U.S. Department of Education - EDCAPS
G5-Technical Review Form (New)
### Technical Review Coversheet

**Applicant:** Charleston County School District -- PD & Instructional Support (U351C110048)  
**Reader #1:** **********

#### Questions

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#### Selection Criteria

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#### Priority Questions

**Competitive Preference Priorities**

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**Invitational Priority**

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**Sub Total** 0 0

**Total** 120 120
Summary Comments - Summary Comments

1. Please enter any summary comments here.

Strengths:
The proposed project presents the need in the target schools and the possibility of capacity building. The project services are well described and should achieve impact. The training provided uses a model where impacts are likely to be attained. Assessment is well planned.

Weaknesses:
None noted.

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. (a) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.

(b) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.

Strengths:
The target schools are identified and it is noted that there is a student group that is 11.9% special education and 46.7% Hispanic. An overview of each target school is presented and shows that capacity can be developed in each site. Data for each schools is presented. For example, one schools has a 96.7% poverty rate and a 38.8% pass rate in reading. The test results for grades 3-5 are reported and show need.

The dissemination planned includes using the partnerships used in the implementation of the project. Project partners are identified and well selected. YA, for example, will be used to disseminate project results. Links will be established to My A4L groups to enable others to use products. Results will be distributed on a DVD documentary of the project. Specific conferences are identified where results will be shared.

Weaknesses:
None noted.

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design
1. The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

**Strengths:**

The proposed project can build capacity and yield results. The data for each target school shows need for academic improvement. Further the training provided for teachers and administrators is described and significant. Knowledge gains for teachers will be assessed. p.4 The main elements of the A4L model are well presented and substantial. Research is cited to support the approach used in the project. The framework for the training is well presented. p.5

**Weaknesses:**

None noted.

**Reader's Score:** 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

1. (a) The quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(b) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(c) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

**Strengths:**

a. The proposal identifies the special groups to be served by the project in the target schools. For example it is noted that one school has a student group that is 11.9% special education and another has a group that is 46.7% Hispanic. p.6

b. The professional development is planned for 48 hours with specific segments identified for specific project work. p.6 The ongoing support provided to teachers is described. The use of the Wiki to share work is planned. p.7

c. The improvement expected are likely to be achieved with a 10% gain over baseline data planned. p.7 The use of the state PASS scores is planned to determine gains. p.8 The plan is to use state testing and the Language Arts standardized test to track gains. p.8

**Weaknesses:**

a. None noted.

b. None noted.

C. None noted.

**Reader's Score:** 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1. (a) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin,
gender, age, or disability.

(b) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(c) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.

Strengths:

a. The actions to be followed include the use of interview committees with diverse members, the use of non-traditional recruitment methods and a committee to which applicants can ask questions. p.8

b. The project staff are identified and have the qualifications and experience for the position they will hold in the project. For example, the Director has experience as an arts specialist, arts coordinator. p.9 The Coordinator has experience as a coordinator of the arts program for 15 years. p.9

c. The subcontractors are identified and experienced. For example, Wested will conduct the evaluation. The STaff person for this task has 20 years of related experience in assessment. p.9

Weaknesses:

a. None noted.

b. None noted.

c. None noted.

Reader’s Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

Strengths:

A coordinator is responsible for developing training. All staff responsibilities are identified and appropriate. p.10 For example, lead teachers are serving as liaisons. How knowledge will be assessed for each participant groups in the project is described and thorough. p.22 A timeline is presented which is reasonable. All activities are linked to objectives, staff responsible for task completion and milestones. p.13 All team member tasks are identified and appropriate. The time periods identified for reporting should ensure sound implementation.

Weaknesses:

None noted.

Reader’s Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. (a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

(b) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit
periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

**Strengths:**

a. The external evaluator is Wested. The Plan provides for the use of online surveys for teachers to assess the adequacy of the training. p.22 A detailed chart is provided identifying the evaluation procedures to be used. Objectives are linked to assessment procedures, dates for completion and the person responsible. Performance measures are identified such as the development of 30 A4L lessons per grade level by the end of year 1.

b. Stakeholders and the team will receive reports of project progress. p.23 The evaluation process provides for bi-annual assessment of student performance data. Assessment of the intensity of the training is also planned. p.17

**Weaknesses:**

a. None noted.

b. None noted.

