

Appendix 6.1 Management Organizations (MOs)

Applicants who are proposing to enter into a contract with an MO are required to respond to the questions in this section.

Domain 6: Management Organizations (MOs) assesses whether the proposal provide a plan and evidence for how the MO will contribute to the overall success of the school with appropriate oversight structures in place.

1. Discuss the criteria and review process that the design team used to select the MO and the due diligence that the applicant conducted on the MO prior to submission of the proposal. How will the MO help further the mission, vision, and goals of the proposed school(s)?

When the Project Simeon 2000 team committed to opening an alternative charter middle school that would serve black and brown boys on the Chicago south side, we knew that we wanted to be closely affiliated, if not a part of, Youth Connection Charter School. The reasons for pursuing this partnership were clear: (1) YCCS has the history and the experience as a charter school that not only governs, provides oversight and manages the performance of multiple small community-based alternative school high school campuses serving the same demographics as the slightly younger students that we plan to serve, but also provides a menu of services, including research-based professional development, coaching, evaluation and school improvement resources that are delivered to its campuses; (2) YCCS demonstrates the best practices of engaging and successfully graduating disconnected, high risk and vulnerable youth. Visitors come to visit YCCS from across the country (Florida, Boston, Honolulu) and around the world (Chile, Denmark) to copy YCCS best practices; (3) YCCS has deservedly earned not only the reputation but the evidence of being a Level I high performing school, demonstrating the high level of proficiency of its governance, monitoring and management structure; (4) YCCS has community partners that provide wrap-around support to the campuses; (5) YCCS has demonstrated its fiscal and compliance accountability, as demonstrated by its high performance on the annual Chicago Public Schools fiscal and compliance score card; and (6) YCCS has the infrastructure to provide financial accountability support and reporting to CPS to ensure fiscal accountability. Moreover, YCCS and KEMET have very similar mission, vision and goals, with the only two significant differences: (1) YCCS serves at-risk high school students and KEMET will serve the same students but with interventions at a younger age; and (2) KEMET is designed as a single-gender academy.

The Project Simeon design team has looked at other middle school and alternative school partners and school management organizations and has not found the deep level and infrastructure of support that it finds to be available through Youth Connection Charter School. Without question the partnership with YCCS, in which YCCS provides selected educational services and back office support, will enhance the ability of the KEMET alternative middle school to succeed. Although YCCS serves high school aged students from age 16-21 and KEMET will serve students in grades 5-8, we see the connection as ideal, since the majority of students that YCCS serves at some point disconnected from their educational development, some as early as 4th grade. It is the same students that disconnected at 3rd or 4th grade that we expect to serve, and will benefit from many of the same educational interventions that YCCS has developed and perfected in their 18 years of existence.

2. Describe the scope of services that will be provided by the MO.

YCCS will be contracted with to provide a discrete set of educational and back office support services, with the primary areas of service being provided in the areas of Compliance & Financial Oversight (with YCCS acting as a fiscal sponsor, managing and disbursing KEMET funds as well as providing accounting and financial management and compliance oversight); Professional Development, School Improvement & Curriculum Design; Facility and Resource Development; Technology & Data Services; and Technical Assistance.

3. Discuss: Which decisions and services the MO will be responsible for:

The KEMET Board of Trustees and the KEMET Leadership will have all authority, responsibility, and decision-making power over their school. YCCS have a voice in the selection of the Principal. YCCS will be responsible for providing the following services:

COMPLIANCE & FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

- Fund disbursement (Fiscal sponsorship)
- Accounting & Financial Management (.5 FTE dedicated to KEMET)
- Human Resources Technical Assistance
- Contracting policy development
- Campus loans and advances (short term/ liquidate loan through quarterly deductions)
- Compliance training
- Compliance technical assistance
- Compliance monitoring and internal auditing
- Compliance auditing (external)
- Fiscal monitoring and oversight
- Fiscal reporting to ISBE and CPS – Quarterly & Annual

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT & CURRICULUM DESIGN SUPPORT

- Literacy Professional Development
- Key Train (career exploration) curriculum and support
- Curriculum development support : Teaching Competencies with CCSS embedded: PBL, Studios, Cross-Cutting Competencies and Curriculum
- Teaching with Competencies
- Teacher/staff evaluation system – technical assistance
- Quality School Evaluation
- School Improvement teams support
- Special Education Technical Assistance
- Communities of Practice
- New Principal Institute
- New Teacher Institute
- Circle of Courage (Peace Circles, Restorative Justice, Social-Emotional Learning)