ABSTRACT NARRATIVE

Democracy Prep Public Schools has an extensive track record of driving educational outcomes and narrowing achievement gaps for high-need students in some of America’s most underserved communities — Harlem and the South Bronx in New York City; Camden, NJ; Southeast Washington D.C.; and North Baton Rouge, LA. After receiving a 2012 CSP grant, DPPS successfully scaled our model to reach our goal of providing a high-quality education to nearly 5,000 students in educationally disadvantaged neighborhoods. As DPPS has expanded from four classrooms to four states, two independent evaluations have found the impact of attending a DPPS school to be “enormous” and “large by any standard in education research.”

Through Replicating and Expanding the Democracy Prep DREAM to Educate Over 11,000 Students, DPPS will open at least 5,000 additional seats for high-need students in 16 schools nationwide, raising total network-wide enrollment to over 11,000 by the end of the project period. These seats will be located in both new and existing regions in which demand for high-quality schools continues to outstrip supply and will derive from newly authorized fresh-start schools, turnarounds of failing schools, and acquisitions of schools that lack the capacity to continue operating without a network support infrastructure. This project, which addresses Absolute Priorities 1 and 2, Competitive Priorities 1(B) and 2, and the Invitational Priority, will expand access to quality seats for high-need K-12 students, expand practices that have yielded substantial improvements in student achievement for high-need students, and result in the creation of schools that maintain high standards of instructional and operational excellence.

Having proven capable of efficiently replicating our program in a variety of high-need settings without compromising our impact, DPPS is well-positioned to implement a project that will address a challenge for which proven scalable solutions are urgently needed.