

**U.S. Department of Education - EDCAPS
G5-Technical Review Form (New)**

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/02/2010 03:14 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Green Dot Public Schools -- Education,Home Office (U215J100147)

Reader #2: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	25	25
Adequacy of Resources		
1. Adequacy of Resources	20	20
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	25	25
Quality of Project Services		
1. Project Services	20	20
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	10	10
Sub Total	100	100
Priority Questions		
Priority Questions		
Competitive Preference Priority		
1. Competitive Preference	2	2
Sub Total	2	2
Total	102	102

Technical Review Form

Panel #3 - Panel - 3: 84.215J

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: Green Dot Public Schools -- Education, Home Office (U215J100147)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

1. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the design of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the design of the proposed project, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of--
 - (i) The project objectives;
 - (ii) The students, students' family members, and community to be served, including information about the demographic characteristics and needs of the students, students' family members, and other community members and the estimated number of individuals to be served; and
 - (iii) The eligible services (as listed in the Absolute Priority described elsewhere in the notice inviting applications) to be provided or coordinated by the applicant and its partner entities, how those services will meet the needs of students, students' family members, and other community members, and the frequency with which those services will be provided to students, students' family members, and community members.

Strengths:

Applicant provided a full description of the 10 eligible services, rather than the minimum three services, in creating a family of secondary schools that will partner with a comprehensive set of collaborators to ensure targeted students, families and community members will enjoy the benefits of a full-service community school web. Project objectives focus on reaching significant proportions of Locke students, families and additional community members, p.4. Outcomes related to these objectives range academic improvements to increased parental engagement in unique categories: increased annual service hours and the Parent Education Program, pp. 4-5. The description of the Watts community and its devastating demographics related to income level, crime, etc., provides a solid rationale for the level of collaboration the applicant has developed in order to ameliorate the daily challenges these families face. This application represents a rather amazing comprehensive plan to help some of the most vulnerable students in the nation.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Adequacy of Resources

1. (1) The Secretary considers the adequacy of resources for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the adequacy of resources for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
 - (i) The adequacy of support, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources to be provided by the applicant and consortium partners;
 - (ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the implementation and success of the project; and
 - (iii) The extent to which costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and services to be provided.

Strengths:

The two million dollar commitment from the LA School District for a community Wellness Center is a phenomenal resource for this project and its wraparound services for students and the surrounding community, including parent education and English classes, youth development programs and social services, letter of e2. The further commitment by the Watts Healthcare Corp for a school based or linked health center in the Green DOT Education Center is another very significant strength for this project; the LA district also offers health care in a new facility, p. e11. In addition to these physical sites, an impressive list of collaborators on pp. 2-6 provides a comprehensive set of services that will ensure success for this project. This consortium listed specific responsibilities for member organizations and for group strategies, pp. 6 to 8.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

1. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the management plan for the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the management plan for the proposed project, the Secretary considers the following factors:
 - (i) The extent to which the proposed project consists of a comprehensive plan that includes a description of planning, coordination, management, and oversight of the eligible services (as listed in the Absolute Priority described elsewhere in the notice inviting applications) to be provided at each school to be served, including the role of the school principal, the FSCS coordinator, partner entities, parents, and community members;
 - (ii) The qualifications, including relevant training and experience, of the FSCS coordinator and other key project personnel including prior performance of the applicant on similar or related efforts; and
 - (iii) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director, the FSCS coordinator, and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Strengths:

The Collaborative Manager is such a unique and appropriate title for the full time mastermind for this inventive partnership of charter schools. The applicant included reasonable allocation of limited funding for the planning year, a sound management decision on good use of taxpayer dollars. The comprehensiveness of the project is remarkable and will be bolstered by well qualified individuals to lead this targeted population to improvements across the spectrum of challenges it now faces.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

1. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the services to be provided by the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the project services, the Secretary considers the following:
 - (i) The extent to which the services to be provided by the proposed project reflect up-to-date knowledge from research and effective practice; and
 - (ii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

Strengths:

