

**U.S. Department of Education - EDCAPS  
G5-Technical Review Form (New)**

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 02/11/2010 02:04 PM

## Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (U282B090032)

Reader #1: \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Comments</b>		
<b>Summary Comments</b>		
1. QUESTION 1	0	0
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.</b>		
1. QUESTION 2	20	20
<b>The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.</b>		
1. QUESTION 3	10	10
<b>The extent of community support for the application.</b>		
1. QUESTION 4	20	19
<b>The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.</b>		
1. QUESTION 5	10	10
<b>The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.</b>		
1. QUESTION 6	20	19
<b>The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives ...</b>		
1. QUESTION 7	10	9
<b>The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.</b>		
1. QUESTION 8	10	9
<b>The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.</b>		
1. QUESTION 9	10	10
<b>The contribution the charter school will make ...</b>		
1. QUESTION 10	20	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>125</b>

# Technical Review Form

Panel #3 - Panel 3: 84.282B

Reader #1: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (U282B090032)

## Questions

### Summary Comments - Summary Comments

#### 1. Summary Comments

##### General:

This is a well thought out charter school. It is modeled after a highly successful school serving a population comparable to the one the Rhode Island Mayoral Academies intends this school to serve.

Reader's Score: 0

### Selection Criteria - The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.

#### 1. The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the educational program to be implemented by the proposed charter school, including how the program will enable all students to meet challenging State student academic achievement standards, the grade levels or ages of students to be served, and the curriculum and instructional practices to be used.

##### Strengths:

Applicant lists specific programs to be used (Saxon math) and supports the choices with research and by documenting the success of other schools using the same curriculum programs and instructional practices.

##### Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were noted

Reader's Score: 20

### Selection Criteria - The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.

#### 1. The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.

**Note:** The Secretary encourages the applicant to include a description of how the State's law establishes an administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency and exempts the charter school from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools.

The Secretary also encourages the applicant to include a description of the degree of autonomy the charter school will have over such matters as the charter school's budget, expenditures, daily operation, and personnel in accordance with its State's charter school law.

**Strengths:**

The Rhode Island Mayoral Academies is a new approach to establishing charter schools and appears to have a great deal of flexibility including freedom from union seniority hiring requirements, ability to opt out of state retirement, and to set salaries.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses were noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The extent of community support for the application.**

**1. The extent of community support for the application.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be informed about the charter school, and how students will be given an equal opportunity to attend the charter school.**

**Strengths:**

The application has broad political support from the top down and is planned to meet the obvious needs of a specific region. That the founders have reached out to the community is evidenced by 1000 signatures of interested people and by a waiting list of 180 students (pg 40)

**Weaknesses:**

The lottery description (pg e14-15) could be expanded to show how the school will maintain the balance of students during the year if students withdraw.

**Reader's Score: 19**

**Selection Criteria - The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.**

**1. The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the objectives for the charter school and how these grant funds will be used, including how these funds will be used in conjunction with other Federal programs administered by the Secretary, in meeting these objectives.**

**Strengths:**

Stated goals address all major areas of the school. Applicant is aware of additional funding sources from the federal government.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses were noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.**

**1. The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.**

**Strengths:**

Applicant will use multiple types of assessments: criterion referenced, nationally normed, diagnostic, and comparative. On page 22 applicant makes it clear that teachers must use the data to drive education.

**Weaknesses:**

Financial measurement on page 31 will be a "favorable" audit, but applicant does not describe "favorable." Will minor findings be acceptable? Is it acceptable to have only one major finding? Is it favorable if a finding is immediately corrected?

**Reader's Score: 19**

**Selection Criteria - The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives ...**

**1. The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students during and after the period of Federal financial assistance.**

**Strengths:**

Applicant states it will have sufficient funds for operation during the grant and acknowledges that some changes may be needed to continue after the grant which demonstrates an awareness of the importance of financial stability.

**Weaknesses:**

Applicant does not discuss leveraging of other federal funding sources. (pg 40)

**Reader's Score: 9**

**Selection Criteria - The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.**

**1. The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be involved in the planning, program design, and implementation of the charter school.**

**Strengths:**

Parents participation in the school was incorporated into the school design.

