Grimmway Schools

Applicable Priorities: AP2; CPP1, CPP2, CPP3.

Project Objective: Close the achievement gap for a larger number of Kern County, CA students by providing an environment for student excellence, health and well-being.

Project Description/Activities: Located in California’s agricultural heartland in Kern County, Grimmway Schools (Grimmway) is a small, growing CMO that currently serves more than 1,400 students in K-8 at Grimmway Academy Arvin (GAA) and Grimmway Academy Shafter (GAS), two of just six site-based charter schools in the 8,000 square mile County. Our students are 85% socioeconomically disadvantaged, 35% English Learners, 8% Special Education students and 92% Hispanic/Latino. By most measures, our students are outperforming local District, County and State peers; demand for our expansion of our operations is high. Grimmway will use CSP funds to expand its successful model by adding grades 7-8 to GAS, and replicate with Grimmway Academy High School (GAHS), and Grimmway Academy #3 (GA3, K-8), adding 1,630 new seats during the grant term. A highly qualified, diverse staff will deliver rigorous, personalized curriculum and Multi-Tiered System of Supports along with our Edible Schoolyard program, operating with fidelity at each school.

Project Outcomes: Our goals are to: Increase the number of high-quality K-12 charter school seats that prepare Kern County students for success in college, career, and life; and to build network capacity and systems to ensure sustainability, quality, and fidelity to the model as network grows. Bellwether Education Partners will conduct a thorough, multi-year independent evaluation. Detailed objectives and performance measures will help guide our work.

Highlights of Project Features: Grimmway’s Edible Schoolyard program; personalized learning with ILPs for every student; and high school plans for CTE pathways featuring dual enrollment college courses along with work-based learning opportunities.