



COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

IDAHO'S CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM GRANT



APPLICATION DETAILS

School Name: Forge International School	
Contact Person: Keith Donahue	Contact Email: keith.donahue@sageinternationalschool.org
Application Type: Replication	Grant Budget: \$800,000
Grades Served: K – 12 th	New Seats Created: 653
Application Status: Funded	

RUBRIC

A. Grant Project Goals

Identify 3-5 grant project goals and **justify** each goal in terms of its value in supporting the planning and implementation of your proposed school. **All grant spending, including future revisions to your budget, must fit clearly within one of your stated project goals.**

Reviewer Comments – Grant Project Goals

Strengths:

- Each grant project goal is a quality goal and set of goals fulfill minimum content requirements.
- Clear alignment among grant project goals and the overall mission of the the school.
- Goals are clearly articulated and explained.

Weaknesses:

- There are no clearly identified goal metrics that are trackable.

B. Educational Philosophy, Instructional Practices, and Curriculum

Fully **describe and justify** 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.

Reviewer Comments - Educational Philosophy, Instructional Practices, and Curriculum

Strengths:

- Explains key design elements for education model (IB).
- Justifies core academic curriculum for each content area.
- Justifies curricular resources through use of published research and anecdotal evidence.
- Identifies how technology will be used (1:1, digital portfolios).
- Justifies how key elements have been chosen to utilize autonomies and flexibilities granted to charter.
- The IB model is outlined in detail; this educational design is connected to the institution's instructional practices and curriculum.

Weaknesses:

- There is a lack of evidence around the educational philosophy, instructional practices, and curriculum and how, together, these will meet the needs of the school's anticipated demographics.



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:**

- Evidence that demonstrates how they will use a range of data to support individual learners.
- Curriculum presented was detailed and consistent with the proposed IB program.

Weaknesses:

- No specific RTI.
- There is a lack of evidence regarding how teachers will use data to drive and differentiate instruction, as well as how they will use data to respond to needs of individual 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:**

- Thorough performance management plan exists.
- Strong culture of data driven instruction - leveraging technology.
- Strong evidence points towards a solid performance management plan for monitoring and reporting progress toward performance goals.

Weaknesses:

- While there is strong evidence of plans to meet student academic achievement standards, there is only moderate evidence as to how this data will be utilized to inform policy and management decisions.

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:**

- Demonstrated community need and demand is strong.
- Demonstrates significant planning and effort to meaningfully engage current and prospective families and community members in the implementation and operation of school.

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:**

- Moderately demonstrates school's programs, intervention, and plans to support educationally disadvantaged students and students with disabilities.
- Demonstrates ability to meet nutritional needs and transportation of all populations.

Weaknesses:

- Does not address staff training.
- While there is staffing for disadvantaged and special education students, there is a lack of analysis regarding the school's plan for programs, interventions, and support for this 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:**

- Demonstrates summary of school's approach to staffing and provides summary of school's plan for all development, evaluation and retention.

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:**

- Demonstrates financial and operational capacity.
- Demonstrates strong facilities plan.
- Budget has sufficient resources to carry out programs.



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 development to maintain board strength going forward.

Reviewer Comments – Board Capacity and Governance Structure**Strengths:**

- Demonstrates strong board composition and selection process for governing board.
- Establishes clear policies that guide oversight of school.
- Demonstrates board ability to do ongoing professional development.

Weaknesses:

- Further explanation of how the board plans to ensure they remain at the governance level of leadership would have been informative.

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:**

- Demonstrates leadership team clarity of leadership team and administrative roles.
- Demonstrates strong capacity and capability of leadership team.
- There is strong evidence regarding school governance structure.

Weaknesses:

- There is evidence of a comprehensive process that will be used by the board to evaluate the performance of school leadership; however, the plan itself lacked cohesiveness. The narrative indicates that the Board will evaluate the executive director, but failed to include any further explanation.

Overall comments**Reviewer Comments**

- The application was very strong, providing adequate evidence for all criteria and nearly every sub-indicator.