

Applicant: Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School
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**Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School Charter School Project (CSP)
ABSTRACT**

Franklin Towne Charter Elementary School (FTCES) – a Pennsylvania designated Local Educational Agency (LEA) and IRS approved 501c3 corporation – is seeking assistance in the amount of \$196,644 through the CSP to fund the second year of initial implementation of the charter school. Granted a charter in February 2009 by the School District of Philadelphia, FTCES opened in 2009-10 serving 240 initial students in grades 3-5. The mission of FTCES is to establish a happy and nurturing environment that both promotes and cultivates a positive learning experience for our children. By involving staff, students, and parents, we plan to create a challenging and supportive school where our students can learn and grow.

FTCES meets the CSP invitational priority in that it is a high-quality charter school in a high need community. The high need community is the City of Philadelphia with a poverty level 32.22%; and 59.5% of students enrolled at FTCES qualify for free or reduced lunch based on income guidelines. The school is high-quality in that it replicates, at a developmentally appropriate level, the award-winning Franklin Towne Charter High School model. Founded in Philadelphia in 2000, the High School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the fourth consecutive year in 2009-2010.

The cornerstone of our educational program is based on the absolute mastery of the core subjects supplemented by special intervention services where needed. Components of the High School program being replicated at FTCES include: inquiry-based learning, shared ownership among stakeholders, and integrating technology into all aspects of the instructional program. The support for this model has been abundant with over 1,100 students on our waiting list and 99.6% of our students from 2009-10 returning for 2010-11.

The overall goal of the FTCES CSP is increased academic achievement in reading and math. To achieve this goal, four primary objectives must be realized: (1) Celebrate positive behavior and engage students in the learning process to maintain a culture of excellence, (2) Ensure highly qualified teachers are in every classroom, (3) Use data to drive the educational model and individual instruction, and (4) Involve parents as educational partners. Led by a CSP Team representing experts in academics, finance, real estate, project management, technology, and community outreach, FTCES will meet high process performance measures for each objective.

An open admissions policy, including a lottery, and various supports and outreach measures have yielded a truly diverse student body at FTCES, including substantial minority, low-income, and special needs populations. After one year of operation, FTCES can proudly say that it made AYP in 2009-10, further indication that our model will successfully and expeditiously create the high-quality charter school that is the purpose of the CSP.