

Executive Summary for KIPP Chicago CPS New Schools Application

School Names and Types: KIPP #4 Charter School (K-8), KIPP #5 Charter School (K-8), and KIPP Primary Expansion Charter School (K-4)

Mission and Vision: KIPP Chicago's mission is to create a network of excellent schools in Chicago to empower students from underserved communities with the character strengths and academic skills necessary to succeed in top-quality high schools and universities, to be happy in the competitive world, and to have a positive impact on their communities. When a student enrolls at a KIPP school, he or she becomes part of a community that has a relentless focus on college completion. To ensure our students' success to and through college, we have the comprehensive KIPP Through College program, which provides ongoing support through college graduation. Ultimately, we believe that in order to increase neighborhood prosperity, communities need more college-educated adults who choose to serve others, improve the lives of those around them, and increase economic mobility. Our vision is that, one day, all public schools will help children develop the knowledge, skills, character, and habits necessary to achieve their dreams while making the world a better place.

Educational Philosophy, Model and School Culture: Our philosophy and school culture is built on five core pillars: (1) *High Expectations*: KIPP schools have clearly defined, measurable, high expectations for academic achievement and conduct, and support *all* students to reach those expectations; (2) *Choice and Commitment*: Students, parents and faculty all *choose* to be part of KIPP because of our shared belief in every single child; (3) *More Time*: With an extended school day and year, students have more time in the classroom to prepare for competitive high schools and colleges, as well as more opportunities to engage in diverse enrichment experiences; (4) *Power to Lead*: We value the entrepreneurial spirit of our principals and teachers, and give them the authority and flexibility to make key decisions about staffing, curriculum, and instruction to best meet the needs of their unique communities; (5) *Focus on Results*: KIPP schools relentlessly focus on college completion as the ultimate measure of our success, and engage in a cycle of continuous learning and improvement. Our model utilizes personalized learning strategies and dual-purpose lessons that illuminate critical character strengths—grit, curiosity, optimism, zest, self-control, social intelligence, and gratitude—that correlate with success in college and life. We use vast amounts of data—at the school, classroom, and student level—to help analyze, impact and drive student learning, with a laser-like focus on objective measures of academic growth. We are warm and demanding, believing that students learn best when they are engaged in fun and joyful classrooms, rooted in celebrations of success. We hold fundamental beliefs that (1) effective communication resolves problems, and (2) mistakes are opportunities to learn.

Demonstrated Capacity: KIPP Chicago demonstrates exemplary academic achievement compared to other schools that (i) serve high African American student populations, (ii) serve a high proportion of students who qualify for free or reduced price meals, (iii) operate in the neighborhoods KIPP Chicago currently serves. We currently operate three schools in the neighborhoods of Austin, North Lawndale, and Englewood—each of which is demonstrative of our capacity to open and manage schools that drive both short and long term success for students in the target population:

Demonstrated student achievement growth: At its August 2014 Board Meeting, CPS singled out KIPP Chicago as the network of schools (charter or otherwise) with the highest student growth on the NWEA MAP assessment in both math and reading in the district.

Demonstrated school quality: KIPP Chicago is the only network of schools in the district with *all* campuses earning SQRP level 1 and 1+ ratings. Within Austin, North Lawndale, and Englewood, no other charter schools, and only 2 of 37 district schools, have earned a level 1+ (compared with 2 out

of 3 KIPP schools). In both Austin and North Lawndale, KIPP operates the only level 1+ elementary school.

Demonstrated long term results: 91% of KIPP Chicago alumni have graduated from high school and 88% have matriculated to college, far surpassing local norms. Nationally, 44% of KIPP alumni who completed eighth grade have gone on to earn a four-year degree, and an additional 5.5% have earned a two-year degree. This exceeds the national college attainment rate for all students (29%), and is over four times the rate for students from low-income families (8%).

Communities and Rationale: We are proposing the expansion of an existing KIPP middle school to serve primary grades (K-4) in Austin/West Garfield Park or Englewood and two new K-8 schools. We have not yet finalized the communities that these proposed new schools will serve, but are considering Bronzeville (Grand Boulevard and Kenwood), Woodlawn, Roseland, or Chicago Lawn. Our rationale for choosing these communities included an analysis of demographic data and school options. Among the data we reviewed were community demographics, history, population trends, current school ratings (to help determine the need for high-quality seats), current utilization of seats in existing schools, and the percentage of students not attending their neighborhood schools (as an indicator of families wanting additional options in their communities). We have also completed a comprehensive facilities search with IFF (formerly the Illinois Facilities Fund) to surface independent sites as well as co-share options with existing, underutilized CPS buildings (which we prefer).

Parent and Community Engagement: During planning, we spoke with parents of 175 KIPP Chicago students who reside on the South Side—specifically those in greater Bronzeville, Woodlawn, Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, New City, and Auburn-Gresham. The focus of these conversations was to better understand families' desire for KIPP's expansion, their willingness to demonstrate support, and their understanding of community priorities on the ground. We also asked about community stakeholders with whom we must connect before moving forward. As we collect feedback throughout conversations with these leaders, aldermanic meetings and facility visits, and undertake deep community engagement (specifically during the NAC process) we will further determine community fit for each school and refine recruitment boundaries as appropriate. Along with facility cost and availability, community engagement will be the primary determining factor in our ultimate community and site selection—we believe in locating sites where families have demonstrated a desire and strong support for our school model.

KIPP Primary Expansion (K-4): Currently, KIPP Chicago has two high-performing middle schools that do not yet have primary grades (KIPP Create in Austin and KIPP Bloom in Englewood). Within the Austin area, recruitment boundaries are W. Augusta Blvd., N. Pulaski Rd., W. Madison St., and N. Central Ave; these boundaries include the neighborhood of West Garfield Park in addition to Austin. Within the Englewood area, our proposed recruitment boundaries are W. Garfield Blvd., the Dan Ryan Expressway (and following south along the train line that distinguishes the boundary between Englewood and Greater Grand Crossing), W. 71st St., and S. Racine Ave.

KIPP #4 (K-8) and KIPP #5 (K-8): We hope to locate KIPP #4 and KIPP #5 on Chicago's South Side. Within Bronzeville, we have identified potential facilities in Grand Boulevard and Kenwood. The proposed recruitment boundaries for that option are E. 43rd St., S. Dorchester, E. 51st St., and S. State. In Woodlawn, proposed recruitment boundaries are E. 59th St., S. Stoney Island Ave., E. 71st St., and I-90 (the Skyway). In Chicago Lawn, recruitment boundaries are W. 59th St., S. Western Ave., W. 71st St., and S. St. Louis Ave. In Roseland, recruitment boundaries are E. 103rd St., S. State St., E. 115th St., and I-57.