



Abstract Narrative

Applicant Information

Name and Address: Aspire Public Schools, 1001 22nd Ave., Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94606

Project Title: Replication and Expansion of Aspire Public Schools' Charter Schools in CA

Responding To: Absolute Priority 2 - Low Income Demographic, Competitive Priority 1 and 3

Project Request: \$9,035,000

Project Director: Jeanine Hawk

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Aspire Public Schools' mission is to open and operate small, high-quality charter schools in low-income neighborhoods, in order to increase the academic performance of underserved students; develop effective educators; share successful practices with other forward-thinking educators; and catalyze change in public schools. Now in its 20th year, Aspire serves 17,000 students in grades TK-12 in 40 schools across California and Memphis, Tennessee and continually serves disproportionately large numbers of educationally disadvantaged (ED) students, with a track record of out-performing neighboring public school districts on State Assessments.

Aspire's Charter Schools Program grant request of \$9,035,000 includes funding for six replication schools and five expansion schools in its existing California regions, ultimately increasing enrollment by 4,000 scholars, a 24% increase:

- In California's Central Valley, Aspire seeks to replicate three schools (two K-5 and one 6-12) and expand an existing K-5 campus to increase enrollment by 1,525 in the region.
- In Los Angeles, Aspire seeks to replicate two 6-12 schools and expand a 6-8 school to increase enrollment by 1,290 in the region.
- In the Bay Area, Aspire seeks to replicate one 9-12 school and expand three K-5 schools to increase enrollment by 1,185.

This project has six objective categories with performance measures we will be assessing over the five year grant period. Those categories are: 1) Increase the number of students who have access to our schools, 2) Provide a high-quality educational program for those students, 3) Continue to serve ED (specifically, low-income students, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners), 4) Increase the college readiness of all of our scholars, 5) Increase our college matriculation rates, and 6) Increase the number of our scholars who are successful in their postsecondary careers.

Expected Outcome: Aspire's expansion under this project will result in 4,000 more California scholars with increased access to a high-quality education, and will ensure that more Aspire scholars graduate from four year colleges on-time, with little to no debt, and find success in career and life.