

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

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 07/16/2012 11:10 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE CENTER (U282B120053)

Reader #3: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Curriculum		
1. Quality of Curriculum	15	15
Assisting Disadvantaged Students		
1. Disadvantaged Students	3	3
Assessing Achievement		
1. Assessing Achievement	15	15
Community Support		
1. Community Support	8	8
Parental and Community Involvement		
1. Parental Involvement	3	3
Quality of the Personnel		
1. Quality of the Personnel	22	22
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	16	16
Charter or Performance Contract		
1. Performance Contract	15	15
Degree of Flexibility		
1. Degree of Flexibility	3	3
Total	100	100

Technical Review Form

Panel #2 - Panel - 2: 84.282B

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE CENTER (U282B120053)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Curriculum

1. Quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices

Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the quality of 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. If the curriculum and instructional practices have been successfully used in other schools operated or managed by the applicant, the Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the implementation of such practices and the academic results achieved.

Strengths:

The applicant will use the Flipped Classroom model, an innovative teaching methodology, in every subject to increase student contact time with instructors, releasing teachers to provide guided practice time and helping students to use time more effectively, including taking part in supplemental activities. The applicant will employ multiple methods of content delivery to better match student learning modalities. Examples include: A blend of digital and experiential learning; Project-based learning experiences in partnership with RTP companies; Online content from a spectrum of materials including but not limited to teacher-produced Flipped material, animations, and online courses.

The applicant will create Learning Teams to support students, ensure wide availability of content and resources through electronic media both on and off-campus to maximize student contact time with learning materials, etc. The applicant further indicated that the curriculum and instructional practices have been successfully used in other schools operated by them. Grade levels and student demographics were provided.

This combination of factors provides a comprehensive picture of the curriculum and instructional practices that will be utilized by the school. This is a strength for the application.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Assisting Disadvantaged Students

1. The extent to which the proposed project will assist educationally disadvantaged students in meeting State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards.

Strengths:

The applicant states that it will increase learning opportunities for all students including expanded learning experiences for students who are identified as educationally at-risk, disadvantaged, or academically gifted. Assistance will be provided to students that are not performing at expected levels to ensure the continued progress of student growth. The applicant will have on-staff certified Exceptional Student Education and LEP faculty members that will work with classroom teachers to

assist in modifying the curriculum for identified students, support IEPs, develop learning strategies with the students, and meet with parents and teachers.

The applicant will provide students with additional time with their teachers, the opportunity to re-visit a lecture or group experience, and/or the time to revisit their Playlist of learning materials, to be mentored by other students and STEM professionals and volunteers in the central Café.

It is obvious that these systems of intervention will enable great differentiation of learning for all students across the spectrum, enabling constant regrouping and reassigning of students.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 3

Selection Criteria - Assessing Achievement

1. The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of the charter school's objectives.

Strengths:

The applicant states that it will increase access to globally competitive STEM education for students and teachers across North Carolina by incubating, proving and scaling innovative models of teaching and learning. To evaluate its effectiveness with respect to its mission, the applicant will assess each of the proposed points in its mission. The applicant will use such tools as traditional formative and summative tests (End-of-Course (EOC) exams), teacher feedback to students every single day, product portfolios that show growth in more difficult to assess skills, rubrics, self, peer and teacher assessments, benchmark testing, quarterly summative assessments, pre/post test, and teacher and leadership evaluation.

This system allows all stakeholders to access data and use the data to make data based decisions. The applicant charges key employees with helping it staff assess student learning, data collection and interpretation, reports and analysis. This will help to ensure that appropriate assessments, collection of data, and analysis of data is accomplished. The clearly stated objectives will facilitate appropriate analysis. The use of both qualitative and quantitative data will also help to facilitate reliable data based decisions. This appears to be a thorough and extensive assessment plan.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Community Support

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.

The applicant is also encouraged to describe and provide evidence of community support for the

proposed project.

Strengths:

The applicant stated that it has tremendous community support from surrounding corporate partners, educators, and parents throughout the Triangle. Examples of partners are NC School of Science and Math (NCSSM), Biogen Idec Foundation & Research Triangle Foundation, and UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Education. The applicant included letters of support.

The applicant has a multi-level plan to inform the entire Triangle community about its existence. Each year the school will launch an extensive public information campaign that includes: press releases to print, online, and radio outlets; a school website and Facebook page; job websites and open houses for potential teachers/staff; recruitment flyers to middle schools, public libraries and community centers; and media interviews. Our marketing materials will be in both English and in Spanish. The applicant will build on already established relationships with area educational organizations, research collaborative, and corporate partners. Each year in the fall the School Leader will present to the Board the statistics for the newly enrolled school population.

