

Legal Prep Charter Academies **CSP Grant Abstract**

Contact Information

Address: Legal Prep Charter Academies
501 W. 35th St.
Chicago, IL 60643

Project Director: Rather Stanton
847-331-6253
rstanton@legalprep.org

Legal Prep Charter Academies will offer a legal-themed, college preparatory education to approximately 800 students in grades 9-12 in an under-resourced Chicago community. Legal Prep will begin with a freshman class in the fall of 2012 and add one grade per year until it reaches capacity. **Legal Prep's mission** is to prepare Chicago's youth to succeed in college and in life. Through a rigorous curriculum and a culture of high expectations, Legal Prep will empower its students to achieve their full potential. Legal Prep will focus on the skills that all great lawyers possess: excellent written and oral communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and advocacy. These "21st century skills" will prepare students for success in any number of postsecondary paths. Whether or not they go on to be lawyers, all students will gain an understanding and respect for the law. To achieve its mission, Legal Prep will:

- Create a structured, disciplined school culture that is conducive to student learning
- Maintain an intimate learning environment through small classes, advisories and parent contact
- Use frequent, formative assessments to guide instruction
- Reinforce content through an integrated curriculum that is vertically aligned
- Require summer school and after-school tutoring for students in need of remediation
- Provide campus-wide extended school days and a longer school year
- Offer a dynamic college counseling program that requires every student to complete a college readiness curriculum, including a postsecondary education plan
- Require students to complete at least one hundred hours of community service prior to graduation
- Create a culture of peaceful dispute resolution, including peer mediation
- Provide an alumni network to support students during college, professional school and beyond
- Actively engage the Chicago legal community to be a part of the school through a mentoring program, legal clinic and other volunteer opportunities

In a community where the two closest public high schools have an average of 5% of students meeting or exceeding state standards, Legal Prep will put **every single student on the path to college success.** While still leaving room to innovate, Legal Prep is using proven best practices of successful charter schools as the foundation of its education plan. Legal Prep has designed its model to be replicable and will begin adding additional campuses once the data proves the model is a success for students.