

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY : (three to five pages)

a. A clear statement of the mission, academic philosophy and values;

Students will reach their highest academic and creative potential by developing life skills that promote social activism, courage through perseverance, power with discipline, and dignity with pride in an environment of peace.

Academic Philosophy

“Social Activism in progress and creative and performing arts’ expressed in our academic studies”.

Students’ three to eight years of age may enroll in Algiers’ Primary Cooperative Charter School. The school’s college preparatory program is geared towards helping students successfully achieve academically and acquire an appreciation of the Arts. The school’s concept is anchored in “Social Activism”. All students will develop their own unique creative talents to work on community service learning projects.

Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School in Federal City is committed to teaching a college preparatory academic program that promotes a Multi-Cultural and Creative Arts Curriculum. Students will form an appreciation of the Arts by developing their own self-concepts. Instructing students from a humanistic philosophy as a foundation will help raise students’ academic achievements.

Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School supports military dependent children and their families’ experiences. Since New Orleans is a culturally diverse community, the Charter School will provide cultural assistance to transition military dependent students and their families into the city’s unique cultural and environmental setting.

Values

1. Every child learns to develop his or her own innate creative talents.
2. Learning is a life long pursuit
3. Students learn and develop social activism based on the efforts, strengths, and social struggles of our predecessors.
4. Students must learn where we’ve been in order to arrive into their future.
5. Dependent children of military parents are in transition and need special cultural and educational assistance.
6. Dependent children of First Responders (Police and Fire Fighters) require a highly qualified, and safe environment for learning.

b. *An overview of the school structure, leadership team and governance;*

Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School in Federal City is the first school of its type in New Orleans, Louisiana and in the United States that will educate dependent children of First Responders (Police and Fire Fighters) and military (Marine and Coast Guard) personnel. It will be located on the site of the former Naval Support Activity Base, now known as Federal City in Algiers. Due to the military's downsizing, instead of demolishing the base, Federal City was deeded to the city of New Orleans, LA. As a business complex, Federal City will house both Federal, military, and governmental entities such as the Department of Homeland Security, local Police and Fire Department Headquarters, the Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other local city agencies.

Leadership Team

Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School Leadership Team will consist of a Principal who will be responsible for the instructional and "day to day" operational management of the school. The Master Teacher will model academic and professional leadership for the students and staff. Modeling academic strategies that are conducive to learning, work collaboratively with the entire school community to articulate the vision of the school, and provide an environment that promotes positive student learning and behavior.

The Data Manager will assist the school by maintaining records, developing school schedules, and supporting the academic program that would be beneficial to the students, teachers, and parents. Classroom teachers will teach students in order to produce better-prepared learners. Mentoring adult students from Delgado Community College who are majoring in Education will help support the teaching and learning in the classroom and in the school.

Parent Volunteers will create a volunteer program to enlist students' parents and Delgado Community College students to volunteer as classroom and school tutors. This partnership will enhance the education of both the Charter School students and adult students in Delgado. Delgado Community College students majoring in Education will be able to develop their instructional skills in teaching by volunteering in Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School. Fostering a collegiate support between Delgado Community College and Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School will strengthen the school's relationship. Creating a Pre-Teacher Training Program will enhance the learning of Delgado Community College student teachers.

Governance:

The Board of Directors will govern the overall function of the Charter School. The trustees roles will be to establish the school's policy, and manage the financial and operational decisions of the school. They will be responsible for setting the overall direction of the school. The Board will be responsible for the implementation of the school's charter, adhering to the terms in the charter, and correctly applying educational laws and regulations to operate the school.

- They will support the school's mission and purpose.

- The Board members will select the management team for the school and assess its performance.
- Ensure an effective organizational plan and create a sound broad policy to govern the school.
- Ensure the school has secured adequate resources to operate the school.
- Manage resources effectively
- Enhance the school's public profile
- Ensure both legal and ethical integrity and maintain the school's accountability.

c. ***A description of the school's short and long-term goals (academic and operational)***

Short-term goals:

The academic short-term goal is to prepare the students to acquire a personal self-appreciation of the Arts. By developing the student's own self-concepts and interests, an appreciation of the students' own unique creative talents will emerge. The operational short-term goal will be to offer social and cultural assistance to the students of military families who are transitioning to their new surroundings. Incorporating the city's traditions into the school's curriculum will support the school's multi-cultural program.