Thus, this applicant has established many partnerships which will strengthen its school once it is operation. It appears that the applicant has put in place a thorough and extensive community support plan.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 8

Selection Criteria - Parental and Community Involvement

1. The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental and community 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 stated that during planning, a parent community of middle-schoolers supported the development of the school. Current parents of enrolled students have formed a volunteer force and are helping to research, design, and implement some of the programmatic aspects of the school, including transportation and food service, marketing and communications, IT, procurement, governance, personnel, and research into varied national STEM programs. This core community will form the core of the parent volunteers who will join and expand upon their efforts as the school evolves and matures. Parents will have open access to their child's achievement data to track their success in real-time. The applicant has well established partnerships with various organizations. The applicant stated that it will conduct a public outreach campaign.

The applicant has documented several important avenues to insure a parental and community involvement.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 3

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Personnel

1. Quality of project personnel.

The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers-

Note: The applicant is encouraged to provide evidence of its skills and experience in the following areas: successfully launching a high-quality charter school; developing an innovative school design; relevant nonprofit organization management and leadership; sound board governance; effective curriculum development and implementation; and strong fiscal management.

Strengths:

The applicant provides evidence (resumes) of its skills and experiences in the following area: leadership

Weaknesses:

The applicant did not provide evidence (resumes) of its skills and experiences in the following area: successfully launching a high-quality charter school, developing an innovative school design, relevant nonprofit organization management and leadership, sound board governance, effective curriculum development and implementation, and strong fiscal management.

Reader's Score: 22

Sub Question

1. 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 applicant states that its leadership team is committed to hiring people who represent the broad diversity represented by the Triangle region, including members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability.

The applicant has worked to ensure that applicants of color are actively recruited and encouraged in the interviewing process, and have worked to ensure that the faculty reflects our student body. Further, the applicant states that it will continue to advertise our open positions through job websites that are well known to all potential teachers. According to the applicant, each year in the fall, the School Leader will present to the Board the overall make-up of the faculty and staff. Based on that information, the Board and school leadership will modify the plans for subsequent faculty and staff recruitment.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 2

2. The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel

Strengths:

The applicant has put together a strong team of experienced people to open and run the school. The applicant states the experience, job responsibilities and training of its key personnel such as Executive Director and A&P Leader, Pamela Blizzard (Resumes attached), Chief School Officer and Principal (Eric Grunden), faculty as well as

Sub Question

Board of Directors resumes were attached. This appears to be a sound mix of talent.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan**1. Quality of the management plan.**

The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

Strengths:

The applicant provides an organizational chart. The applicant indicates the responsibilities of the governing board. For example, the Governing Board will be responsible for ensuring that the academic program of RTHS is successful, the program and operation are faithful to the terms of its charter, the school is a viable organization, and ensure that RTHS is not drifting away from its original purposes to ensure all students are achieving at the highest levels. Board recruitment was discussed. The applicant provides a chart with the milestones, requirements, date due and person responsible.

The applicant further states that the Chief School Officer (Head of School), Eric Grunden, will be responsible primarily for the internal functions and success of the school, and the A&P Leader, Pamela Blizzard, will focus on external relations with RTP companies, outlying school districts, and developing the broad constituency of support for the external focus. The A&P Leader will have some dotted-line responsibility to the Board of Directors. All programs and positions that support teachers will be the responsibility of the Chief School Officer. The Parent Association is a school-based organization, not a committee of the Board, and is encouraged to build its strongest ties to the Chief School Officer and faculty in order to support RTHSs mission and students needs. In the figure the non-profit corporate.

The applicant presents a complete and comprehensive Project Management Plan complete with reasonable milestones and dates and the personnel who are responsible for each task. The tasks are clearly aligned to the objectives of the grant and the timelines appear to be ambitious but achievable. This appears to be a well-defined organization with the structure, capacity and a quality management plan to implement and administer the proposed work of a charter school.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 16

Selection Criteria - Charter or Performance Contract**1. Existence and quality of a charter or performance contract between the charter school and its authorized public chartering agency.**

The existence of a charter or performance contract between the charter school and its authorized public chartering agency and the extent to which the charter or performance contract describes how student performance will be measured in the charter school pursuant to State assessments that are required of public schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public

chartering agency and the charter school.

Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to discuss whether its proposed project has been denied a charter from its authorizing agency and, if so, how the applicant plans to revise its charter application before resubmitting its charter application to the authorizing agency. The applicant is also encouraged to submit a copy of its approved charter contract, if applicable.

