

Aspire Public Schools

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Abstract

Aspire Public Schools (Aspire), a nonprofit Charter Management Organization located in the State of California, is requesting \$15,000,000 through a CSP Replication and Expansion Grant to open 15 new charter schools in primarily low-income districts in California by 2015. CSP funds will allow Aspire to provide an additional 4,500+ economically disadvantaged students with a high-quality educational experience. The grant also will enable Aspire to both directly and indirectly influence local school policy and practice in order to achieve positive, systemic change in California's public schools. Aspire will accomplish this goal by continuing to strengthen its academic model, by sharing the knowledge gleaned from experiences with school leaders and policymakers, and by replicating successful models of leadership development, teacher training, and instruction. Ultimately, it is Aspire's goal to help trigger dramatic and sustainable change in public education by modeling change, encouraging innovation, and working with school districts and policymakers to ensure that all students in California and across America receive a high-quality education that will prepare them for life.

Goal 1 Replication: Aspire proposes to open fifteen high quality charter schools within the five years of the CSP grant in clusters within low-income, mostly minority urban districts.

Objectives: Necessary planning and start-up activities for replicating Aspire model in 15 new schools.

Outcomes: Fifteen (15) new Aspire Public Schools will be planned, approved, opened, and operated in accordance with this proposal. 4,500+ economically disadvantaged students will receive a high-quality educational experience. Fifteen (15) new Aspire Public Schools will be financially secure and sustainable.

Goal 2 Fidelity to Model: All schools created with this CSP grant will be designed and operated in a manner consistent with the established Aspire Public Schools model. Aspire's education design has seven core elements, each aligned with the others.

Objectives: All schools will have high standards and clear learning goals; All schools will have a sense of community; All schools will provide more time for Learning; All schools will provide a balanced curriculum; All schools will use a variety of teaching methods; All schools will employ rigorous and ongoing assessment; All schools will provide extra support for students as needed.

Outcome: All new schools created with CSP support will be faithful scale-up replications of the high-quality charter schools operated by Aspire Public Schools.