

FY 2020 Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)—  
Grants to Charter School Developers for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality  
Charter Schools (CFDA Number: 84.282E)  
Project Abstract

## Soaring Heights Charter School

**State:**

New Jersey

**PR Award Number:**

S282E200003

**Duration (Years):** 5**Year 1 Funding:**

\$299,947.00

**Total Expected Funding:**

\$1,494,981.00

**Soaring Heights Charter School:**

1 Romar Avenue  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

**Project Director (PD):**

Richard Pressler

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**Project Objectives and Activities**

The Soaring Heights Charter School Expansion Project has one overarching goal with four related objectives:

- Goal: Increase opportunities for Jersey City students to attend a high-quality public charter school by doubling the school's enrollment to 500 students while maintaining the excellence of its program and the high levels of student academic achievement.
- *Objective 1:* Build capacity of faculty and staff to meet the needs of a larger student body—in advance of expansion.
- *Objective 2:* Secure a new, larger facility that meets the needs of students and staff for a safe, secure, and joyful school environment.
- *Objective 3:* Maintain the positive school culture that has led to strong retention of students and staff, as well as academic excellence.
- *Objective 4:* Secure the long term sustainability of the school through careful planning and use of resources.

**Activities**

The school will accomplish this through several key activities:

- Complete the codification and development of the school's comprehensive teacher development program.
  - Recruit, hire, train, and mentor new teachers for at least a full year before assigning them their own classrooms in the expanded school.
  - Work with the Jersey City Redevelopment Authority, local officials, and developers to secure a new site in the redevelopment project located in an Opportunity Zone on Garfield Avenue.
- Develop a communications plan to effectively engage the Jersey City community in the development of the school's new site and to recruit additional students who represent the diversity of the entire city.
  - Equip and furnish the new site by June, 2022, to secure all approvals in preparation for occupancy in September, 2022.
  - Facilitate the transition to the new site during the summer of July – August, 2022.
  - Celebrate the new home of Soaring Heights Charter School!

**Proposed Project Outcomes**

The ultimate outcome of the Soaring Height Charter School Expansion Project is to replicate the school's current high level of academic achievement for the expanded school's 500 students (grades Pre-K through 8)—nearly twice the number the school currently serves. Because the school serves approximately 50% educationally or economically disadvantaged students, this will have a significant impact on broader efforts to ensure equitable access to a free, high-quality public school education for all Jersey City students.

A secondary outcome may result from broader impacts on educational practices, throughout New Jersey and beyond, through the codification and dissemination of the school's practices in the areas of teacher development and student support.