



COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

IDAHO'S CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM GRANT



APPLICATION DETAILS

School Name: Compass Public Charter School	
Contact Person: Kelly Trudeau	Contact Email: ktrudeau@compasscharter.org
Application Type: Expansion	Grant Budget: \$787,526
Grades Served: K – 12 th	New Seats Created: 319
Application Status: Funded	

RUBRIC

<p>A. Grant Project Goals <i>Identify</i> 3-5 grant project goals and <i>justify</i> each goal in terms of its value in supporting the planning and implementation of your proposed school. <i>All grant spending, including future revisions to your budget, must fit clearly within one of your stated project goals.</i></p>	
<p>Reviewer Comments – Grant Project Goals</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really strong goals that are clearly articulated with trackable and measurable outcomes. • Clear alignment among grant project goals and overall mission and goals of school. • Goals are well explained and support the planning and implementation of expansion. <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant measures and metrics were not specifically identified for targeted student populations. 	
<p>B. Educational Philosophy, Instructional Practices, and Curriculum Fully <i>describe and justify</i> the design of the academic program in terms of the educational philosophy, instructional practices, and curriculum that will be utilized to meet the school’s performance objectives. Be sure to include key design elements, references supporting its validity and alignment to state and federal requirements, and rationale for why this education model was chosen and how it will produce strong outcomes for the unique community and student population the school will be located within.</p>	
<p>Reviewer Comments - Educational Philosophy, Instructional Practices, and Curriculum</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong justification for key design elements for the educational model. • Strong evidence regarding curricular choices and use of published research or data-based anecdotal evidence about previous implementation with similar student demographic. • Strong demonstration regarding how technology will be utilized within school's instructional delivery and assessment. • Well-thought out school culture and classroom design. <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate evidence for how the plan for each content area meets or exceeds state and Fed requirements in ELA and Math. • Moderate evidence on how key elements have been chosen to utilize autonomies and flexibilities granted to charter schools. • No evidence of correlation between research and projected school demographic. • While there is a clear plan in place to provide technology for students and teachers, the narrative fails to show how this tech plan addresses assessment needs and how the plan connects to the education model. In addition, the applicant did not justify how key elements have been chosen to utilize the autonomy and flexibility granted to charter schools. 	

C. Teaching and Learning

Fully *describe and justify* the design of the instructional strategy in terms of the educational philosophy, instructional practices, and curriculum that will be utilized to meet the school’s performance objectives. Be sure to include key design elements, references supporting its validity and alignment to state and federal requirements, and rationale for why this strategy was chosen and how it will produce strong outcomes for the unique community and student population the school will serve.

Reviewer Comments – Teaching and Learning

Strengths:

- Strong evidence for how teachers will use a range of data and varied instructional strategies to support individual learners.
- An MTSS Director is noted as a critical piece in the plan to support teachers and students.

D. Student Academic Achievement Standards

As an independently governed public school, charter schools need to ensure plans, systems, and tools for strong oversight and monitoring in the areas of academic performance. In this section, persuade the reader that your school will have rigorous goals and adequate oversight to ensure quality implementation, operation, and accountability.

Reviewer Comments – Student Academic Achievement Standards

Strengths:

- Strong evidence of a broad and thorough Performance Management plan exists for monitoring and reporting progress towards performance goals.
- Strong evidence for a culture of data driven instruction.

E. Student Demand and Community/Local Support

Schools funded under the CSP subgrant must ensure they are in tune with their communities’ needs and priorities. In this section schools will document their vitality and long-term sustainability through demonstrating their dedication to developing and maintaining community partnerships and connections.

Reviewer Comments – Student Demand and Community/Local Support

Strengths:

- As an expansion project, this applicant has many strong practices in place to meet student demand and community support.

