

Innovative Schools: Supporting Start-up Activities for Delaware Stem Aca.

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The **Delaware STEM Academy** (DSA) will be the first New Tech Network (NTN) STEM charter high school in Delaware. Centrally located in New Castle, Delaware, the school intends to serve a diverse student population; most from low-income families. As with other NTN schools nationally and internationally, DSA will focus on the development of college-ready students through a project-based learning environment that engages students with a dynamic, rigorous STEM curriculum. The primary goal of this project is to support the Board of DSA to fulfill their vision for the school - *to prepare students for the future economy through the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) using engineering, environmental science and biotechnology as a basis for learning...in an ethically driven educational environment emphasizing intellectual curiosity, individual responsibility and planetary stewardship.*

Innovative Schools (IS) successfully supported the charter application development for DSA; their charter was recently approved (4/17/2014) by the Delaware Department of Education. 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 the schools with which we partner to independently operate an organizationally healthy, high-achieving charter school by the time of their first charter renewal. Innovative Schools 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 project to support DSA through their initial planning year and the first two years of the school's operation. The contributions of this project are fully aligned with Innovative Schools' CMO best practices and its ability to provide meaningful support to other new charter schools in Delaware during their start-up years.