Strengths:

The charter contract between the applicant and its authorized public chartering agency was provided in the application (Appendix). It indicates how student performance will be measured in the charter school pursuant to state and other assessments.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Degree of Flexibility

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 the flexibility afforded under its State's law in terms of establishing an administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency and in terms of whether charter schools are exempt 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 applicant states that it will be a high-quality public charter school that is free from State or local rules that inhibit flexible operation and management of the school per N.C. charter school law (115C-238.29). The applicant states that it will not be required to report to any of the LEAs where the students reside. Additionally, the applicant states that its board of directors shall decide matters related to the operation of the school, including budgeting, curriculum, and operating procedures. Further, the applicant states that except as provided in 115C-238.29E and pursuant to the provisions of its charter, RTHS is exempt from statutes and rules applicable to a local board of education or local school administrative unit. (1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 731, s. 2; 1997-430, s. 4.). It appears that the applicant has an understanding of the degree of flexibility that is afforded to charter schools in its state.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses noted.

Reader's Score: 3

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 07/16/2012 11:10 AM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 07/18/2012 08:04 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE CENTER (U282B120053)

Reader #1: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Curriculum		
1. Quality of Curriculum	15	15
Assisting Disadvantaged Students		
1. Disadvantaged Students	3	3
Assessing Achievement		
1. Assessing Achievement	15	15
Community Support		
1. Community Support	8	8
Parental and Community Involvement		
1. Parental Involvement	3	3
Quality of the Personnel		
1. Quality of the Personnel	22	22
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	16	16
Charter or Performance Contract		
1. Performance Contract	15	15
Degree of Flexibility		
1. Degree of Flexibility	3	3
Total	100	100

Technical Review Form

Panel #2 - Panel - 2: 84.282B

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE CENTER (U282B120053)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Curriculum

1. Quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices

Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the quality of 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. If the curriculum and instructional practices have been successfully used in other schools operated or managed by the applicant, the Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the implementation of such practices and the academic results achieved.

Strengths:

The applicant plans to provide a STEM Program. The applicant plans to serve 420 students in grades 9-12. The applicant describes the target population it serves. 44% of the student body is African American and 21% qualify for free and reduced lunch. The applicant plans to provide a college preparatory curriculum. The applicant plans to exceed the graduation requirements for the state. The applicant plans to incorporate project based and online learning. The applicant plans to provide differentiation of instruction. It plans to implement a Teacher Residency Component to support early career teachers.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Assisting Disadvantaged Students

1. The extent to which the proposed project will assist educationally disadvantaged students in meeting State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards.

Strengths:

The applicant plans to utilize Teacher Learning Teams to analyze student data, review student work and identify skill gaps among the students. The applicant plans to serve at risk, disadvantaged and gifted students.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 3

Selection Criteria - Assessing Achievement

1. The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of the charter school's objectives.

Strengths:

The applicant plans to prepare annual reports. The applicant would like to have an external party conduct a program audit. The applicant plans to measure students' non instructional skills through self, peer and teacher assessments. The applicant plans to measure critical thinking and professionalism skills through portfolios. The applicant plans to administer pre and post tests in each subject area. The applicant plans to assess teacher and school administrator performance on an annual basis. The applicant plans to collect benchmark data for its students.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Community Support

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.

The applicant is also encouraged to describe and provide evidence of community support for the proposed project.

Strengths:

The applicant has attached letters of support from community organizations. The applicant received a \$50,000 planning grant from a community based organization. The applicant has attached a list of community meetings it held to plan the school.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 8

Selection Criteria - Parental and Community Involvement

1. The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental and community 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 has established partnership with Biogen Idec Foundation, Research Triangle Foundation, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill's School of Education and North Carolina School of Science and Math. The applicant plans to implement a public outreach campaign including: facebook, websites, flyers and interviews.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 3

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Personnel

1. Quality of project personnel.

The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers-

Note: The applicant is encouraged to provide evidence of its skills and experience in the following areas: successfully launching a high-quality charter school; developing an innovative school design; relevant nonprofit organization management and leadership; sound board governance; effective curriculum development and implementation; and strong fiscal management.

Strengths:

The applicant describes key project personnel who will contribute to the effective operation of a high-quality charter school.

Weaknesses:

The applicant will want to continue to build a team of external advisors who can provide ongoing technical assistance and support.

Reader's Score: 22

Sub Question

1. 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 applicant is committed to diversity. The school leader will collect data regarding diversity and make presentations to the board. The applicant plans to modify its plans for faculty and staff recruitment based upon the data. The applicant would like to have its staff represent the diversity in the area and among its students.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 2

2. The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel

Strengths:

The applicant has described the background and qualifications of key project personnel. The applicant has attached biographies of its board members. The applicant has hired core faculty members and has attached their resumes.

