

ABSTRACT: Grow Intentionally Diverse K-8 School to 9-12 to Prepare Students for Success & Wellness in College & Global Workplace Through Rigorous and Personalized Learning that Uses City As Expanded Campus.

Charlotte Lab School and its Board of Directors are pleased to present this application for the Department of Education's CSP grant 84.282E, to support the expansion of our current K-8 model to include grades 9-12. The vision of Charlotte Lab School (CLS) is to use our community as an expanded classroom to provide rigorous, engaging, and personalized learning experiences designed to prepare our students for success and wellness in college and the modern global workplace. Expanding to serve high school students will provide them with an immersive K-12 program that fully embodies the CLS vision. This vision is realized through our instructional model which includes the following elements:

1) Intentional diversity: CLS reflects the diversity of our community and implements a NC state-approved weighted lottery to ensure that 40% of students come from economically disadvantaged households; 2) College Readiness: CLS leverages the power of technology to create personalized learning experiences in core content areas in order to meet students' academic needs and personal interests; 3) Career Readiness: CLS implements "quests," which are interdisciplinary projects that benefit our community and through which our students gain practical experience with "seven survival skills," the 21st century workplace skills identified in the work of Tony Wagner at Harvard University; 4) Global readiness: CLS offers a partial-immersion approach to foreign language acquisition through daily classes in Spanish and Mandarin; 5) Community involvement: CLS sees Charlotte's "center city" as our expanded classroom, through which students are exposed to new ideas, perspectives, careers, and possibilities; 6) Student wellness: CLS is committed to providing students with social-emotional skills and support through an Advisory program that includes mentorship, character education, metacognitive skill development, and support with executive function.

The CLS vision for high school is modeled after the successful NYC iSchool, a diverse public school in NYC, which has achieved a graduation rate of over 94% since its founding in 2008. The CLS HS will also build on the success of its existing k-8 charter school, which in two short years is outperforming the district and state in standardized testing, and boasts a lottery pool of over 1000 applicants each year.

In addition to the difference that CLS will make for its students, the school also has the potential to become a model for what's possible in public schools. CLS is well-positioned to demonstrate the benefits of racially and socioeconomically diverse schools and the power of community-school partnerships. It is the desire of CLS to serve as a hub for educational innovation and catalyst for school improvement for all Charlotte-area students.