

Breakthrough Charter Schools

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Abstract

Goals: Over the next five years, Breakthrough Charter Schools (BCS) will:

- Open eight new schools (serving grades K-8),
- Significantly expand three existing newly opened schools (serving grades K-8), and
- Significantly expand the eight new schools opened during the project as they all progress to full enrollment (adding a grade level each year)

All schools mentioned above will be or are in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods where public school district schools are under-performing. During the term of this grant BCS will augment the capacity of the CMO to support its member schools by integrating HR, accounting, email hosting and performance management tools. BCS will also foster network-wide leadership and teacher development through:

- Creation of in-house professional development for school staff who wish to advance to leadership positions
- Creation of an urban teacher residency program to ensure a strong stream of qualified teachers for new and expanding schools,
- Professional development of Teach for America corps members who take teaching positions in BCS schools

Expected Outcomes

In five years, BCS will be educating over 4,000 students. The eight new and three expanding schools will be highly rated by the Ohio Department of Education because of high levels of student achievement (at least 80% of students proficient in math and at least 85% of students proficient in reading). The network-wide weighted average school performance index score will be 94 (excluding year one of new schools). BCS will affect an increase in the ratio of students to CMO staff from 65 to at least 115 in five years. BCS will hire and retain 75% of the urban teacher residents upon the completion of their residency and 50% of TFA corps members upon the completion of their term of service.

Meeting the Purpose of CSP: This application meets the purpose of this grant because it addresses the expansion of several existing high-performing charter schools and the replication of those same schools. The schools that will be expanded and replicated are all managed by the charter management organization (CMO) known as Breakthrough Charter Schools, which has been successfully providing services to the schools for more than a year. The schools within the BCS network have received the highest ratings from the Ohio Department of Education- some showing high achievement going back ten years, before the formation of the CMO.