Weaknesses:

None.

Sub Question

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. Quality of the management plan.

The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

Strengths:

The applicant provides an organizational chart. The applicant describes the role of the board of directors. The applicant provides a detailed timeline with persons responsible for implementation.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 16

Selection Criteria - Charter or Performance Contract

1. Existence and quality of a charter or performance contract between the charter school and its authorized public chartering agency.

The existence of a charter or performance contract between the charter school and its authorized public chartering agency and the extent to which the charter or performance contract describes how student performance will be measured in the charter school pursuant to State assessments that are required of public schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school.

Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to discuss whether its proposed project has been denied a charter from its authorizing agency and, if so, how the applicant plans to revise its charter application before resubmitting its charter application to the authorizing agency. The applicant is also encouraged to submit a copy of its approved charter contract, if applicable.

Strengths:

The applicant's charter was approved in March 2012.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Degree of Flexibility

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 the flexibility afforded under its State's law in terms of establishing an administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency and in terms of whether charter schools are exempt 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 applicant describes staffing of the school as it relates to the district. The applicant describes its accountability to the state and the charter authorizer. The applicant describes the role of its board of directors as it relates to the charter authorizer. The applicant has complete autonomy with regard to the budget.

Weaknesses:

None.

Reader's Score: 3

Status: Submitted
Last Updated: 07/18/2012 08:04 AM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 07/24/2012 03:25 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE CENTER (U282B120053)

Reader #2: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Curriculum		
1. Quality of Curriculum	15	15
Assisting Disadvantaged Students		
1. Disadvantaged Students	3	2
Assessing Achievement		
1. Assessing Achievement	15	11
Community Support		
1. Community Support	8	6
Parental and Community Involvement		
1. Parental Involvement	3	3
Quality of the Personnel		
1. Quality of the Personnel	22	22
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	16	16
Charter or Performance Contract		
1. Performance Contract	15	15
Degree of Flexibility		
1. Degree of Flexibility	3	3
Total	100	93

Technical Review Form

Panel #2 - Panel - 2: 84.282B

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE CENTER (U282B120053)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Curriculum

1. Quality of the proposed curriculum and instructional practices

Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the quality of 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. If the curriculum and instructional practices have been successfully used in other schools operated or managed by the applicant, the Secretary encourages the applicant to describe the implementation of such practices and the academic results achieved.

Strengths:

The college prep based curriculum based combined with a number of higher educational partnerships will assist the school in meeting the needs of students seeking post-secondary educational experiences. The students will have the opportunity to interact with higher education instructors and facilities. The Flipped Classroom model is unique and provides an opportunity for students to self-pace through repeated instructional videos. The Flex day concept provides the extra opportunities for students to move faster or slower based on their skill and motivation level. This concept will greatly improve the students' chances for success in college through such a high rigor and specific college prep curriculum.

Weaknesses:

There was none noted for the mission for a STEM school to develop students who will be successful in college.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Assisting Disadvantaged Students

1. The extent to which the proposed project will assist educationally disadvantaged students in meeting State academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards.

Strengths:

The redundance of support programs that include a Flipped classroom that offers repeated viewing of lessons and an extensive mentoring program on a flexible schedule is a strong support program for disadvantaged students. The multiple intervention steps will decrease students getting behind academically. The extended day concept and the grouping and regrouping of students by their "Learning Teams" will provide the extra individualized help that disadvantage students need. The level of support provided all students is a strength of this section of the application.

Weaknesses:

The college prep curriculum and atmosphere of the school could be a deterrant to disadvantaged students who may feel

academically over matched. The school will have to work hard to insure the strategies in place do in fact produce positive academic results with these students or the school could quickly be indentified as a school for academically gifted students. This section would have been improved with a bit more detailed on how disadvantaged students will be adjusted to the accelerated curriculum.

Reader's Score: 2

Selection Criteria - Assessing Achievement

1. The quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of the charter school's objectives.

Strengths:

The goal to advance most students academically five years over their four years at the school is commendable. The pre-matriculation assessment and the Learning Team monitoring of student progress are concepts that will keep students apprised of their progress and on-track for graduation.

The weekly individual meetings to discuss academic progress with a teacher is a concept that will engage students in their own progress. Student engagement in the assessment progress is a proven method of improving the likelihood of academic success and its inclusion in this section of the application is a strength.

Weaknesses:

The descriptions of the assessment materials in this section is sketchy. The lack of specific academic goals provides limited benchmarks upon which to judge success of the school. This section would have been strengthened with measures that would clearly outline success in a number of areas. As written, this section becomes more of a pass or fail concept.

