

Colorado Department of Education School Redesign RFI:  
Charter Management Organizations, Networks and Schools

**Organization name: KIPP Colorado Schools**

Summary
<p>KIPP Colorado Schools is a charter management organization that currently operates five schools in Denver Public Schools with a sixth school opening in the 2018-19 school year. KIPP Colorado Schools has demonstrated success with underserved students in a number of ways over the last 15 years, including significantly high academic growth and high overall school ratings (Performance). KIPP Colorado Schools states that they are “committed to serving educationally underserved communities in Denver County, Adams County, and other Front Range communities.” The application provides clear information regarding their educational model, strategies for community engagement and processes for opening up new schools and partnering productively with school districts.</p>

Application Question	Completed Sufficiently? (Yes, No, Partially)	Notes
Describe your organization’s mission and educational model. Describe how your model meets the needs of historically underserved students (students living in poverty, English language learners, and racial/ethnic minority students).	Yes	Clear and compelling description of KIPP’s vision, mission and model is provided. The organization is “dedicated to preparing students in educationally underserved communities for success in both college and life.” To that end, KIPP’s model provides academic and other supports from early childhood through K-12 and even supports alumni students as they go through college.
What do you anticipate would be the greatest challenges making your educational approach successful at a turnaround school or as a new school in a new community, and how	Yes	KIPP Colorado Schools notes the importance of community engagement and meeting with families early in the process to clarify questions

would you go about working to address those challenges?		about charter schools and the process of opening a new school.
When considering operating a school in a district that you have not operated in before, what would be the key aspects or conditions of an agreement you would need to have in place with the district (or authorizer) in order to make your school successful?	Yes	Collaboration with the school district/authorizer is necessary to identify facilities and access district services (e.g. transportation and food services).
<p>Please describe your action plan for engaging with local communities. How might the charter network, management organization or school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with parents, community members, school and district staff and leaders, and local school board members to design a school that meets the community's needs and has community support?</li> <li>• Address the varied funding models found in different districts?</li> <li>• Address the unique authorizing requirements and policies of different districts?</li> <li>• What do you perceive would be the likely differences in districts other than the ones you currently work with?</li> <li>• How would you approach facility acquisition in other districts?</li> </ul>	Yes	<p>KIPP Colorado Schools notes that "By creating opportunities to listen to students and families, community members, and everyone invested in the success of our students, we feel we can hear what needs exist in a new school community and what addressing those needs might look like."</p> <p>The application provides an example of how KIPP engaged with the community when opening up a new school. It also provides clear and concise answers to the additional sub-questions.</p>
<p><b>Evidence of Track Record of Improved Student and School Outcomes:</b> Please illustrate your organization's track record in dramatically improving schools or districts and radically increasing outcomes for targeted groups of students. Include a description of the criteria and the data that you use to determine the impact of your work. Please highlight the context and location of where this work has occurred. Formal research studies are preferred, if available.</p>	Yes	The application highlights the strong academic growth and overall performance seen at KIPP Colorado Schools over the past 15 years. There are also links provided to outside research studies that validate the effectiveness of the KIPP model.

References	
Are there three references listed?	Yes
Comments about references	The provided references are appropriate and include current partnerships. CDE will be contacting references and notes from those calls may be requested by districts. However, CDE strongly encourages interested schools and districts to reach out to the references on their own.