

Great Lakes Academy Abstract Narrative
Non-SEA Planning, Program Design, and Implementation Grant 84.282B

Great Lakes Academy
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Great Lakes Academy will open in August 2014 with 128 students in kindergarten and first grade and will grow to 560 students in grades K-8 over the next eight years. The Great Lakes Academy mission is to prepare all of our students with the fundamental academic skills, critical thinking ability, and strength of character to excel in high school, college, and a career of their choice. We empower all of our students with the education today that they will need to change the world tomorrow. Every aspect of our school and all of our decisions are to ensure that students are ready to compete and succeed in college and in life.

Great Lakes Academy is a K-8, college preparatory charter school serving the greater Southeast neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. A firm belief in the power of education to empower individuals and provide them with increased opportunity in life guides our mission. Our school model draws from the best practices of the highest performing schools serving low-income, urban students across the country. We believe that all students, regardless of home circumstances, race, or economic status are able to learn and achieve at the highest levels when provided with a school that is designed and prepared to teach, support, and hold all students to high expectations. Our mission requires that we ensure that students on Chicago's Southeast can embrace the challenge and responsibility of high school by the end of eighth grade, and therefore have full access to the opportunities that college, our city, and our country provide.