**Weaknesses:**

Parents were not involved in the designing of this school.

**Reader's Score: 9**

**Selection Criteria - The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.**

1. The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director; and the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

**Strengths:**

Leaders in developing this school have a proven track record of success.  
The school has a plan to grow its own teachers and leaders through a Fellowship program in conjunction with a university.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses were noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The contribution the charter school will make ...**

1. The contribution the charter school will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve to State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards.

**Strengths:**

The school has an RTI plan to confront student challenges before they become special education needs. It demonstrates respect for all learning disability by installing braille signs, ramps, and providing a diabetes mentor.  
The school will actively seek a diverse student body (pg 38)

**Weaknesses:**

The school says it will use a full inclusion model but the possibility for some students to need services beyond the classroom and how those services will be delivered is not adequately discussed.

**Reader's Score: 19**

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**Status:** Submitted  
**Last Updated:** 02/11/2010 02:04 PM

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## Technical Review Coversheet

**Applicant:** Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (U282B090032)

**Reader #2:** \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Comments</b>		
<b>Summary Comments</b>		
1. QUESTION 1	0	0
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.</b>		
1. QUESTION 2	20	20
<b>The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.</b>		
1. QUESTION 3	10	10
<b>The extent of community support for the application.</b>		
1. QUESTION 4	20	20
<b>The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.</b>		
1. QUESTION 5	10	10
<b>The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.</b>		
1. QUESTION 6	20	20
<b>The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives ...</b>		
1. QUESTION 7	10	9
<b>The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.</b>		
1. QUESTION 8	10	9
<b>The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.</b>		
1. QUESTION 9	10	10
<b>The contribution the charter school will make ...</b>		
1. QUESTION 10	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>128</b>

# Technical Review Form

Panel #3 - Panel 3: 84.282B

Reader #2: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (U282B090032)

## Questions

### Summary Comments - Summary Comments

#### 1. Summary Comments

##### General:

The application is remarkably free from faults except for minor deficiencies in parental planning and potential budgetary questions. All in all, it is a model application which should be provided (personally identifiable information redacted) to all who seek future grant funding.]

Reader's Score: 0

### Selection Criteria - The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.

#### 1. The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the educational program to be implemented by the proposed charter school, including how the program will enable all students to meet challenging State student academic achievement standards, the grade levels or ages of students to be served, and the curriculum and instructional practices to be used.**

##### Strengths:

The application proposes a large number of curricula and instructional practices known to improve achievement among educationally at-risk students. The proposed school would largely replicate the program used at the successful Democracy Prep Charter School in Harlem, NY (p. 2), and would be operated by an Education Management Organization (p.2).

Among the successful programs to be deployed on behalf of the students attending the charter are age-appropriate diagnostic assessment tools (PALS, DIBELS or other) to assess incoming students and provide regular assessments during the course of the year (pp. 3-4). Further diagnostic instruments will include TerraNova 3 and the E-CLASS Exam (p. 4).

Because educationally disadvantaged students need rigorous instruction to make up for deficits coming into the classroom, the school will offer a focus on literacy, concentrating on all five elements necessary for reading skills, and identifies the curriculum (SRA Reading Master), remediation program (Literacy Links), and individualized computer instruction (Waterford) to be used (p. 6). The school will similarly utilize a highly focused math program (Saxon Math) and content-rich curriculum for other subjects (i.e. Core Knowledge Sequence) (pp. 7-8). ELL students will receive additional supports and programming and will be administered the WIDA-ACCESS Placement test to identify their English language capacity (pp. 8-11).

Finally, the school will have an extended day and year calendar to provide more time to students (pp. 12-13), create a "Teaching Fellows" staffing model to provide additional assistance in the classroom (pp. 13-14), and institute a character education program (pp 15-16).

These programs are explained fully in both the application narrative and Appendix.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted.

