

## **ABSTRACT**

**Program:** First Place Scholars Charter School P O Box 22536, Seattle, WA 98122-0536

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**Proposed Initiative:** First Place School is applying for U.S. Department of Education funding under the Charter Schools Program – in the amount of \$200,000 per each year for a 24 month period (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2016) – to support the first two years of its implementation.

**Target Population:** This proposal meets the absolute priority for preparing students living in poverty for success in high school and beyond; and the competitive preference priority addressing serving children with special needs and English Language Learners. The target population for First Place Scholars Charter School is K-5 children who have experienced trauma as a result of extreme poverty, are living in transition or who are in danger of becoming homeless, and/or who are performing below grade level.

**Overall School Mission:** To educate and support K-5 students – who are living in poverty and with multiple traumas – to rise above their personal circumstances, accelerate academically, commit to continuous learning, display strength of character, and prepare for college and career readiness. Students learn through a 21st-Century curriculum aligned with internationally-benchmarked standards, instruction, materials, and assessments and in a culturally-relevant, technology-enhanced, data-rich, student-centered, and small-school environment.

**Goals:** For our \$200,000 per year, two-year (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2016) US ED Charter School Program request, we will build our organizational capacity to deliver on these key elements of our program: 1) Implement a vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum based on core content (Common Core State Standards in math and English Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards, and National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies) and 21st Century skills; 2) Implement a *Coordination of Services Team* (COST) model to address social and emotional and behavioral challenges coupled with a Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS) practices; 3) Deliver year-round workshop-based and embedded professional development for teachers and the newly hired School Leader – using internal and external resources – to support the above-mentioned EdModel throughout the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic year and over the 2015 and 2016 summers; and 4) Enhance technology applications in and outside of the classroom to facilitate data use, analysis, performance management, and skills acceleration, and provide teachers and students with relevant resources, tools, and skills to support implementation of the above-mentioned EdModel and to support enriched academic acceleration, social-emotional supports, and STEAM activities during extended day 5 days/week.

**Partners:** Antioch University, Technology Access Foundation (TAF), The A Plus Youth Program, which will provide fitness and physical education to students, Puget Sound Education Service District (PSESD), Inspire Youth Project, Washington State Charter Schools Association, Seneca Family of Services, Charter Board Partners, and numerous mentors and tutors.