Executive Summary

**Name of Proposed School:** Destiny STREAM Academy for Girls Charter School

**Number and Type of Proposed School:** One, All girls Middle School grades 6-8) with a Science , Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math (STREAM) focus.

 Destiny STREAM Academy for Girls Charter School is focused on championing programs and initiatives that foster enthusiasm and empower girls to pursue a career in science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math fields of study. Students from underserved, low-socio economic backgrounds will have access to high-quality 21st century global-minded inquiry based instruction.

**Mission Rationale**

Recognizing that an achievement and participation gap exists between female and male students in science-related disciplines; that women are underrepresented in science-related fields and careers, world-wide; that a single-gender middle school increases the diversity of Chicago’s public educational offering, and that research shows that an all-girls school has a significant impact on the academic achievement and self-confidence of young women. We need students who can do more than ***answer*** questions; today’s complex world requires that our next generation of leaders be able to ***raise*** questions. (Disruptive Thinking, Beers and Probst, p22.)

**Mission**

Destiny STREAM Academy for Girls (DSAG) will provide a highly rigorous global minded, inquiry based STREAM- focused education in an all-girls inclusive environment that fosters principled action, academic excellence, ethical leadership, and intellectual curiosity.

**Vision**

 Through a highly rigorous curriculum, the DESTINY STREAM Academy for Girls Charter School (DSAG) will provide middle-school aged girls with a clear pathway to high school Honors and Advanced Placement classes of science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math. Girls will graduate from Destiny STREAM (DSAG) and enter high school as principled risk-takers with a strong, confident, and independent voice, which fosters collaborative communication that balances their compassionate leadership and thinking skills, that inquire about the world with a sense of self agency and community action.

**Philosophy**

The educational philosophy of Destiny STREAM Academy for Girls Charter School is that of a learning laboratory incorporating inquiry-based, place-based, and project-based learning experiences with a strong emphasis on the processes of science, technology, reading, engineering, arts and math. Our female scholars will be active learners, working on their projects in an all-girls learning environment. They will be guided and nurtured by a staff that shares the vision and mission of our school as well as parent and community stakeholders.

The ENTIRE Design Team is comprised of individuals who serve or have extensive backgrounds as a Curriculum Coordinator, Literacy/ELA Teacher, International Baccalaureate Coordinator, School Counselor, Diverse Learner Support Service Provider, Director of After School Programs, Instructional Coach and an Adjunct Professor; all of whom are currently employed with Chicago Public Schools or a Charter School- experience that very few Charter School Design Teams have. Together with a Board of Directors that is comprised of a former Charter School Principal, now small business owner (in proposed neighborhood), a veteran real estate professional, and a successful entrepreneur, the Design Team is extremely confident in its ability to open and manage a high quality school. We are certain that our model will create successful lifelong learners by recognizing that not all girls will pursue STEM careers; however, the value of STEM skills extends beyond STEM careers. Therefore, the strategies and activities presented in this guide provide an opportunity for girls to develop habits of mind, skills, and awareness of the many opportunities they could pursue.

When deciding on a community that would serve as home to our school, we exercised our due-diligence by researching communities that would BEST benefit from our proposed instructional model. In addition, we made a conscious effort to avoid opening in a neighborhood that is currently “saturated” with existing charter schools. Using a variety of databases, we examined poverty rates, neighborhood school report cards, racial, ethnic and crime statistics. After much discussion, we decided on opening Destiny STREAM Academy for Girls Charter School in the South Chicago neighborhood with its borders being 79th Street to the North, 95th Street to the South; with South Chicago (Skyway) as its nucleus. Several Design Team Members have close ties with that community, being natives and having immediate relatives who still reside there.

This area is currently undergoing a massive improvement, and though there has been economic growth and development, progress is slow. It is a widely known fact that great schools build great neighborhoods. Historically, a high-quality instructional programs is always an advantage that most homebuyers/renters with school-age children look for. We aim to build a better South Chicago community by providing excellence in educating the “total adolescent girl”.

The Design Team Members will gather community support by attending weekly scheduled meetings in Aldermen’s wards, visiting local churches, volunteering to perform any community service events, gather signatures, hand out flyers in neighborhood businesses as well as weekly “Corner Campaigns” where we will walk the neighborhoods and gather support on the corners.