Weaknesses:

- Moderate evidence of community demand and - need. most components strong but limited direct outreach to educationally disadvantaged students.
- Moderate evidence of planning effort to engage current and prospective families and community.
- Applicant did not provide specific strategies for recruiting educationally at-risk, diverse, and under-served families. Due to consistently high applications for the lottery; the school states they "haven't specifically marketed our program. We do provide informational meetings and tours to those interested in our school" (p. 13). While wait-list data was provided, it was not broken down into projections for each category of educationally disadvantaged students. Finally, the applicant includes information about the existing Parent Connections Committee, but no sound strategy to engage interest of new parents, community members, local partners, and political support of the expansion.

F. Effectively Serving All Students

Charter schools are obligated to take specific actions to ensure an open, fair, non-selective method of attracting and enrolling students, and all charter schools need to be ready to serve the group of students that choose to attend. In this section, describe your plan to offer a continuum of services for all types of students, including those that are educationally disadvantaged (such as low-income, special education, English learners, homeless, migrant and other at-risk students) and gifted and talented.

Reviewer Comments – Effectively Serving All Students

Strengths:

- Strong evidence regarding plan to meet student nutritional and transportation needs.
- High expectations are clearly in place for all students.

Weaknesses:

- Limited evidence re how schools was going to specifically target interventions for educationally disadvantaged students.
- Moderate evidence for supporting students with disabilities.
- While most indicators for criteria 1 and 2 were met, the same indicator ("the needs of the school's current and/or prospective students with disabilities are understood") was not addressed in both. For the last criteria, the application lacked an explanation of how the transportation plan addresses the needs of disadvantaged students.

G. Staffing and Professional Development Plan

Describe the approach to staffing, inclusive of ratios, positions, etc. required for effective implementation of the chosen education model. Further, describe the process in which all staff will be supported in their ongoing professional development.

Reviewer Comments – Staffing and Professional Development Plan

Strengths:

- Strong evidence of school's approach to staffing.
- Strong evidence of school's plan for staff development, evaluation and retention.
- Staff development and evaluation are clearly explained.

Weaknesses:

- The staffing structure was well-outlined, but only included information that seemed to be for the current institution, not for the expansion. The narrative includes basic steps to staffing, such as an interview and observation; however, does not articulate how these steps will ensure staff to achieve the school's growth plan.

H. Financial Management and Monitoring Plan

As independently governed public schools, charters are fully responsible for ensuring quality financial management practices and ongoing financial stability. In this section, explain your school's plan to be compliant, strategic, and responsible with finances and business services.

Reviewer Comments – Financial Management and Monitoring Plan

Strengths:

- Strong evidence that school has financial and operational capability.
- Strong evidence of well conceived facilities plan.
- Budget contains sufficient resources to carry out the strategies and programs for educationally disadvantaged schools.

I. Board Capacity and Governance Structure

A competent, trained governing board is essential to the success of a public charter school. In this section the school will demonstrate how it has developed a strong governing board with a diverse set of skills. Board members should understand their roles and responsibilities and have in place a transition plan and ongoing professional develop to maintain board strength going forward.

Reviewer Comments – Board Capacity and Governance Structure

Strengths:

- Clear policies in place at board level to guide oversight of school.
- Moderate evidence of board's continued PD.
- Composition and selection process for the governing board is well justified.

Weaknesses:

- Limited evidence regarding board composition and selection process.
- While there is an organizational flow chart in the supplemental documents, the narrative lacked a clear explanation of how the board ensures they remain at the governance level of leadership not the school management level of operations. Board professional development and evaluation was not articulated.

J. School Leadership and Management

This section should describe the intended leadership structure of your school and demonstrate a strong leadership and staffing plan that ensures high-quality implementation and sustainability of the school.

Reviewer Comments – School Leadership and Management

Strengths:

- Strong evidence that leadership roles are well defined and comprehensive and cover broad set of responsibilities.
- Strong evidence school demonstrates sufficient leadership to sustain expansion.
- Sufficient leadership and governance capability is demonstrated.

Weaknesses:

- At the end of the narrative, it is noted that the board has adopted and follows a comprehensive process to evaluate the performance of school leadership, as outlined in Policy #5285 and #5285P, neither of which were included in the supplemental documents.

Overall comments

Reviewer Comments

- While the application is strong, there were several gaps; particularly with meeting the needs of all types of students and families.