The 10 services selected of the 12 eligible ones are the ones most critical to ensuring targeted students at Locke High School and the entire Green Dot area schools will succeed academically, physically and socially. This proposal provides significant avenues of tangible hope for the Watts community, for its students especially to succeed in numerous ways academically, socially and physically.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. (1) The Secretary considers the quality of the evaluation to be conducted of the proposed project.
- (2) In determining the quality of the evaluation, the Secretary considers the extent to which the proposed evaluation--
 - (i) Sets out methods of evaluation that include the use of objective performance measures that are clearly related to the intended outcomes of the project and will produce quantitative and qualitative data to the extent possible;
 - (ii) Will provide timely and valid information on the management, implementation, or efficiency of the project; and
 - (iii) Will provide guidance on or strategies for replicating or testing the project intervention in multiple settings.

Factors Applicants May Wish to Consider in Developing an Evaluation Plan.

The quality of the evaluation plan is one of the selection criteria by which applications in this competition will be judged. A strong evaluation plan should be included in the application narrative and should be used, as appropriate, to shape the development of the project from the beginning of the project period. The plan should include benchmarks to monitor progress toward specific project objectives and also outcome measures to assess the impact on teaching and learning or other important outcomes for project participants. More specifically, the plan should identify the individual or organization that has agreed to serve as evaluator for the project and describe the qualifications of that evaluator. The plan should describe the evaluation design, indicating: (1) what types of data will be collected; (2) when various types of data will be collected; (3) what methods will be used; (4) what instruments will be developed and when; (5) how the data will be analyzed; (6) when reports of results and outcomes will be available; and (7) how the applicant will use the information collected through the evaluation to monitor progress of the funded project and to provide accountability information both about success at the initial site and about effective strategies for replication in other settings. Applicants are encouraged to devote an appropriate level of resources to project evaluation.

Strengths:

Applicant has a firm foundation for conducting rigorous internal evaluation processes, p. 28, which provides evidence for the ongoing success in using data driven decision making. The Power School data tracking system is a formidable method for registering students and parents across the variety of services in the project, p. 29. Follow up calculations will provide evidence of the impact of these services on grades, attendance, and behavior problems. The preliminary objectives and performance measures by each partner provide a complete vision of how the evaluation will succeed in relating the story of this project, pp. 30 to 32. As part of the extensive feedback system intended for this project, the input from students to determine level of interest for the mix of programs is another substantial strength of this proposal, p. 33. The description of replication and dissemination intention has been the most extensive offered in this competition, p. 33 to 35. The absence of an external evaluator could be viewed as a weakness, but the applicant has provided a detailed plan developed by its Knowledge Management Dept. that will yield evidence of progress for this project.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found.

Reader's Score: 10

Priority Questions

Priority Questions - Competitive Preference Priority

1. Strategies that support turning around persistently lowest-achieving schools

The Secretary gives competitive preference to applications that propose to serve persistently lowest-achieving schools and are currently implementing or plan to implement one of three school intervention models, to enable these schools to become full-service community schools. Applicants seeking to receive this priority must describe (a) the school intervention model that would be or is being implemented to improve academic outcomes for students; (b) the academic, social, and/or health services that would be provided and why; and (c) how the academic, social and/or health services provided would align with and support the school intervention model implemented.

Strengths:

The turnaround school in this Transformation project is Alain Leroy Locke Senior High in Watts, a persistently lowest achieving school in the U.S., which was turned over for the first time to an outside operator. Initial results from the first year of take over produced significant changes in core academic subjects, p. 2.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses were found.

Reader's Score: 2

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 09/02/2010 03:14 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 08/31/2010 06:51 PM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Green Dot Public Schools -- Education,Home Office (U215J100147)

Reader #3: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	25	25
Adequacy of Resources		
1. Adequacy of Resources	20	20
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	25	25
Quality of Project Services		
1. Project Services	20	20
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	10	10
Sub Total	100	100
Priority Questions		
Priority Questions		
Competitive Preference Priority		
1. Competitive Preference	2	2
Sub Total	2	2
Total	102	102

Technical Review Form

Panel #3 - Panel - 3: 84.215J

Reader #3: *****

Applicant: Green Dot Public Schools -- Education, Home Office (U215J100147)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

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Strengths:

A significant strength communicated in the narrative is the holistic approach implementing this project to affect change with students, their families, and the surrounding community.

