



FY2019 GRANTS TO CHARTER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS FOR REPLICATION AND EXPANSION OF HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS (CFDA 84.282M)

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Freire Schools Elementary Expansion
Applicant: Build the Future Education Collaborative, 1617 JFK Boulevard, Ste. 1260, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Project Director: Max Matthews, [REDACTED]

Freire is a high achieving network of three urban public charter schools (4 campuses) serving approximately 2,000 students in grades 5-12 in Philadelphia, PA and Wilmington, DE. Driven by the idea that all students can achieve excellence under the right conditions, we provide students from educationally disadvantaged communities with a rigorous, creative college preparatory education that develops concrete skills and love-centered values to produce collaborative and courageous citizen leaders ready to build the future. Guided by the Build the Future Education Collaborative (the CMO), Freire is now poised to expand two of its current schools to serve elementary students, working toward providing a full K-12 continuum at those schools, and growing our network-wide student population from 2,000 to 3,250 by the year 2025.

With the support of CSP funding, the Freire Schools Elementary Expansion project consists of: (1) Adding an elementary campus (K-4) for Freire Charter School in Philadelphia, PA, and (2) Adding an elementary campus (K-7) to Freire Charter School Wilmington in Wilmington, DE.

The Freire Schools Elementary Expansion has the following three goals:

- Expansion – Provide a continuum of high quality, research-based educational programming to historically underserved students while ensuring financial sustainability.
- Quality – Engage students in rigorous, creative, deep learning, with an emotionally responsive and safe environment, leading to improved academic outcomes for historically underserved students.
- Knowledge – Contribute our growing body of information on the success and health of our programming on two topics: growth mindset and school replications/expansions.

The project will have the following long-term outcomes: New campuses open which expand high quality seats to younger students; Schools maintain a high enrollment of educationally disadvantaged populations while serving new grade levels (64% low income, 18% special education); Schools maintain strong fiscal health during expansion; Schools maintain high level of retention of effective teachers (92%); Schools make incremental growth in student retention (85% in Yr. 5); Improve student achievement in English language arts and math (7% over host District proficiency on state tests); Schools make incremental growth in high school graduation (85% in Yr. 5) and college matriculation and maintain high levels of college persistence (86% of alumni returning for the second year of college) and graduation (37% of alumni will graduate college in six years). Additionally, an outcome of our project will be the completion of an external evaluation report which that will contribute to the knowledge on school replication and adapting core elements of a school model during expansion or replication. Specifically, it will contribute to the knowledge on the growth mindset (at Freire, this is the Power of Yet).

BtF is requesting a CSP grant of \$3,750,000 to support the two new campuses and related growth expenses at the CMO level.