



One Laptop Per Child



**PROVIDENCE METHODIST BASIC
ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD
PROJECT PROPOSAL**

June 2010

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OLPC Project for Providence Methodist Basic

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SUMMARY

Project Summary

The **One Laptop per Child (OLPC)** is a project started by Nicholas Negroponte, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the founder of MIT's Media Lab. OLPC has a simple yet compelling mission - to create educational opportunities for the world's more disadvantaged children by providing each child with a rugged, low-cost, energy efficient laptop with content and software designed for collaborative, and self-empowered learning. The OLPC concept is an education project, rather than a laptop project. However the catalyst for the self-empowered, peer-to-peer learning philosophy is the OLPC's innovative Laptop" (called the XO) which provides a range of communications (incl. Internet access), collaborative and creative tools for expression (text, music, video, graphics) that are the contemporary "toys" for learning..

Providence Methodist Basic, located on the premises of the Providence Methodist Church in the heart of Liguanea, is one of the larger Basic schools in the Kingston Zone, with an enrollment of ~172 children between the ages of three to six (3-6) years old. The school emphasizes an approach to early childhood education, aimed at stimulating and motivating young minds to develop to their fullest potential by catering to their cognitive, social, psychological, spiritual and physical needs.

The **Providence Basic OLPC project** will involve the provision of 75 XO laptops targeting Pre-Kindergarden/Kindergarden Children Ages 5-6, beginning in September 2010. The project will also include implementation of a School Server to provide the School Administrative software, Performance monitoring, and the storage and delivery of a range of educational content geared at supporting the Early Childhood Educational curriculum and Extra-Curricular Learning programs of the School. Funding for the project will be provided by **P.A.C.E. (Canada)**, a non-profit organization founded in 1987 by Dr. Mavis Burke, Ph.D., to support Jamaican Basic (pre-schools) Schools and early childhood education. The project will be planned, managed and executed by a multi-disciplinary team drawn from the UWI community, partner institution at San Francisco State University and Senior Staff members of Providence Basic.

The primary objective of the Project is to provide a Proof of Concept pilot of the One Laptop per Child initiative that demonstrates the potential for enhancing the efficient delivery, and improved Pedagogy in early childhood education, particularly in an environment typically constrained by shortages of adequate learning material that is crucial for early childhood development. The project will also define specific outcome objectives in consultation with Senior staff of the School, and will ultimately define a prescriptive template for similar deployments in other Jamaican basic schools.

This initial project will be setup, monitored and evaluated over a 1-year tenure with explicit interim and terminal outcome objectives and assessment measures relating to the performance of the target cohorts. Additional pedagogical and research interventions will be defined and added to the project scope over the course of the 2-year tenure. It is anticipated that a successful Providence Basic OLPC project will provide a repeatable model for deployment in other local school environments.

Principle / Approach

The Providence Basic OLPC project will consist of the following three primary components:

Technology

This will involve the Procurement, Installation & configuration of all Hardware & Software components including the XO laptops and a School Server. The School Server will provide the centralized repository for all educational content and will be equipped with Active Antennas and/or Access Points to facilitate connectivity to the individual laptops as well as provide external connectivity to the Internet and other online resources. The School Server will also provide software to facilitate school administration, student record keeping and the managed storage and delivery of all educational content to the individual users.

Education

The 1st phase of the Education component will involve Teacher training in the use of the XO as a teaching tool. It will also include the preparation of traditional educational material compliant with the Integrated Curriculum Guidelines of the Ministry's Early Childhood Educational commission, for storage and delivery through the centralized School Server. Phase 2 will explore the development of new pedagogical approaches and learning activities that take advantage of the collaborative, self-empowered learning and creative capabilities of the XO laptop. The project will define desirable and measurable objectives in terms of (a) adoption of the OLPC technologies in the educational delivery process and (b) discrete child learning outcomes ultimately geared at enhanced GRI Test performance by the outgoing 6-year-olds.

