

Planning Grant Proposal

Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) seeks to develop and implement sustainable strategies to ensure that all students, especially those currently zoned for or attending schools in high-need areas, have access to a highly effective education. The district's goal is to collaborate with a proven Charter Management Organization to deliver a world class education that allows HCPS to further its vision to *Prepare Students for Life*. To this end, HCPS seeks a planning grant in the amount of \$10,000 to develop a solid foundation for attaining this ambitious goal.

The District-Charter Collaborative Compact opportunity comes at a crucial moment for HCPS. The district's recently appointed Superintendent has restructured his leadership team to drive HCPS through 21st century innovations in education and opportunity for our neediest students. In fact, the newly identified Area Superintendent of Priority Schools will implement innovative school improvement initiatives with 8-10 schools with a priority designation. Additionally, the Superintendent elevated the charter school office to now report directly to him. These reorganization strategies signal, to both internal and external stakeholders, a laser-like focus on our lowest performing schools, with charter schools as a potential mechanism for augmenting district, school, and student performance.

Rather than working independently, as has been the case in the past, the Charter School Office is now positioned to engage the Priority Schools department in collaborative efforts to drive school improvement. The planning grant will provide the mechanism for this important work—and this new partnership—to commence. Representatives from both departments will be joined by key personnel from Curriculum & Instruction and Facilities to create the **Augmenting Choices in Education (ACE)** Planning Team. The team will utilize planning grant funds to carry out two key activities:

- Conduct site visits of successful in-state and out-of-state charter management organizations;
- Capitalize on the gathering of those at the forefront of charter school quality by attending the National Association of Charter School Authorizers to be held in Denver in October 2015.

While attending the conference, team members will gain insight from discussions with operators, other authorizers, and other stakeholders in the portfolio strategies atmosphere to inform the district's plans for the future. In addition to attending the conference, members of the Planning Team will engage in knowledge transfer with Denver Public Schools to discern best practices in authorizing, and discuss their ongoing collaboration with charter schools which was established through their District-Charter Compact in 2010. Additional site visits to Jacksonville, Florida, and Indianapolis, Indiana will occur. Discussions will revolve around providing high-impact, quality education to low-income, high-need students through a partnership with a high functioning Charter Management Organization. The ACE Planning Team will utilize lessons learned from these activities to construct a comprehensive plan to support the development of sustainable strategies for innovative authorizing, knowledge transfer,

facilities support, and resource equity that will better position the district to compete for the District-Charter Collaborative Compact grant.

In order to carry out these activities, HCPS proposes the following budget:

Budget Narrative	Grant Funds
TRAVEL	
Out of County/Mileage @ \$.42/Mile	
<u>Visit KIPP charter school in Jacksonville, FL - (\$180)</u> (4) Members of Planning Team to visit KIPP Charter School in Jacksonville, FL, (\$180) Round trip, 430/miles x \$.42/mile	180
TRAVEL	
Out of County	
<u>(2) Members of Planning Team to attend National Association of Charter Schools Conference, Denver, CO - (\$4,280)</u> Registration,(\$500)/ea, R/T Airfare (\$450)/ea; Hotel, 4 Nights @ \$250/Night (\$1,000)/ea; Meals, 4 Days @ \$30/Day (\$120)/ea; Miscellaneous Expense (\$70)/ea	4,280
<u>(2) Members of Planning Team to visit Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO - (\$560)</u> Hotel, 1 Night @ \$250/Night (\$250)/ea Meals, 1 Day @ \$30/Day (\$30)/ea	560
<u>(6) Members of Planning Team to visit Lighthouse Academies, Inc., Indianapolis, IN - (\$4,980)</u> R/T Airfare (\$450)/ea; Hotel, 2 Nights @ \$125/Night/(2) Per Room, (\$250)/ea; Meals, 2 Days @ \$30/Day (\$60)/ea; Miscellaneous Expense (\$70)/ea	4,980
Total Travel	10,000