



## Charter Schools Program Planning, Design and Implementation Grant CFD 84.282B

### Excel Public Charter School

601 Summit Ave East, Seattle, WA, 98102

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**Project Description:** Excel Public Charter School will open in Kent, WA on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Excel will begin with 150 students in grades six and seven and expand to eventually be a 6-12 school in South Kent. Excel's mission is to provide all students an academically rigorous, STEM-focused, college preparatory program that will help students achieve both academic and personal success in college and career. Further, Excel will empower students to become agents of change in their communities through character development and culturally-responsive pedagogy. Excel's aspiration is to see thousands of our students graduate from the colleges of their choice and return to play an integral role in the economic sustainability and cultural viability of the Kent, Washington area.

Excel's mission and vision tightly align with the intent and purpose of Washington State Charter Law, which is to provide at-risk students with excellent education opportunities and pathways to college. Excel will address inequities in educational opportunities for all students, including academic achievement, drop-out rates, and other measures of educational success for students across all economic, racial, ethnic, geographic, and other groups. Excel is designed to find solutions to problems that affect chronically underperforming schools and to better serve at-risk students who most need help. Excel's research-driven educational model will enable 100% of our students to not only be admitted to, but have success in and graduate from the college of their choice. Excel's practices to accelerate students learning include: (1) an extended school day and extended school year; (2) a focus on STEM and computer science with project based learning; (3) deep community engagement and emphasis on culturally responsive teaching; (4) focus on student data; (4) ongoing professional development, including five weeks in the summer, for all teachers; (6) high school expectations and a focus on character and development; and (7) a no out of school suspension and no expulsion policy. As elaborated on in the attached Program Narrative, Excel will provide a critical option to attend an excellent school for students and families in the South Kent area, where many students are below grade level academically. We estimate that we will be serving 75% students of color, 75% of students on free or reduced lunch, 11% special education students, and 15% English Learners at Excel.