**Reader’s Score:** 30

**Priority Questions**

**Competitive Preference Priorities - Enabling More Data-Based Decision-Making**

1. Projects that are designed to collect (or obtain), analyze, and use high-quality and timely data, including data on program participant outcomes, in accordance with privacy requirements (as defined in this notice), in the following priority area: Improving instructional practices, policies, and student outcomes in elementary or secondary schools.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

**Reader’s Score:** 10

**Competitive Preference Priorities - Strong or Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness**

1. Supporting Programs, Practices, or Strategies for which there is Strong or Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness.

Projects that are supported by strong or moderate evidence (as defined in this notice). A project that is supported by strong evidence (as defined in this notice) will receive more points than a project that is supported by moderate evidence (as defined in this notice).

**Strengths:**
Weaknesses:

Reader’s Score: 10

Invitational Priority - Improving Achievement and H.S. Graduation Rates

1. Improving Achievement and High School Graduation Rates.

Projects that are designed to address one or more of the following priority areas:

(a) Accelerating learning and helping to improve high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates for students in rural local educational agencies.

(b) Accelerating learning and helping to improve high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates for high-need students.

Yes

Reader’s Score: 0

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 08/05/2011 10:26 AM
### Technical Review Coversheet

**Applicant:** Charleston County School District -- PD & Instructional Support (U351C110048)

**Reader #2:** *******

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**Priority Questions**

**Competitive Preference Priorities**

**Enabling More Data-Based Decision-Making**

1. Decision-Making

**Strong or Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness**

1. Evidence of Effectiveness

**Invitational Priority**

**Improving Achievement and H.S. Graduation Rates**

1. Graduation Rates

| Total               | 120             | 117            |

7/16/15 6:49 AM
Technical Review Form

Panel #4 - Panel - 4: 84.351C

Reader #2: **********
Applicant: Charleston County School District -- PD & Instructional Support (U351C110048)

Questions

Summary Comments - Summary Comments

1. Please enter any summary comments here.

Strengths:
The applicant's proposal is thoroughly written, providing clear and specific details on all areas of the project's design and implementation. The applicant demonstrates a great deal of knowledge on its proposed approach and has designed a project/program plan to address all areas it has identified as needing improvement. The applicant's identified involvement of Principals in the project plan will be a key factor in the program's overall achievements.

Weaknesses:
The applicant's only weakness is in the area of ensuring that its hiring policy successfully includes considerations for participants of underrepresented populations.

Reader's Score: 0

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. (a) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.

(b) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.

Strengths:
The applicant cites an arts integration model previously used in Charleston Schools as an indication of the project's capacity to improve and expand its services in the district. (pg. e1)
The applicant outlines a detailed dissemination plan consisting of the development of a website, a documentary DVD, and attendance at Regional and National conferences. (pg. e2)

Weaknesses:
No Weaknesses

Reader's Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design
1. The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

**Strengths:**
The applicant states its project approach is organized around three broad areas, including long-term impact. (pg. e3) The applicant's leverage of local talent to strengthen ties between school and community will increase the plausibility for sustainability as indicated.

**Weaknesses:**
No Weaknesses

Reader's Score: 10

**Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services**

1. (a) The quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(b) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(c) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

**Strengths:**
The applicant has identified four schools that represent traditionally underrepresented populations for project's approach. (pg. e 5)
The applicant cites the involvement of each selected school's Principal in the project's planning approach. (pg. e5)
The applicant indicates a rigorous academic standard measure of results approach by utilizing State English/Language Arts, Writing and other standardized testing methods (pg. e6-e7)

**Weaknesses:**
No Weaknesses

Reader's Score: 20

**Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel**

1. (a) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(b) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(c) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.
Strengths:
All key project personnel and project consultants are highly qualified and have an extensive background in education, arts integration and/or research. (pg. e7 - e9)
The applicant has established a Diversity Council to ensure the district's recruitment practices result in a workforce that mirrors the community. (pg. e7)

Weaknesses:
While the applicant admittedly has instigated several changes to its hiring practices, it does not specifically detail the methods for its stated non-traditional methods of recruitment. (pg. e7)

Reader's Score: 7

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

   Strengths:
The applicant provides a very concise Management Plan for the project, outlining specific job responsibilities of personnel, providing timelines and milestones or accomplishing the project's required tasks. (pg. e9-e14; appendix pg. 1-15)
The applicant's budget narrative is in line with the presented Management Plan. (appendix pg. 1-11)

   Weaknesses:
No Weaknesses

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. (a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

   (b) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

   Strengths:
The Evaluation Plan is very thorough and addresses measures that clearly relate to all areas of the project's stated objectives and goals (pg. e15-e21)
The evaluation approach will utilize both quantitative and qualitative data to enable data-based decision-making for the project's overall management. (pg. e15)
The evaluation approach includes regular analytic summaries throughout each project year to inform professional development efforts and model development. (pg. e22)
Competitive Preference Priorities - Enabling More Data-Based Decision-Making

1. Projects that are designed to collect (or obtain), analyze, and use high-quality and timely data, including data on program participant outcomes, in accordance with privacy requirements (as defined in this notice), in the following priority area: Improving instructional practices, policies, and student outcomes in elementary or secondary schools.

