

Success Charter Network

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Abstract

Success Charter Network (SCN) has developed an innovative school model that independent research shows increases student achievement by 13-20%. All of the Success Academies in our network consistently outperform their co-located schools, other schools within their district and schools in many of the wealthiest communities in New York City and State.

Bolstered by our successes, SCN made the decision to ramp up our school expansion more rapidly than we had originally planned. Instead of educating 6,600 students across 19 schools by 2014-2015, we now plan to educate 8,765 students across 21 schools by 2014-2015. In five years (2015-2016), SCN will be serving nearly 11,000 students in New York City. While SCN needs the initial upfront investment provided through this grant to fund its replication, each year its funding request is a smaller percentage of the total project cost as its student enrollment, and therefore its per pupil revenues, increases. At the conclusion of this grant, SCN will be able to continue operating its existing schools while opening new schools solely on its per pupil funding; without any additional federal grant funding.

In past years, SCN has appreciated – but not fully recognized – how critical great teacher training is to successful replication. In order to consistently run a network of high-performing schools, we must invest in building the best teaching force each and every year. Therefore, SCN is introducing a new component to our program to ensure that we maintain exceptional instruction with each new cohort of schools: an innovative teacher training program called T School. T School is distinct from other teacher training programs in that it is extremely rigorous, expects the highest level of accountability achieves an unparalleled depth of curriculum understanding and is rooted in practicality. Most importantly, it will produce incredibly high student outcomes.

The Charter Schools Programs initial investment in SCN has given us the opportunity open a new cohort of schools and has given us the runway to replicate our successful model. The proposed additional funds will allow us to ensure that our schools are equipped with the best possible teaching force – a key ingredient of successful replication.