

ResponsiveEd Replication and Expansion Grant (RE²) (2019-2024)

Responsive Education Solutions, Inc. (ResponsiveEd) is a Texas non-profit corporation authorized to operate open enrollment charter schools in the States of Texas and Arkansas. First established in 1998 to open 15 dropout recovery and prevention schools, ResponsiveEd has since expanded to operate 73 brick and mortar campuses in Texas and Arkansas and one Virtual School Program in its two charter districts, Texas College Preparatory Academies (TCPA) and Premier High Schools (PHS). Together, these programs serve a diverse population of over 21,000 students across six brands of schools—Classical Academy, Founders Classical Academy, iSchool High, Premier High School, iSchool Virtual Academy, and Foundation School for Autism. Our unique educational models have a strong track record for preparing students, specifically educationally disadvantaged students, to achieve individual academic goals and to prepare for college and career success. Demand for these models has grown rapidly since we started 20 years ago. We continue to expand our educational models not only to meet growing demand but also because data show that our schools are achieving positive academic impacts for the students we serve.

ResponsiveED is submitting this proposal to the Charter Schools Program (CSP) under **Absolute Priority 2: Low-Income Demographic**. Across all ResponsiveEd charters, 47.3% of all students served are low-income, as defined by their eligibility for free- or reduced-price meals. In over two-thirds of our programs (52 out of 74, or 70.3%), the proportion of low-income students exceeds the 40% benchmark established for this Absolute Priority, ranging from 40.7% to a high of 100% low-income. The proportion of our students has remained above 40% over the past three years—46% in 2016, 52% in 2017, and 47% in 2018.

ResponsiveEd is also addressing four of the five **Competitive Preference Priorities (CPPs)** established for this competition. With support from the CSP, we are proposing to expand three sites where we will implement an increased focus on recruiting and maintaining diverse student populations, and to replicate high-quality models with an intentional focus on recruiting a diverse student body (**CPP 1**). In the past seven years, ResponsiveEd has become a “go-to” operator for turning around failing schools. Most of our success in this area has been in the realm of taking over failing charter schools; however, we also have experience working with school districts in this role. With support from the CSP, we will transform Fehl Price Elementary School, a persistently lowest-achieving school in Beaumont ISD into a Classical Academy while continuing to serve the current population who attends the school (**CPP 2**). Finally, ResponsiveEd is proposing to use funding from the CSP to replicate our PHS model in two new sites and to expand one existing PHS. Over the five years, the three schools will collectively serve 2,350 high school students (**CPP 3**).

The proposed project will address four overarching project objectives, which together address with the purposes of the CSP and align with our organizational mission and vision. Guided by a detailed implementation plan and project logic model, we will use the resources provided through the grant, along with ResponsiveEd’s experience and expertise, to carry out the proposed project to achieve four project objectives: 1) Increase access to high-quality charter program offerings; 2) Promote racial/ethnic and socioeconomic diversity in charter school settings; 3) Improve students’ academic performance and college and career readiness; and 4) Build capacity to sustain high-quality charter school programs.