Strengths:
The applicant's project is an evidence-based model designed to enable data-based decision making for the district's students outcomes, instructional practices, and policies with an emphasis on high-needs students.

Weaknesses:
No Weaknesses

Reader's Score: 10

Competitive Preference Priorities - Strong or Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness

1. Supporting Programs, Practices, or Strategies for which there is Strong or Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness.

Projects that are supported by strong or moderate evidence (as defined in this notice). A project that is supported by strong evidence (as defined in this notice) will receive more points than a project that is supported by moderate evidence (as defined in this notice).

Strengths:
The applicant's model indicates a strong evidence of research to support its effectiveness.

Weaknesses:
No Weaknesses

Reader's Score: 10

Invitational Priority - Improving Achievement and H.S. Graduation Rates

1. Improving Achievement and High School Graduation Rates.

Projects that are designed to address one or more of the following priority areas:

(a) Accelerating learning and helping to improve high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates for students in rural local educational agencies.
(b) Accelerating learning and helping to improve high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates for high-need students.

Yes

Reader's Score: 0

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 08/05/2011 03:59 PM
### Questions

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**Competitive Preference Priorities**

**Enabling More Data-Based Decision-Making**

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**Invitational Priority**

**Improving Achievement and H.S. Graduation Rates**

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Panel #4 - Panel 4: 84.351C

Reader #3: ************
Applicant: Charleston County School District -- PD & Instructional Support (U351C110048)

Questions

Summary Comments - Summary Comments

1. Please enter any summary comments here.

Strengths:
The applicant provides clear evidence to support a proposed project based all criterion. For example, the Quality of Management plan for this proposed project is consistent with aligned objectives and milestones to an effective timeline that includes project management personnel with clear lines of responsibilities. The Project Coordinator is responsible for developing training sessions for teachers and artists in resident, every two quarters of the year and to verify with Project Director that objectives stay within budget. The Competitive Preference Priorities and Invitation Priorities are met and contain strong evidence that the proposed project will likely achieve its goals and milestones in a timely fashion, and beyond the years of Federal assistance.

Weaknesses:
No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 0

Selection Criteria - Significance

1. (a) The extent to which the proposed project is likely to build local capacity to provide, improve, or expand services that address the needs of the target population.

   (b) The extent to which the results of the proposed project are to be disseminated in ways that will enable others to use the information or strategies.

Strengths:
a) Capacity building in the Charleston County School District (CCSD) is likely to increase during the three years of operation of the proposed Arts Enhanced Instruction to Optimize Understanding (AEIOU). The applicant examines their current collaborations with partners in education and foresees expansion of services needed in this school district, where the poverty rates reach over 90% in the targeted schools. (Pages 1-4)

   a) Ways to disseminate the information obtained from formal evaluations and period reports about the success of the proposed project, include, the implementation of a Wiki that is to feature current events, lesson reflections, up-to-date research on literacy and the arts, interviews with experts, and teacher and student work. Technology would be employed to create videos and DVD for district-wide distribution which would prove that use technology can benefit and enable others to receive and understand the purpose, functionality and success of the proposed project. (Pages 3-5)

Weaknesses:
No weaknesses noted.
Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Design

1. The extent to which the proposed project is designed to build capacity and yield results that will extend beyond the period of Federal financial assistance.

Strengths:
With the inception of Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for the proposed project, the applicant provides sustainability of professional development through classroom coaching and modeling. In addition, the Arts for Learning (A4L) being an evidence-based model, is likely to draw more support from current partners, such as Young Audiences, Inc. (YA) to complement and strengthen the instructional core in the arts, beyond the period of Federal financial assistance. (Pages 2;4-5)

Weaknesses:
No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

1. (a) The quality and sufficiency of strategies for ensuring equal access and treatment for eligible project participants who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(b) The extent to which the training or professional development services to be provided by the proposed project are of sufficient quality, intensity, and duration to lead to improvements in practice among the recipients of those services.