**Reader's Score: 20**

**Selection Criteria - The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.**

**1. The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to include a description of how the State's law establishes an administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency and exempts the charter school from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools.**

**The Secretary also encourages the applicant to include a description of the degree of autonomy the charter school will have over such matters as the charter school's budget, expenditures, daily operation, and personnel in accordance with its State's charter school law.**

**Strengths:**

The application provides a clear explanation of the authority afforded the charter school, the reporting requirements, and the administrative relationship of the school to other administrative entities. The school operates independent of both local school districts and the State Department of Education and has autonomy over its budget and expenditures, with oversight provided by the Office of Municipal Affairs. The school is held accountable not to education entities but to the office of the Mayor (pp. 17-18).

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The extent of community support for the application.**

**1. The extent of community support for the application.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be informed about the charter school, and how students will be given an equal opportunity to attend the charter school.**

**Strengths:**

The application has received significant support from political and government leaders as well as many service and outreach community organizations. An indication of its level of support within the community is the fact that there were 180 applications to fill 76 kindergarten openings. The applicant's outreach effort included advertisements in newspapers, the Secretary of State website, and flyers at churches, public meeting places, restaurants and other businesses, and community centers. The applicant engaged in a door-to-door campaign in several communities, with hired canvassers. Three public forums were held explaining the school. The application includes a detailed, plain-language Q&A outlining

the lottery process for admission (Appendix).

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted.

**Reader's Score: 20**

**Selection Criteria - The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.**

**1. The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the objectives for the charter school and how these grant funds will be used, including how these funds will be used in conjunction with other Federal programs administered by the Secretary, in meeting these objectives.**

**Strengths:**

The objectives of the school are ambitious, with the goal of achievement above the current state-wide achievement scores, including scores for similar demographics (pp. 21-22, 24-25). The objectives include intermediate steps to reach the ultimate goal (p. 21). The objectives include those for teacher, parent and student satisfaction, and financial and administrative viability (pp. 27, 31). The objectives include value-added goals and are largely measurable through outside assessments and the application provides a chart categorizing each of the school's objectives (pp. 32-33). Descriptions of how funding is to be used are throughout the proposal (pp. 23, 26, budget).

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.**

**1. The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.**

**Strengths:**

The application indicates that multiple assessment tests will be used to measure progress in academic objectives, including both criterion and norm-referenced exams and diagnostic assessments (pp. 21-22). Measures for assessing the proficiency of ELL students are identified (pp. 24-25).

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted.

**Reader's Score: 20**

**Selection Criteria - The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives ...**

**1. The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students during and after the period of Federal financial assistance.**

**Strengths:**

The proposals curriculum and instructional plans are designed to meet the needs of the expected educationally disadvantaged student population (pp. 1-17), and the objectives are aimed at the same cohort (pp.21-33). The application demonstrates a clear understanding of the challenges in educating an at-risk student population and is modeled on a successful Harlem charter school that is accomplishing the same task (p. 2).

**Weaknesses:**

It is not clear from budget documents or narrative provided that the school has properly budgeted for an extended day/year schedule (budget).

**Reader's Score:** 9

**Selection Criteria - The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.****1. The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be involved in the planning, program design, and implementation of the charter school.**

**Strengths:**

The applicant will work with parents to receive feedback and facilitate educational improvement among students (p. 34), and a Family Leadership Council has been formed to provide formal discussions about improving the school (p.35). The school will engage in continuous and ongoing efforts to secure parental comments and improvements (p. 36), and parents will be involved in planning future Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (p. 34).

**Weaknesses:**

There is no indication that parents were involved in the actual planning and program design of the current school (p. 33).

**Reader's Score:** 9

**Selection Criteria - The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.****1. The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director; and the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.****Strengths:**

The Founder and CEO of the Education Management Organization similarly founded a Harlem Charter currently ranked 14th in New York City. He has extensive educational experience with charter schools and other education establishments, including Amistad Academy in New Haven, CT (p. 37). The Head of School similarly has extensive experience, including a stint as a Teach for America corps member (p. 38).

