

Rocketship Education

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Abstract

Project Description: Rocketship Education (RSED) is a charter school management organization that seeks to provide high-quality education to one million elementary school students in low-income urban neighborhoods by 2040. RSED leverages experience delivering quality education, entrepreneurial know-how, fiscal discipline, and expertise in technology, all in support of student achievement. RSED's flagship school is the third highest ranked low-income elementary school in California. Its student population is 76% English Learners and 92% low-income. We intend to launch 61 new schools by Fall 2016.

Objectives, Expected Outcomes: RSED will use CSP funds to scale up to 29,632 students in 61 schools and eight regions; develop top-quality school leaders for these schools; further expand professional development; and continue to innovate in the use of technology and individualized instruction. By the fifth grade, 90% of RSED students who have been enrolled for two years or more will achieve at or above grade level. Within 3 years of becoming an RSED principal, 80% of principals will demonstrate that 80% of 5th graders in their schools are proficient or advanced. Within 3 years of beginning to teach at an RSED school, 80% of RSED teachers will effect an average of 1.5 grade levels per year of academic performance improvement among their students.

Project Contributions: RSED's contributions to education together achieve outstanding student outcomes and true scalability. Our Hybrid School Model uses adaptive learning technology in concert with a full day of classroom learning, which saves \$500,000 per school per year in salary and other classroom costs. Our Human Capital Development program helps us recruit, develop, and compensate top quality teachers and school leaders, which is key to effective scaling. Response to Intervention, a technique pioneered in special education, enables us to quickly move struggling students to grade level. Parent Empowerment supports parents in becoming activists for student-centered education reform and being closely involved in their children's school. Our Financial Model allows a regional cluster of 8 schools to be self-sufficient.