

August 14, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Adam Miller, Executive Director
Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

FROM: Nikolai P. Vitti, Ed.D. Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools

RE: INTENT TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT CHARTER COLLABORATION GRANT

Please accept this memorandum as notification that Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) intends to apply for the District Charter Collaboration Grant and explore the scope of the application with the \$10,000 planning grant.

DCPS believes in educating all students and supporting them to reach their academic and civic potential, whether this occurs in traditional public schools or in a charter school. The community expects us to demand excellence at all schools. We believe this grant offers us the opportunity for the district to strengthen its relationship with a charter organization that has a proven track record of raising student achievement nationally, and most importantly, in Jacksonville. That charter organization is Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP). What separates KIPP from other charter operators is their commitment to serving at-risk youth coupled with their ability to show results.

When analyzing the most recent 2013-14 data, KIPP Impact Middle School indicates the following data in comparison to similar middle schools in the district:

School Name	3 Reading 3+	4 Reading 3+	Inge	3 Math 3+	4 Math 3+	Inge	3 Writing 3.5+	4 Writing 3.5+	Inge	3 Science 3+	4 Science 3+	Inge	3 Reading Gains	4 Reading Gains	Inge	3 Math Gains	4 Math Gains	Inge	3 BQ Rdg Gains	4 BQ Rdg Gains	Inge	3 BQ Math Gains	4 BQ Math Gains	Inge	3 MS Acceleration	4 MS Acceleration	Inge	3 Total Points	4 Total Points	Change	1	2	3 Grade	2014 Grade
Butler/Old Paxon	26	23	-3	24	30	6	34	41	7	13	19	6	55	50	-5	48	62	14	67	56	-11	57	65	8	84	91	7	408	437	29	D	D	F	F
Gilbert	31	29	-2	36	36	0	48	39	-9	15	26	11	61	52	-9	58	63	5	76	60	-16	61	62	1	90	96	6	476	463	-13	C	D	D	D
Northwestern	28	25	-3	39	34	-5	41	34	-7	16	18	2	66	48	-18	66	58	-8	70	61	-9	63	57	-6	91	99	8	480	434	-46	D	F	D	F
KIPP Impact	37	38	1	42	52	10	55	55	0	47	36	-11	55	62	7	50	76	26	72	81	9	49	76	27	93	93	0	407	569	162	F	B	C (D)	B

The chart indicates the following:

- KIPP outperformed all neighboring middle schools in reading proficiency, learning gains, and lowest 25% reading gains and demonstrated gains while all three neighboring schools indicated a decline from 2013 to 2014.
- KIPP outperformed all neighboring middle schools in math proficiency, learning gains, and lowest 25% learning gains and demonstrated gains higher gains than all three neighboring schools from 2013 to 2014.
- KIPP outperformed all neighboring middle schools in writing and science proficiency.
- KIPP increased overall accountability points at a rate five times higher than the three neighboring schools.

The district is interested in working with KIPP to explore an application that would include the sharing of expertise in the content areas, with a focus on literacy, early learning, the new standards, and leadership development. By developing or participating in joint district-charter learning communities and professional development, the sharing of ideas and strategies can improve traditional public schools and KIPP.

These options would be explored collaboratively with KIPP and then discussed with the School Board before a final application is submitted. Our commitment as a district is to improve our traditional public schools through an emphasis on human capital and technology, while strengthening our partnership with KIPP to mutually benefit from a grant that ultimately supports the children of Jacksonville.

cc: Ms. Pam Stewart, Commissioner, Florida Department of Education