

**ABSTRACT – CHARTER SCHOOLS REPLICATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM (84.282E)  
YORK ACADEMY REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL, 32 West North Street, York PA 17401  
Project Director: Dr. Dennis Baughman, [REDACTED]**

**Project Title: York Academy Regional Charter School**

**Goals:** The over-arching goal in seeking this award is to expand educational programming and enrollment at York Academy Regional Charter School, a multi-district-chartered public school serving the greater York, Pennsylvania region. Our project's primary goals and targets include:

- Fulfillment of the original charter vision, expanding to a full K-12 educational program from the current K-8 structure.
- To expand enrollment in elementary grades by 125 students during the project period (and by a total of 125 during the project period and a total of 200 over a 7-year period, K-7)
- To expand enrollment in a new Upper School by 225 (grades 10-12) during the project period
- To attain and retain International Baccalaureate authorization to operate as an IB World School at three program levels: Primary Years, Middle Years, and Diploma Programmes.
- To increase the percentage of York Academy students achieving "Advanced" or "Proficient" on Pennsylvania state assessments, including among historically under-performing students, with targets by project end of: English Language Arts  $\geq$  85%, Math  $\geq$  60%, Science  $\geq$  85%.

**Expected outcomes:** At grant's end, York Academy Regional Charter School will have K-12 enrollment of 1,140. The student population will be a multi-ethnic population, with the majority from low-income households. Students will be drawn predominantly from one urban (School District of the City of York) and two contiguous suburban school districts (Central York School District and York Suburban School District) – each original chartering districts of this multi-district, regional Pennsylvania charter school. York Academy expects that all students and all student subgroups (as defined under NCLB) will meet high performance standards on state assessments, improving on and far surpassing student performance among students in the chartering urban school district.

**Meeting the Purpose of CSP:** York Academy Regional Charter School proposes to expand its educational program and enrollment by: (1) adding traditional high school grades and enrollment to its current K-8 program; and (2) expanding each grade-level cohort by 33% in its elementary-level program. York Academy draws 60+ % of its students from a poor, urban, multi-ethnic school district. Its expansion inherently expands educational options and opportunities to traditionally under-served and historically under-performing students. York Academy's program is grounded in its being an authorized International Baccalaureate World School – offering high-quality public education that address State academic standards through program delivery meeting internationally-recognized high-quality program standards. CSP assistance during this period of significant expansion will help address the absence of state or local funding for facilities expansion and a resulting gap between expansion of expenditures and resulting, but lagging, expansion of revenues. This will assure that York Academy retains program quality during its transition and financial stability and sustainability into its future as its student complement fills.

**Contributions for research, policy, practice, etc.:** A key strategic principle under-pinning the creation, operation, and expansion of York Academy Regional Charter School is the attraction of an economically and ethnically diverse student population into a multi-district-serving regional charter school, thereby attacking the isolation of ethnicities and economic statuses existing within the current urban/suburban school boundaries. Promotion of student diversity, including racial and ethnic diversity and, perhaps more importantly, socio-economic diversity, is a conscious and explicit value and goal of the York Academy initiative. Active recruitment of students from across these school district boundaries, coupled with provision of an educational program designed to a rigorous, internationally-recognized curricular and program framework (International Baccalaureate) promises to promote and foster the strengths of diversity and to improve student achievement for even the most disadvantaged students participating in the school's educational program.