

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.