Outreach

In order to maximize sustainability of the OLPC project, there will be a number of outreach activities which will seek to engage key stakeholders within the school community (i.e. Ministry of Education, Board, Parents & Teachers) to assure local ownership and support for the project.

The project will commence in the Summer, 2010 with Teacher training and conversion of existing educational content for the target students. The project is expected to be officially launched in September 2010 with the hand-over of the XO laptops to the Providence Basic school by sponsors, P.A.C.E. Canada. The project will define a performance assessment mechanism to periodically monitor the progress and desired outcomes of the intervention.

Specific Objectives

The primary objectives of the Providence Basic OLPC Project are:

1. Demonstrate the potential of the OLPC technology to have a positive impact on early childhood education in Jamaican Basic Schools
2. Help the Providence Basic School realize it's Mission of providing the children with the skills and exploratory experiences that will enable them to reach their fullest potential as independent thinkers
3. Provide a deployment model and template which can be replicated in other similar Basic school environments
4. Provide a positive and visible outreach opportunity for UWI within its neighboring community
5. Provide an environment and platform for technology enabled pedagogical and teaching innovation and research
6. Enhance the institutional partnership between UWI/MSB and P.A.C.E Canada
7. Engage additional institutional partners from the Private sector and other Non-Profit organizations to participate, fund and replicate the Providence Basic OLPC model.

Project Cost / Budget

Item	Budgeted Cost	Funding Source(s)
75 XO laptops + Freight / Certification	\$ 22,237	P.A.C.E. Canada
School Server & Connectivity	\$1,200	UWI / MSB
Electrical Installation (Protection, Power strips)		School Community
Establish Storage facility		
Stationery & Manuals		
Content development		UWI / MSB
Ongoing Support & Performance Evaluation		UWI / MSB
Total	US\$23,437	

Key Risks / Issues

Risk Item / Issue	Risk management strategy
<p>Theft/Vandalism There is always the potential risk of Theft or Vandalism negatively impacting the effectiveness of the program, if the laptops are stolen or otherwise maliciously damaged</p>	Community involvement, engagement and ownership is a critical component of the sustainability and protection of the project. There will be an active outreach program that will seek to engage key stakeholders within the school community.
<p>Limited Impact There have been several computerization initiatives</p>	In order to assure the effectiveness and sustainability of the OLPC program, there will be a strong emphasis on

at the Primary school level within the past several years that have varying and in some cases limited impact.	teacher training and the active ongoing development of new pedagogical approaches and educational content which takes advantage of the capabilities of the XO laptop and ultimately provide a deployment model and template which can be replicated in other similar school environments
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Key Players/Stakeholders

Role	Name or Estimated Number of Resources
Project Sponsor/Champion	P.A.C.E. Canada, Mrs. Mary Anne Chambers, Mrs. Diana Burke
Providence Basic Liaison	Mr. Catherine Smith-Gayle, Principal
Ministry of Education Liaison	Mrs. Winsome Johns-Gayle, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Commission
UWI/Mona Project Coordinator	Dr. Maurice McNaughton
SFSU Liaison/Project Coordinator	Dr. Sameer Verma
XO/School Server Implementation Technical lead	Francis Morrissey
Moodle VLE Technical Lead	Mahesh Boodraj
UWI OLPC Project Support Team	Arlene Bailey, Curtis Busby-Earle, Mahesh Boodraj, Francis Morrissey , Ashley Taylor , Lila Rao-Graham, Chris Gilbert

Key Milestone Dates

June 2010	Confirm Seed Funding – P.A.C.E.
July 2010	Order XO's from OLPC
Aug 2010	Configure/Setup School Server
Aug 2010	Initial Teacher Training
Sep 2010	Delivery of XO's
Aug 2010	Preparation of Educational Content
Sep 2010	Installation of School Server
Sep 2010	Handover / Official Launch of Providence Basic Pilot
Dec 2010	Performance Review / Assessment
Mar 2011	Performance Review / Assessment