

Abstract

2011-2016 Florida Charter Schools Program Project Application

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The mission of the Florida Department of Education (Department) is twofold: 1) to increase the proficiency of all students within one seamless, efficient system, allowing them to expand their knowledge and skills through learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents, and communities; and 2) to maintain an accountability system that measures student progress.

In support of this mission, the Department has developed a bold and innovative plan to increase student academic achievement by increasing the number of high quality charter schools across the state, with a special focus on educationally and economically disadvantaged students. The Department is requesting approximately \$23 million for each year of the five year grant period, for a total amount of almost \$117 million. These funds will allow the Department to achieve the following ambitious objectives proposed in this application:

- (1) Increase access to high-quality charter schools for educationally disadvantaged students.
- (2) Improve the authorizing practices and capacity of Local Education Agency Authorizers.
- (3) Increase the number of high-quality charter schools in Florida.
- (4) Increase the academic achievement of charter school students.

The Department has developed a comprehensive management strategy, including a detailed five year work plan and timeline, to achieve each of the project objectives, and

has the capacity to successfully implement the strategy. Florida is at the forefront of the educational reform movement, and strongly believes charter schools must play an integral role in our efforts. The Department's proposed activities demonstrate our commitment to supporting the growth and expansion of a high-quality charter school sector in Florida.