



COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

IDAHO'S CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM GRANT



APPLICATION DETAILS

School Name: White Pine Charter School, Inc.	
Contact Person: Jeremy Clarke	Contact Email: clarkeje@wpcscougars.org
Application Type: Expansion	Grant Budget: \$800,000
Grades Served: K – 12 th	New Seats Created: 354
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 project goal is a quality goal and the goals set meeting the minimum requirement.
- Clear alignment among grant project goals and overall mission and goals of the school.
- Goals fulfilled the minimum content requirements and beyond. There is a clear, strong alignment among grant project goals and the overall mission and goals of the school.

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:

- Moderate evidence of key design elements for educational model.
- Strong justification of the core academic curriculum for each content area.
- Moderate justification of curricular choices through the previous implementation (no research backing).
- Clear identification of . how they will use technology.
- Clearly justifies how elements have been chosen to utilize autonomies.
- Academic program design appears to meet the objectives of the proposed school expansion.

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 explanation of how teachers will use a range of data and varied instructional strategies to support individual learners. (RTI approach was very strong.)
- This section included strong explanations as to how the school will use data to support all students and the specific intervention tools that will assist in this support.

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 performance management program and strong monitoring plan.
- Very strong evidence of data driven instruction.
- There is a broad and thorough performance management plan.

Weaknesses:

- It was unclear as to how data will be utilized to inform instruction, as well as 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:**

- Strong demonstration of community demand for model.
- VERY strong plan to engage families and community members in the implementation of the school.
- The expansion plan is in tune with the community's needs and priorities.

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:**

- VERY strong design of school's program, interventions, and plans to support educationally disadvantaged students and students with special needs (most thoughtful I reviewed).
- Evidence of nutrition and transportation plan.
- There is a clear plan to provide a continuum of services for all types of 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 approach to staffing and strong plan for staff 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:**

- Demonstration of strong operational and financial capability to implement activities.
- Evidence of strong facility plan.
- Budget contains sufficient resources to carry out strategies and programs for educationally disadvantaged and at-risk youth.
- The school demonstrates the capacity to manage the implementation of the expansion plan.

Weaknesses:

- The narratives did not specifically mention how the budget is used to invest in value-added activity to accelerate learning for educationally disadvantaged and at-risk youth, nor how the school may mitigate the risks associated with enrollment.

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:**

- Strong board composition and strong selection process.
- Clear policies that guide oversight of school.
- Strong plan for continued board development.

Weaknesses:

- While the evidence for board capacity and governance structure is strong, there was little detail regarding how the board will ensure they remain at a governance level of leadership (besides the mention of general separation of board and administrator duties).

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

Overall comments

Reviewer Comments

- This application was thorough and detailed; addressing all criteria and nearly all sub-indicators.