The proposal outlines ten of the twelve absolute priorities which exceed the minimum of three required.

There is a plan in place to ensure services the partnering agencies provide compliment efforts of one another, they are not redundant and do not duplicate similar efforts.

The collaborative effort by the end of the project aspires to impact 60% of the students in the area, 20% of their families, and 500 additional community members.

The demographics provided demonstrate a need in the community. Minimally 90% of the student population receives free or reduced lunch.

Weaknesses:

There were no weaknesses found in the area of Quality of Project Design.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Adequacy of Resources

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 - (ii) The relevance and demonstrated commitment of each partner in the proposed project to the

implementation and success of the project; and

(iii) The extent to which costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and services to be provided.

Strengths:

The collaborative partners have demonstrated a clear commitment to this project through their letters of support and expected cost sharing over the duration of the project.

The applicant and stakeholders are providing over four times the non-federal match for this project. Investment in this project has already begun to take place.

Each partner committed to the Locke Wellness Center funding and provide own contribution prior to the onset of this proposal.

There is a commitment in place for this Wellness Center to serve the students and their families.

The budget narrative that was provided as supporting documentation clearly outlined the expenditures for the five year project.

All costs associated with the federal monies are reasonable. It was calculated that for the duration of the five year grant the average amount per person would estimate to be \$106.00.

Weaknesses:

There were no weaknesses found in the area of Adequacy of Resources.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

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 - (iii) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director, the FSCS coordinator, and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Strengths:

The creation of the parent coordinator position acknowledges potential barriers with families and the creation of this position serves as a liaison between home and school.

There are planned monthly meetings with collaborative partners defined in this proposal that serve as a strength. In addition, there are planned annual staff retreats for professional development.

Green Dot Public Schools has demonstrated past success in planning and implementation of programs in urban schools.

The Project Director has been involved for the past two years cultivating relationships within the community.

The applicant acknowledges strengths as well as critical issues that may arise based on prior experiences and a plan to address those are explained in the grant.

The school principals are not only involved in the management aspect but also in the day to day operations of the project with direct involvement with planning which students receive which services.

Key personnel were addressed with the narrative highlight their accomplishments and experiences that prove them a solid fit for their respective positions.

Weaknesses:

There were no weaknesses found in the area of Quality of the Management Plan.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

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 - (ii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

Strengths:

Up to date research (from 2010) supported the assertion that health is associated with educational outcomes.

The program currently in place is responsive to student's needs as well as the needs of their families. Academic and social supports are provided along with high, yet reasonable, expectations.

Acknowledgment is made that no matter what supports are in place in school that progress, academic and otherwise, will be limited, if the students are not motivated and able to learn. A plan is in defined to evaluate the project as it progresses and make changes as deemed necessary.

A holistic approach is taken, engaging the students, their families, and the surrounding community.

Each collaborative partner has defined objectives specific to the services to be provided as well as related and measurable performance measures.

Weaknesses:

There were no weaknesses found in the area of Quality of Project Services.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

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Strengths:

There is a plan to replicate and share this model with community members and stakeholders. Partners will report out on quarterly basis and outcomes will be included an annual stakeholders report. There is a data management system in place and evaluation is an intentional aspect of this project.

Weaknesses:

There were no weaknesses found in the Quality of Project Evaluation.

Reader's Score: 10

Priority Questions

Priority Questions - Competitive Preference Priority

1. Strategies that support turning around persistently lowest-achieving schools

The Secretary gives competitive preference to applications that propose to serve persistently lowest-achieving schools and are currently implementing or plan to implement one of three school intervention models, to enable these schools to become full-service community schools. Applicants seeking to receive this priority must describe (a) the school intervention model that would be or is being implemented to improve academic outcomes for students; (b) the academic, social, and/or health services that would be provided and why; and (c) how the academic, social and/or health services provided would align with and support the school intervention model implemented.