(c) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

Strengths:

a) Evidence exists of active involvement from district teachers and students, as a strategy for ensuring equal access and treatment for project participants, in which participants from underrepresented groups are already a majority in the targeted schools. For example, Sanders-Clyde school is an inner city school, with over 95% of its students that are African American performance, score below state standards. These students are already a primary target group of the proposed project. (Page 6)

b) The proposed project of professional services, such as The A4L Lessons demonstrates that with Youth Arts in collaboration with a team from the University of Washington, and there is increased effectiveness with students at all reading levels and in multiple conditions, including ELL, students with disabilities, Title I, and accelerating below-level readers. Testing of student knowledge is measured against Language Arts academic standards to ensure fidelity with rigorous state academic standards (Pages 6-8)

Weaknesses:
No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 20
Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Personnel

1. (a) The extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

(b) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel.

(c) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of project consultants or subcontractors.

Strengths:

a) Solid proposed strategies are in place and will likely encourage applications for employment from persons from underrepresented groups. These include hiring practices such as, use of diverse interview teams; Non-traditional methods of recruitment; and (c) Establishment of an Ombudsman Committee to respond to inquiries or concerns from applicants around the application process. (Page 8)

b) Project key personnel, such as the Project Director has a significant role as the Fine Arts Curriculum Coordinator, and responsibilities of overseeing the implementation of tenets of the proposed project. His experience and training in the arts and management are relevant to the scope of objectives to be achieved of this proposed project. (Pages 8-9)

a) Project consultants, such as the Director of WestEd, count with over 20 years of experience in designing and directing evaluations of local, state, and national projects in several substantive areas. The experience and training accumulated is relevant to the scope of objectives to be achieved of this proposed project. (Pages 9-10)

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. The adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

Strengths:

The applicant presents a management plan that is consistent with aligned objectives and milestones to an effective timeline that includes project management personnel with clear lines of responsibilities. For example, the Project Coordinator is responsible for developing training sessions for teachers and artists in resident, every two quarters of the year and verify with Project Director that objectives stay within budget. (Pages 10-15)

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation
1. (a) The extent to which the methods of evaluation include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible.

(b) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.

Strengths:

a) The applicant pursues a rigorous quasi-experimental matched comparison study, as in an objective performance measure, to assess the effectiveness of AEIOU, to examine its impact on teacher content knowledge in the arts and on student literacy achievement in grades 3 through 5. The summative evaluation will be guided by the following research. In addition, experimental groups are tested to ensure fidelity and are compared with non-experimental groups to assess gain in teacher's knowledge. The external evaluator will likely obtain and produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible. The evaluator will also present information in a timely manner and provide performance feedback and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes. (Pages 16-25)

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 30

Priority Questions

Competitive Preference Priorities - Enabling More Data-Based Decision-Making

1. Projects that are designed to collect (or obtain), analyze, and use high-quality and timely data, including data on program participant outcomes, in accordance with privacy requirements (as defined in this notice), in the following priority area: Improving instructional practices, policies, and student outcomes in elementary or secondary schools.

Strengths:

The proposed analysis of student achievement and attendance data rely on multi-level Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) modeling techniques. Additional collection data measures include surveys, pre- and post-tests, which are geared toward ensuring that measurement of proposed outcomes have significance for the proposed project. (Pages 21-24)

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 10

Competitive Preference Priorities - Strong or Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness

1. Supporting Programs, Practices, or Strategies for which there is Strong or Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness.

Projects that are supported by strong or moderate evidence (as defined in this notice). A project that is supported by strong evidence (as defined in this notice) will receive more points than a project that is supported by moderate evidence (as defined in this notice).
The proposed project Arts Enhanced Instruction to Optimize Understanding (AEIOU) is based on the Arts for Learning model which comprises both research and evidence of increased student success, particularly for underrepresented groups of school districts in need of arts-infused curriculums.

**Weaknesses:**
No weaknesses noted.

**Invitational Priority - Improving Achievement and H.S. Graduation Rates**

1. Improving Achievement and High School Graduation Rates.

   Projects that are designed to address one or more of the following priority areas:

   (a) Accelerating learning and helping to improve high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates for students in rural local educational agencies.

   (b) Accelerating learning and helping to improve high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates for high-need students.

   Yes

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**Status:** Submitted

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