Long-term Goals:

The long-term school goal is to raise the academic achievements of the students. Students will learn to become world citizens when they learn about different world societies, other countries' cultures, intellectual achievements of world leaders, and the artistic developments that arose in other countries. The operational long-term goal is to include Sensitivity Training in the Daily instruction. Offering Professional Development support for the teachers and classroom instruction for the students, the school's goal to model living peacefully with others will be achieved.

d. ***An explanation of the research-base that demonstrates the school model will be effective in improving student achievement;***

If children are exposed to a rich educational environment like what is found in a qualified, certified Early Childhood and Primary program, they are able to make tremendous progress in their development. Children aged three to eight years old have the capacity to acquire significant gains in their social, linguistic, and cognitive skills. The educational landscape in New Orleans, Louisiana has drastically changed after the devastations of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the subsequent flooding of its neighborhoods. City schools are under-going an educational recovery.

Post-Katrina, the parental task of finding and successfully enrolling young children into available Early Childhood and Primary Programs has become an extremely stressful undertaking. Parents in New Orleans have been hard pressed to find accessible qualified, certified academic Primary Schools for students aged three to eight years old.

Whenever Early Childhood programs for three to five year olds are found in public schools, often there is a waiting list of children to be enrolled into those programs. The demand for Early Childhood Programs in Primary Schools is greater than the private and public schools capacity is to meet those parental needs. Delayed student placements increase the frustrations of stressed-out parents. Thus, young children, in low socio-economic families, often have unmet educational needs or they become severely compromised.

Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School will use a research-based model to instruct students and improve students' achievements. The Charter School will:

1. Meet the needs of the civilian and military employees who work on the site of the former Naval Support Activity Base. Board members will oversee the operations of the Charter School.
2. Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School will establish a "before and after" care programs to meet the needs of military and civilian parents working in Federal City.
3. Instead of commuting in different directions, from the school to the work site, Federal City parents and students will travel to the same location via personal transportation.
4. Flexibility will be built into the daily school schedule. Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School will follow the local School District's school calendar. The school will support and sustain the recovery of New Orleans. The school's presence will support relocating parents return to the city because their children's educational needs will be met.
5. Reliable public transportation is available. RTA buses travel major thoroughfares (General Myers Ave, General DeGaulle Blvd., and Shirley Drive) from the Central Business District of downtown New Orleans to the site of Federal City in Algiers.

e. An explanation of how this model is appropriate for all students and will lead to higher levels of academic achievement for the target population; and

By designing the school model, Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School will be appropriate for all students. The school's instructional model will lead to higher levels of academic achievement for the targeted population. The curriculum will stress students' participation in learning about different countries' cultures, and their artistic and intellectual achievements.

Using a "hands-on" learning model, students will create learning projects. The students and parents will engage in Service learning projects which supports the school's academic philosophy of Social Activism.

f. An explanation of the school's core values about teaching and learning.

An educational problem that has hindered the recovery of New Orleans, Post-Katrina, has been a shortage of quality, certified public schools operating Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Primary Programs.

The Federal City Project located in Algiers, on the West bank of New Orleans, LA will bring an influx of new military and civilian jobs to the New Orleans' Economy.

- Opening Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School, in Federal City will provide an Early Childhood and Primary Education to civilian and military dependent children whose parents work in Federal City.
- Operating a "nonprofit" Early Childhood and Primary Program, the Algiers Primary Cooperative Charter School will open in the former "Child Development Center" (CDC). This building is presently used by dependent children of military personnel attached to the Naval Support Activity Base (NSA) located on the military installation in Algiers.
- A multi-cultural educational approach will support the school's values for "teaching and learning".
- The instructional core value is learning is a life long pursuit.
- The student population will become global learners. This core value is important because it addresses the concerns of transient students. Inner city students' families frequently move within New Orleans due to economic or financial reasons. In the military, it is mandatory for dependent students' families to transfer (every two to three years) to other military bases in different cities, states, or countries due to the soldier parents' profession.