



Crescent City Schools
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Re: Letter of Intent to Transform Two Schools in New Orleans

January 28, 2019

In accordance with the Orleans Parish School Board, please accept our letter of intent to submit an application during the Spring 2019 Charter Cycle for two Type 3 Transformation-Full Takeover schools: CCS4 and CCS5.

The vision and mission of Crescent City Schools is to support and develop open enrollment charter schools that raise student achievement and prepare students for college. Established in 2010, Crescent City Schools was founded on the belief that all students deserve great schools. Crescent City Schools is a Charter Management Organization (CMO) founded by two veteran educators, Kate Mehok and Julie Lause, in order to address the specific need of transforming failing schools. Crescent City Schools currently serves more than 2,200 students across three schools in New Orleans: Harriet Tubman Charter School (Algiers), Akili Academy (Upper Ninth Ward), and Paul Habans Charter School (Algiers). Over the last seven years, Crescent City Schools has transformed its two Algiers-based elementary school, Harriet Tubman Charter School and Paul Habans Charter School, and put both schools on the path towards excellence. All three schools in the CCS network received the grade of "A" for academic growth in 2017-2018.

Crescent City Schools seeks to replicate our educational model at Harriet Tubman Charter School and use it to transform two schools in New Orleans. Crescent City Schools' entire approach to education is one that addresses meeting the needs of students at-risk of academic failure. The school's philosophy of helping students achieve academic success through hard work and a longer school day and year is specifically tailored to students who are struggling academically or behaviorally when they arrive at the school.

In addition to meeting and addressing students' needs for academic remediation, CCS4 and CCS5 will share another important, foundational goal: to meet students where they are and

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push them to be their best selves. Many of the students in the CCS network of school come from homes where poverty, violence, and incarceration are everyday struggles. Because of this, we see it as our responsibility to make sure that the world we create for students at school is an amazing one, full of as much opportunity as possible. CCS4 and CCS5 will strive to encourage students' passion and enthusiasm for learning, a goal that assumes different forms for various grade bands. For its youngest scholars, those in kindergarten, first, and second grade, CCS4 and CCS5 will offer a Montessori-inspired curriculum that was first developed at Harriet Tubman Charter School and that is unique in the city. This approach, which will be described more in our application, strives to promote students' curiosity about, and ability to create connections to, the world around them.

For older students, CCS4 and CCS5 will structure its middle school program to help students find academic and extracurricular pursuits that are personally gratifying. Students will be offered a wide range of enrichment activities, including physical education, music, art, and drama. CCS4 and CCS5 middle school students will be given the opportunity to participate in a clubs program, where they can pursue non-academic passions. CCS4 and CCS5 will also have an after-school sports and arts program, where we offer several team sports, drumline, and dance. When paired with efforts of teachers to make classrooms as engaging as possible, these types of enrichment programs create an environment that inspires students to be committed and connected to academic pursuits.

Crescent City Schools proposes to open CCS4 transformation-full takeover for the 2020-2021 school year, serving approximately 540 in grades K-8. Crescent City Schools proposes to open CCS5 no earlier than the 2021-2022 school year, although the timing of the school's opening will be contingent on the need of the city and the timing of the transformation of the school to which Crescent City Schools would be assigned. We estimate that CCS5 will also serve approximately 540 students in grades K-8.

We look forward to working with you on Crescent City Schools's application and thank you for the opportunity to apply.

Sincerely,



Kate Mehok
CEO