

8 Points Charter School

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#### ABSTRACT

8 Points Charter School is a unique middle school serving fifth through eighth grade students in Jacksonville, a small community in rural west-central Illinois. The goal of 8 Points Charter is to prepare students academically and emotionally to enroll in college preparatory coursework at the secondary level. We accomplish this through an emphasis on eight core elements: 1) academic excellence, 2) literacy acquisition, 3) individual responsibility, 4) goal attainment, 5) technology immersion, 6) community awareness, 7) leadership development, and 8) family involvement. The school opened on August 15, 2011, and serves a diverse population of 95 students, with a 40% minority rate and a poverty rate of 82% (as defined by federal free and reduced-price lunch qualification). By utilizing low student to teacher ratios, research based instructional practices and intensive family support, the school will meet all students at their current academic level and raise student achievement by the end of eighth grade such that 93% of students meet or exceed state standards. 8 Points Charter offers extended day programming and a blended academic calendar to maximize instructional minutes in the traditional core subjects, with an additional hour each day dedicated to leadership development and community involvement. 8 Points Charter School will help the Charter Schools Program to meet its purpose of expanding the number of high-quality charter schools available to students in our nation.