

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

Organization name: Rocky Mountain Prep

Summary
<p>Rocky Mountain Prep (RMP) is a charter management organization that currently operates three schools in Denver Public Schools and one school in Aurora Public Schools. RMP has a track record of success at the elementary school level including high academic growth and high overall school ratings (Performance). RMP states that they are open to continuing their work in Denver and Aurora and are open to “exploring all front-range regions and the Roaring Fork Valley District.” The application provides clear information regarding their educational model, strategies for community engagement, processes for opening up new schools and partnering productively with school districts.</p>

Application Question	Completed Sufficiently? (Yes, No, Partially)	Notes
<p>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).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The mission, vision, core values, educational philosophy, and academic program of RMP is described clearly. The mission of RMP is to “educate students with the rigorous academic preparation, character development and personalized support necessary to be successful in a four year college and life” with a vision of “closing the opportunity gap that exists between low-income students and their wealthier peers.” RMP describes an outreach program for their schools that focuses on “historically at-risk and underserved populations.”</p>

<p>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 would you go about working to address those challenges?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>RMP has experience in a turnaround setting with RMP Fletcher phasing into Fletcher Community School and RMP Berkeley opening at Cesar Chavez Academy Denver Site. RMP stated that these experiences will enable them to apply key learnings to “future turnaround contexts” while noting that every community is unique and RMP will be responsive to each communities’ needs. RMP anticipates the biggest challenge being flat or declining enrollment in Denver and Aurora. The application did point out that they have been able to fully enroll at all of their sites even given this challenge.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>RMP would need an understanding of district resources/supports available around enrollment, special education, facilities, etc., understanding of operating flexibility, waivers, funding, and planning time.</p>
<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"> ● 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? ● Address the varied funding models found in different districts? ● Address the unique authorizing requirements and policies of different districts? ● What do you perceive would be the likely differences in districts other than the ones you currently work with? 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>RMP has built their community engagement model around the 4 I’s of communication and engagement (Involve, Inquire, Inform and Inspire), which is a research-based framework.</p> <p>Before committing, RMP would “work to understand the funding model and ensure that RMP could be successful in that context given moderate adjustments to our budget model.” All of the sub-questions are addressed concisely and thoroughly in the application.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How would you approach facility acquisition in other districts? 		
<p>Evidence of Track Record of Improved Student and School Outcomes: 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 at RMP’s first two campuses.

<p>References</p>	
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.