

INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS: SUPPORTING SCHOOL START-UP ACTIVITIES FOR THE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL AT DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

The Early College High School at Delaware State University (ECHS@DSU) will be the first early college high school in Delaware, focusing on the development of college-ready students through an inquiry and project-based learning environment that engages students with a dynamic, rigorous STEM curriculum. Centrally located in the City of Dover, Delaware, the school intends to serve a diverse student population, focusing recruitment on first-generation college-bound students from low-income families. In the tradition of early college high schools across the nation, students at the ECHS@DSU will have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 hours of college credits during their four-year high school career; and, will develop the drive and focus necessary to succeed at all levels of education and in their chosen careers.

Innovative Schools (IS) successfully supported the charter application development for the ECHS@DSU; their charter was approved by the Delaware State Board of Education on May 17, 2012. As a non-profit support organization for Delaware public schools, Innovative Schools' Charter Management Organization's (CMO) work is designed to build the capacity of partnership schools to independently operate an organizationally healthy, high-achieving charter school by the time of their first charter renewal. IS is committed to ensuring the successful planning, program design and implementation start-up activities of the school; and, to that end, is seeking financial assistance through this grant opportunity to support the ECHS@DSU through the first three years of their school's operation. The project is clearly aligned with and meets the purpose of the Charter School Program and 84.282B. The contributions of this project will further enhance Innovative Schools' CMO best practices and enhance their ability to provide meaningful CMO support to other new charter schools in Delaware during their start-up years.

Project Director: Teresa Gerchman; Phone: 302-656-4737; Email: tgerchman@innovativeschools.org
Innovative Schools; 100 W. Tenth Street, Suite 403; Wilmington, DE 19801-1643