Strengths:

Competitive Preference Priority was specifically addressed in the narrative indicating the implementation of the Turnaround Model.

Weaknesses:

There were no weaknesses found in the area of Competitive Preference Priority.

Reader's Score: 2

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 08/31/2010 06:51 PM

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 08/31/2010 10:19 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Green Dot Public Schools -- Education,Home Office (U215J100147)

Reader #1: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of Project Design		
1. Project Design	25	25
Adequacy of Resources		
1. Adequacy of Resources	20	20
Quality of the Management Plan		
1. Management Plan	25	25
Quality of Project Services		
1. Project Services	20	20
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	10	10
Sub Total	100	100
Priority Questions		
Priority Questions		
Competitive Preference Priority		
1. Competitive Preference	2	2
Sub Total	2	2
Total	102	102

Technical Review Form

Panel #3 - Panel - 3: 84.215J

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: Green Dot Public Schools -- Education, Home Office (U215J100147)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Design

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Strengths:

The applicant provides demographic evidence that demonstrates the community and students would benefit from the project. High poverty rates, high teen pregnancy rates, heavy gang violence and a scarcity of resource are among the problems that plague this community.

The applicant provides a panacea of activities, 10 out of the 12 areas, to meet the needs of the community and to serve 3,500 people in the first year. Many of the proposed activities will be provided in a new federally qualified health center.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Adequacy of Resources

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 - (iii) The extent to which costs are reasonable in relation to the number of persons to be served and services to be provided.

Strengths:

A plethora of community resources have come together to provide services for this grant application. The Loche Wellness Center and the Watts Health Care Center are just 2 of the many organizations working together to ensure student success. Partners have signed Memorandums of Understanding to demonstrate their commitment.

The costs associated with this project are very reasonable.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Management Plan

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 - (iii) The extent to which the time commitments of the project director, the FSCS coordinator, and other key project personnel are appropriate and adequate to meet the objectives of the proposed project.

Strengths:

Blue Dot has a great track record in working with deficient schools and turning them around. Blue Dot leadership is stacked with a wide range of expertise. A well trained, experienced Project Director is in place. The plan is well conceived with details on how the consortium will work together to provide the activities described. The Project Manager and the FSCS Coordinator responsibilities are outlined and provide the time required to run a successful project.

The school principals will be involved in identifying and referring students in need of services. The costs of this program are reasonable and the applicant has taken extra care to keep costs low during planning.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: 25

Selection Criteria - Quality of Project Services

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 - (ii) The likelihood that the services to be provided by the proposed project will lead to improvements in the achievement of students as measured against rigorous academic standards.

Strengths:

Research supports the proposed project. The applicant has a long history of helping students in the Los Angeles area increase their educational success. There are 10 out of the 12 eligible priority areas being targeted that will ensure students have the services they need to make educational gains. The project offers clear research that supports the

proposed services.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: 20

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

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Strengths:

The applicant has a record of successful internal evaluations. The evaluation plan was developed so each partner is responsible for a portion of the evaluation. Green Dot is interested in using their research and data to replicate in other settings. Good plans for sharing with the community and replication.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: 10

Priority Questions

Priority Questions - Competitive Preference Priority

1. **Strategies that support turning around persistently lowest-achieving schools**

The Secretary gives competitive preference to applications that propose to serve persistently lowest-

achieving schools and are currently implementing or plan to implement one of three school intervention models, to enable these schools to become full-service community schools. Applicants seeking to receive this priority must describe (a) the school intervention model that would be or is being implemented to improve academic outcomes for students; (b) the academic, social, and/or health services that would be provided and why; and (c) how the academic, social and/or health services provided would align with and support the school intervention model implemented.

Strengths:

The applicant provides compelling evidence that, although the Green Dot School District has made remarkable improvements in student achievement over the last 3 years, this school still qualifies as a persistently low performing school.

Weaknesses:

No weaknesses found.

Reader's Score: **2**

Status: Submitted

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