

Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School Expansion: Abstract

The Folk Arts–Cultural Treasures Charter School (FACTS) is a Title I K-8 public charter school in Philadelphia’s Chinatown. Now in its 13th year, FACTS offers a high quality, free public education to students in this high poverty city. The US Department of Education named FACTS a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School (as an Achievement Gap Closing School). FACTS currently has 508 students and has been granted a Charter Amendment to expand our maximum capacity to 847. Funding to support the expansion of FACTS will increase opportunities for traditionally underserved students to attend a high quality public charter school.

FACTS was founded specifically in response to the needs of immigrant and refugee English Learners. The founders’ vision was to create a deliberately multiracial/multi-ethnic school, by adopting a folk arts approach that welcomes the knowledge, wisdom, and traditions of all our families into our school. Currently 19% of FACTS students receive English Learner Development Services. Some of the objectives of this project include:

- FACTS will expand from two classrooms per grade (K-8) to three classrooms per grade (K-8) by 2024-25, filling every class to capacity;
- FACTS will move to a larger facility that will accommodate its growth and provide a comfortable, safe, efficient, and effective learning and teaching environment;
- FACTS will continue to serve a higher % of English Learners than surrounding schools;
- FACTS will maintain an inclusive environment for all students, especially those with IEPs and those who are English Learners;
- FACTS will sustain and grow the unique mission, practices, and programs that have led to its success.

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