

ABSTRACT

Charter Schools Program Planning, Design & Implementation Grant CFD 84.282B

VERITAS Community School
2943 Providence Trail Lane, Charlotte, NC 28270
Project Director: Katy Ridnouer, Founder/Board Chairperson
katy@ridnouer.com / (980)333-1939

Abstract Narrative: VERITAS Community School is a public, charter school that is being planned and designed to implement programming that will lead to the further development of a public charter school where elementary students learn to integrate health and wellness activities, lessons, and expectations into their daily life to not only improve their ability to read and compute but also give them skills for a healthy, productive adult life.

We expect that our students will attain a high level of academic achievement that will not only surpass the LEA's average but will also reach and surpass the same levels of academic achievement attained by Charlotte's highest performing students. Through consistent assessment, evaluation of assessment results, and implementation of strategies based on assessment results, teachers will respond to students' academic and socio-emotional challenges and strengths in both a timely and appropriate manner, affording student opportunities for increased academic achievement.

Our physical education program will provide data to support the assertion that everyday exercise improves students' alertness, attention, and motivation in the classroom, which ultimately leads to higher academic achievement. In addition, our healthy foods program will provide data to support the assertion that eating freshly prepared food improves students' academic achievement, classroom behavior, attention, and overall health. We will document our strategies, which can be adapted and implemented by other elementary schools and used as a resource for training teachers in effective best practices.

We are specifically targeting but are not limited to the students residing in Charlotte's eastside neighborhoods, three of which qualify as low-income neighborhoods and whose assigned schools consistently perform below the school district average. In response to the gulf between the affluent and poor neighborhoods and the inherent conflict and disparity of access to school information, we will create an outreach program. Our program as a whole will improve the academic achievement for all students and improve the quality of life for the community.