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The contribution the charter school will make ...**

- 1. The contribution the charter school will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve to State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards.**

**Strengths:**

More than 60 percent of the incoming class for the school is on free and reduced meals. The program for the proposed charter is overwhelmingly designed to mitigate the educational effects of poverty by providing additional supports, clear curricula, regular assessments, and reinforce basic educational and cultural values (pp. 2-17).

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses noted.

**Reader's Score: 20**

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**Status:** Submitted

**Last Updated:** 02/11/2010 02:04 PM

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## Technical Review Coversheet

**Applicant:** Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (U282B090032)

**Reader #3:** \*\*\*\*\*

	Points Possible	Points Scored
<b>Questions</b>		
<b>Summary Comments</b>		
<b>Summary Comments</b>		
1. QUESTION 1	0	0
<b>Selection Criteria</b>		
<b>The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.</b>		
1. QUESTION 2	20	19
<b>The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.</b>		
1. QUESTION 3	10	10
<b>The extent of community support for the application.</b>		
1. QUESTION 4	20	18
<b>The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.</b>		
1. QUESTION 5	10	10
<b>The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.</b>		
1. QUESTION 6	20	20
<b>The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives ...</b>		
1. QUESTION 7	10	8
<b>The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.</b>		
1. QUESTION 8	10	8
<b>The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.</b>		
1. QUESTION 9	10	9
<b>The contribution the charter school will make ...</b>		
1. QUESTION 10	20	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>120</b>

# Technical Review Form

Panel #3 - Panel 3: 84.282B

Reader #3: \*\*\*\*\*

Applicant: Rhode Island Mayoral Academies (U282B090032)

## Questions

### Summary Comments - Summary Comments

#### 1. Summary Comments

##### General:

This is an excellent application, demonstrating a well developed, solid, research based curriculum and organization. Throughout, it is obvious that this group will continue to improve on results no matter how well they do and is very willing to learn from other operators' successes. In many cases the reader asks "how will they do that?" and what follows is a very clear plan to do just what they have described. The request for funds is targeted specifically to increase the likelihood that they will reach their very ambitious targets. The plan for ELL students is both comprehensive and integral to the school. Although this school has already opened, it makes a good case for including planning and implementation in the next 3 years, as it will be growing slowly, a grade a year. There is evidently a sister middle school that will open in 2010.

Reader's Score: 0

### Selection Criteria - The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.

#### 1. The quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices.

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the educational program to be implemented by the proposed charter school, including how the program will enable all students to meet challenging State student academic achievement standards, the grade levels or ages of students to be served, and the curriculum and instructional practices to be used.**

##### Strengths:

The application presents very high reaching goals in each area, and actually goes beyond that to very specifically tell how that has either been implemented or how it will be. A good example is page 3-17, with a list of 9 ways in which they will live up to their motto, then the next 14 pages telling exactly how this will occur. Also, the five components of reading are mentioned, then the chosen curriculum is discussed related to these and solid research is presented. No one textbook or purchased set of materials is depended upon and the reasons for supplements are clear. Developmentally appropriate and effective curriculum and assessment materials are included. The longer day is not just included it is justified based on planned activities.

##### Weaknesses:

There is some confusion related to the plan for 2 "academies resulting in intimate communities of fewer than 300 students" (page 14). The ultimate goal for numbers is not provided, but 300 is not intimate.

Reader's Score: 19

**Selection Criteria - The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.**

**1. The degree of flexibility afforded by the SEA and, if applicable, the LEA to the charter school.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to include a description of how the State's law establishes an administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency and exempts the charter school from significant State or local rules that inhibit the flexible operation and management of public schools.**

**The Secretary also encourages the applicant to include a description of the degree of autonomy the charter school will have over such matters as the charter school's budget, expenditures, daily operation, and personnel in accordance with its State's charter school law.**

**Strengths:**

The state laws are described as well as the unique Mayoral Academies, which is overseeing this school. The applicant appears to have a solid understanding of the role with the authorizer, the flexibility allowed, and the additional flexibility allowed as a Mayoral Academy and the responsibility to be a model as the first such school.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses were noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The extent of community support for the application.**

**1. The extent of community support for the application.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be informed about the charter school, and how students will be given an equal opportunity to attend the charter school.**

**Strengths:**

The initial outreach was very comprehensive and resulted in 180 applications to fill 76 slots, yet the school intends to not just replicate this plan but to extend it. The complicated lottery system is well explained, including how the school will guarantee equal representation for the 4 communities and at least 50% free and reduced lunch. A partnership is being developed with Brown University and a plan for recruiting a diverse staff is provided.

