

ED Abstract

Name of Applicant: Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School

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The Arco Iris Spanish Immersion Charter School Arco is a public charter school in Beaverton, Oregon, featuring Spanish immersion and Singapore Math, a highly acclaimed mathematics program. Our school had previously been awarded a grant through the 2008-2011 Oregon Public Charter School Incentive Grant Program, administered through the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). We had just completed the 1st part of the Implementation Phase but were told in August 2011 that our remaining year on the grant, Phase II of Implementation totaling \$200,000, would not be funded. We are therefore applying for the Non-SEA Planning, Program Design, and Implementation Grant # CFDA 84.282B to support Phase II of our Implementation.

Our charter school goals include that all students will master national, state, and district content standard requirements in all subjects with a special focus in English, Spanish, and mathematics. Our mission is to foster an increased academic ability that includes students becoming bilingual, bi-literate and multi-cultural so that they are fully prepared for college, career and citizenship. We believe a quality educational program needs to include learning a second language to enable our students to compete in tomorrow's global economy. We believe students need a strong academic foundation and that using Singapore Math is an integral part of providing a quality education program. We currently have no tech lab, library, formal music/art classes or playground. Despite our financial hardships, results of our program so far have been impressive. We are in our 2nd year of operation and student scores continue to be among the best in the state. It is very evident that our Singapore Math program and effectively two daily language arts classes (English and Spanish) are propelling our students to the top ranks.

Our school is home to almost 200 students reaching across 3 counties. About 50% of our students are out-of-district, some traveling as much as 100 miles/day to attend our school.

To develop this program into a stable entity that will be sustainable, we are requesting funds to complete our implementation. We have categorized our needs into 5 areas: Equipment, Supplies, Training, Contractual needs, and Travel. The equipment funds will be used to purchase teacher and student laptops, digital projectors, furniture, copiers, etc. Supply funds will be used to purchase math manipulatives, science kits, text books, and library books. Training funds will be used to complete train-the-trainer documentation for teaching Singapore Math and Immersion Teaching Strategies. Funds for contractual items will be used to hire someone to develop our curriculum for our 6-8th grades for all subject areas, as well as for a kindergarten.

We look forward to continuing to provide an outstanding educational program for our students and appreciate your consideration of our request to enable us to become a sustainable entity.