

## Vision Academy Charter School Implementation Grant Abstract

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The Vision Academy Charter School (Vision Academy) opened its doors in the 2015-16 school year to students in kindergarten through fourth grade. The first charter school in the William Penn School District, which borders the Philadelphia School District in southeastern Pennsylvania, Vision Academy Charter School is fully enrolled with 200 students and currently has a waiting list of over 500 students. The appeal of the school is its use of the evidence-based Core Knowledge Sequence curriculum as its learning foundation and Direct Instruction as its teaching methodology, its commitment to building self-reliant learners who nimbly use technology and project based learning to drive their own academic achievement, its acknowledgement that all children learn differently, and its authentic inclusion of parents in the education process.

The leadership and staff of the school are highly experienced in working in the charter school environment and the school's governing board includes educators and community members with the strengths needed to govern and support a large public non-profit organization. Vision Academy Charter School embodies not only the vision of the community to expand educational opportunities for disadvantaged children, but also the spirit of the charter school movement which was founded on the tenets of empowering parents and educators to pursue emerging educational tools and philosophies.

The funding for this implementation grant will provide critical support to provide professional development; to refine and differentiate academic programs and expand curriculum to new grade levels; to adopt and integrate technology as a tool for developing self-reliant learners; to improve outreach to the community and parents; and to provide furnishings to improve the educational setting.