Reader's Score: 11

Selection Criteria - Community Support

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.

The applicant is also encouraged to describe and provide evidence of community support for the proposed project.

Strengths:

The school is building on the reported success of a non-profit in the community, Contemporary Science Center. This extension of an already successful program increases the likelihood for success with this school. The Partnership with the NC School of Science and Math further adds materials and support to the school. The overall quality of high tech partnerships, including the use of 60,000 dollars science lab with the Contemporary Science Center, provides this program with unique STEM opportunities not often seen in start-up schools.

Weaknesses:

There is no description of diversity support in the community. Without diversity support the school could be viewed as an elitist program. This section would have been improved with more input on engaging more of the minority community.

Reader's Score: 6

Selection Criteria - Parental and Community Involvement

1. The extent to which the proposed project encourages parental and community 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 Flipped Classroom and the one-to-one computer model provide excellent school to home services for students. The school has been parent friendly since the conception of the school through parent committees, a strong out-reach project, and volunteerism. The strong emphasis on parental relations is a major positive aspect of this application.

Weaknesses:

There were none noted.

Reader's Score: 3

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Personnel

1. Quality of project personnel.

The Secretary considers the quality of the personnel who will carry out the proposed project. In determining the quality of project personnel, the Secretary considers-

Note: The applicant is encouraged to provide evidence of its skills and experience in the following areas: successfully launching a high-quality charter school; developing an innovative school design; relevant nonprofit organization management and leadership; sound board governance; effective curriculum development and implementation; and strong fiscal management.

Strengths:

The openness to input from the community and a wide range of community partnerships while maintaining a strong leadership team is a strength for this application. The resumes of the leadership team is especially strong with both STEM and K-12 experience. For example, Eric Gruden has 12 years experience in the STEM teacher and administrator. This team exemplifies the experience and skills needed to successfully operate a charter school.

Weaknesses:

There were none noted.

Reader's Score: 22

Sub Question

1. 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

Sub Question

Strengths:

The application contains a strong statement with regards to the employment opportunities for all categories of groups of individuals often underrepresented. Page 35 of the application outlines both the federal and state laws that impact the school and employment considerations. The comprehensive evaluative standards and professional development plans for staff appear adequate to ensure the quality of personnel will be maintained at the school. The use of student academic progress as an evaluative component for teachers is a strength of the application. This demonstrates the school's emphasis on academic rigor.

Weaknesses:

There were none noted.

Reader's Score: 2

2. The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of key project personnel

Strengths:

The openness to input from the community and a wide range of community partnerships while maintaining a strong leadership team is a strength for this application. The resumes of the leadership team is especially strong with both STEM and K-12 experience. For example, Eric Gruden has 12 years experience in the STEM teacher and administrator. This team exemplifies the experience and skills needed to successfully operate a charter school.

Weaknesses:

There were none noted.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. Quality of the management plan.

The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project. In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives of the proposed project on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones for accomplishing project tasks.

Strengths:

The budget plan for the school addresses possible short falls and presents a well-defined organization chart that outlines communication between the Board and community partners as well as staff. The plan of action should ensure the effective operation of the school through both outside support of the school and external partnerships to provide assistance in many areas. For example, the Parent Association is encouraged to work directly with the Chief School Officer to assist with facility needs. This type of planning for input from key stakeholders will open the school to better communication and is a strength of this section of the application.

Weaknesses:

There were none noted.

Reader's Score: 16

Selection Criteria - Charter or Performance Contract

1. Existence and quality of a charter or performance contract between the charter school and its authorized public chartering agency.

The existence of a charter or performance contract between the charter school and its authorized public chartering agency and the extent to which the charter or performance contract describes how student performance will be measured in the charter school pursuant to State assessments that are required of public schools and pursuant to any other assessments mutually agreeable to the authorized public chartering agency and the charter school.

Note: The Secretary encourages the applicant to discuss whether its proposed project has been denied a charter from its authorizing agency and, if so, how the applicant plans to revise its charter application before resubmitting its charter application to the authorizing agency. The applicant is also encouraged to submit a copy of its approved charter contract, if applicable.

Strengths:

RTHS was granted a charter on March 1, 2012.

Weaknesses:

There were none noted.

Reader's Score: 15

Selection Criteria - Degree of Flexibility

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 the flexibility afforded under its State's law in terms of establishing an administrative relationship between the charter school and the authorized public chartering agency and in terms of whether charter schools are exempt 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 degree of flexibility provided North Carolina Charter Schools is provided in the application and the charter school law is referenced.

Weaknesses:

There were none noted.

Reader's Score: 3

Status: Submitted
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