**Weaknesses:**

The guarantee of at least 50% "free and reduced lunch students" is not taken beyond the initial students into the case of one community not having more applicant than slots, the case of the students initially chosen not attending, or the waiting list.

**Reader's Score: 18**

**Selection Criteria - The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.**

**1. The ambitiousness of the objectives for the charter school.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the objectives for the charter school and how these grant funds will be used, including how these funds will be used in conjunction with other Federal**

**programs administered by the Secretary, in meeting these objectives.**

**Strengths:**

Not only are the objectives ambitious, this school hopes to be a state turnaround model. The objectives include those specific to ELL students, parent and teacher satisfaction, and organizational strength. The performance measures for students include an absolute goal, a value added goal, and a comparative goal (page 21).

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses were noted.

**Reader's Score: 10**

**Selection Criteria - The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.**

**1. The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives.**

**Strengths:**

The assessment plan is comprehensive and includes appropriate measures for kindergartners and ELL students. The application discusses the quality of the strategies for assessing the achievement of each objective. The school plans to disaggregate data for reporting purposes and presents state data for disaggregated populations for comparison purposes.

**Weaknesses:**

No weaknesses were noted.

**Reader's Score: 20**

**Selection Criteria - The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives ...**

**1. The likelihood that the charter school will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students during and after the period of Federal financial assistance.**

**Strengths:**

The application explains how the "Fellows" model will be sustained beyond the grant (by sharing across grades) and how the need for training will be lessened by developing internal experts. The school has already opened and has a significantly large waiting list. The request for funds is designed to build capacity. The plan is very well developed and based on successful models and solid research and data analysis.

**Weaknesses:**

Not enough detail is provided related to funding to determine how financially viable the school will be beyond the grant related to extra pay, longer days, extra staff, etc.

**Reader's Score: 8**

**Selection Criteria - The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.**

**1. The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental involvement.**

**Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe how parents and other members of the community will be involved in the planning, program design, and implementation of the charter school.**

**Strengths:**

The school will be open to parents, even extending to school provided cell phones to allow parents to call teachers in the evening (page 13) to help with homework and the availability of the head of school by phone. The plan for parental involvement and communication with parents is strong. Communicating with parents includes those who do not speak English.

**Weaknesses:**

It is a basic assumption that the parents will not be a part of the school governance or management (page 35) and that their main role will be to support, not planning or modifying.

**Reader's Score: 8**

**Selection Criteria - The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project.**

- 1. The quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers the qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the project director; and the extent to which the applicant encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.**

**Strengths:**

The staff is well qualified and the school includes a strong professional development plan and a plan for "human capital development" which includes likely growth from a Fellows teacher to a Lead teacher, and financial incentives for performance.

**Weaknesses:**

There is not a designated Project Director for this grant.

**Reader's Score: 9**

**Selection Criteria - The contribution the charter school will make ...**

- 1. The contribution the charter school will make in assisting educationally disadvantaged and other students to achieve to State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards.**

**Strengths:**

Every part of the plan includes specifics for ELL students and their parents, assessments designed for this population, performance goals, and goals for exiting the ELL category. Special education students will be served through the effective school model and curriculum, not as a separate system. RTI strategies will be used (including services to students with "unidentified" disabilities and emerging English language abilities (page 3).

**Weaknesses:**

A full inclusion model does not include pull out, it would be more appropriate to refer to this school model as inclusion. The statement that the school will not "refuse to admit a student based on special education status" on page 43 could be problematic if the IEP team determines that placement in this school is not appropriate (need trumps choice) as in the case where a student requires a self contained classroom.

**Reader's Score:** 18

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**Status:** Submitted  
**Last Updated:** 02/11/2010 02:04 PM