coordinator and teachers of Spanish and electives will each propose a resource plan and budget for their areas. The Principal will work with teachers to purchase the essential resources needed to deliver the curriculum effectively.

Like High Tech High and other successful urban schools, the Western Institute will foster student-directed research through use of the Internet, local libraries, and interaction with experts from businesses and universities, rather than have students rely on textbooks. For literary texts and textbooks that are deemed essential, we are currently researching the viability of purchasing/licensing electronic books vs. continually buying and replacing traditional bound books.

Electronic curriculum resources will be essential in all subject areas, from "how to" demonstrations on YouTube to licensing the Aleks mathematics curriculum and other teaching tools. We are investigating purchase/licensing of software for students' knowledge acquisition, remediation, enrichment, and test preparation and will base final purchasing decisions on Principal and teacher recommendations. Similarly, we are also researching memberships and site licenses for teachers to access educational research, databases, lesson plan shareware, and

online professional development courses. It will be important for teachers who are hired during the start up year to provide input in these important decisions.

Library Resources/Software
The library budget will remain at $4000 for each year for reference books, site licenses, databases, and subscription services. During start up, and each quarter thereafter, teachers and students will have the opportunity to propose acquisitions for the school-wide library. To support the goals and progress of the professional learning community, we will also have a small, separate professional library for teachers to access for curriculum planning and professional development. In addition to resources purchased by the school, we anticipate that teachers will select books from their personal libraries to add to the collection and circulate among colleagues.

Student Technology Equipment
Every Voice in Action Foundation will supply each classroom with a computer, projector, and Smartboard. The school will also have wifi and internet access throughout. In addition, we have budgeted $20,000 in the start-up year for Dell laptops and/or i-Pads (approximately $499 each) for student use in several work rooms/commons. With 80 students expected the first year, we have budgeted for 40 computers, with students using their own external drives for data storage. One of our models, High Tech High schools in San Diego, CA, provides computers at a 2/1 ratio for students in the media lab plus four commons/work areas for use by students at each of the four grade levels. While HTH configures fixed computer stations with "tower" hard drives, the Western Institute is investigating the possible advantage of purchasing laptops and/or i-Pads for students to check out on loan instead. This option would allow lower-income students that do not own personal computers to use school computers at home and out in the community for library research and field work. One school district in Tucson is already providing laptops for *every* student in several schools. We are still researching these options and closely following news and early research regarding the impact of laptops and i-Pads on student learning. With 50 additional students/year expected in Years 2 and 3, our preliminary budget includes $30,000 each year for additional laptops to maintain the 2/1 student/computer ratio.

Loan and Line(s) of Credit
The Institute for Transformative Education (ITE) has secured a no-interest loan of $200,000 from Every Voice in Action Foundation that will be given to the Western Institute as soon as the Charter is approved. At that time, ITE will apply for an AZCSIP grant of $230,000 to augment the baseline resources described in this application. However, if the AZCSIP grant is not awarded, or if funding is delayed beyond June 1, the school will open line(s) of credit with suppliers, with Every Voice in Action Foundation as co-signer, to bridge the funding gap. This will ensure the timely purchase of necessary supplies and resources for a successful school start in August 2011.

Loan Repayment
Repayment of the loan from Every Voice in Action Foundation will begin in Year 2, with payments to be made based on the school's ability to pay, as negotiated each year by the school board and the Foundation.