



CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION H S AT HIGHLAND

T-STEM Renewal Application

2019-2020

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Background

District Affiliation

CEDARS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

CD #: 227817

Region: 13

Mailing Address (Line 1): 8416 N IH-35

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: AUSTIN, TX 78753

School Affiliation

CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION H S AT HIGHLAND

CDC #: 227-817-001

Region:

Mailing Address (Line 1): 6700 MIDDLE FISKVILLE RD

Mailing Address (Line 2):

City, State, Zip: AUSTIN, TX 78752

Academy Information

T-STEM Academy Name:

CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION H S AT HIGHLAND

Are you currently in the 2018-2019 planning year or are a 2018-2019 planning grantee?

No

What grade level range will your academy serve in the 2019-2020 school year?

9-12

Grade Level	Number of Students	School / CDC # Where Students are Enrolled
9	43	CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION H S AT HIGHLAND (227817001)
10	32	CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION H S AT HIGHLAND (227817001)
11	43	CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION H S AT HIGHLAND (227817001)
12	19	CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION H S AT HIGHLAND (227817001)

Contacts

Business Partner

Affiliation: One Seventeen Media
Job Title: Co-Founder, CEO Board Member
Full Name: Ms. Beth Carls
Email: beth.carls@oneseventeenmedia.com
Phone Number: 713-854-8766

Superintendent

Job Title: Superintendent
Full Name: Mr. Varghese Panachakunnil
Email: varghese@cedars-academy.org
Phone Number: 512-419-1551

Applicant

Job Title: Principal
Full Name: Mr. Steven Zipkes
Email: szipkes@cedars-academy.org
Phone Number: 512-569-1503

IHE Liaison

Affiliation: Austin Community College
Job Title: Associate Vice President of College and High School Relations
Full Name: Dr. Shasta Buchanan
Email: shasta.buchanan@austincc.edu
Phone Number: 512-223-7679

Business Partner

Affiliation: OneSeventeen Media
Job Title: Co-Founder, CEO Board Member
Full Name: Ms. Amy Looper
Email: amy.looper@oneseventeenmedia.com

Phone Number: 713-854-8766

Narratives

Model Implementation

Which T-STEM model does the district intend to implement at this time? Within these models, there are variations. For this purpose campus is defined as a CDC number not a physical location.

Stand Alone Academy - All students on the campus are enrolled in the T-STEM academy

Endorsements

Identify the current endorsements that are offered:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- Business and Industry
- Multi-disciplinary Studies

Certificates

Does this academy offer Associate Degrees to students?

No

TSIA

Does this academy administer the TSIA exam?

Yes

What ID number do students use when taking the TSIA exam?

Unique State Assigned ID

Key Elements for Success

Provide a link to the job description, roles of design team, leadership team, and advisory board.

<http://cedars-hs.org/stem.html>

Provide a link to the final, signed, and executed MOU.

<http://cedars-hs.org/stem.html>

Provide a link to the academy's master schedules.

<http://cedars-hs.org/stem.html>

Provide a link to the academy's written admission policy and enrollment application.

<http://cedars-hs.org/stem.html>

Provide a link to the academy's written recruitment plan including a timeline of recruitment and enrollment events, and recruitment materials for distribution at feeder schools and other appropriate locations in the community

<http://cedars-hs.org/stem.html>

Provide a link to the academy's internship and externship opportunities.

<http://cedars-hs.org/stem.html>

Free-Response

Describe how the Academy will recruit, support, and retain highly qualified teachers.

Cedars International Next Generation HS teachers are all certified in the content they teach and many have multiple certifications to be able to teach various subjects. 8 of the 12 teachers have advanced degrees. One of the teachers is an Adjunct with ACC and 3 are UT OnRamps Teachers. Since we are 100% Project Based Learning, all teachers have autonomy and ownership in the authentic standards based PBL projects they create. All new teachers are provided opportunities to attend Advanced Reasoning In Education: Think Global PBL Academies to acquire the deeper PBL process knowledge. In addition, all PLCs are teacher designed to provide the best for their students. The District also provides national professional development opportunities for teachers. We partner with UTeach and Texas State University to provide UTeach student internships as well as Student Teacher opportunities at our 100% PBL campus. The support and design of the school lends itself to teacher retention and we have had 3 years of 100% teacher retention with no teachers leaving to go teach elsewhere. on their own. Most of the staff has taught together for 7-14 years.

Describe the current STEM pathways available at the academy.

Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM is seamlessly integrated into all content)

Business and Industry

Multi -Pathway

Arts and Humanities

Describe how strategic alliances with industry partners and IHEs will support the Academy. The description should include details regarding the role of each IHE, business, and/or community partnership; along with parent/family partnerships and communication conventions with the Academy.

As a State designated STEM school our strategic alliance with industry partners provide real world authentic situations and problems for our teachers to create authentic PBL projects as well as having industry partners come participate on panels for student PBL presentations at the completion of every project. With OneSeventeen Media our entire student body helped beta test and provide feedback for an app that provided counseling services, with MyMentor. We also worked with OneSeventeen Media to help come up with an online anonymous bullying programs for our entire district. This provided Externships for our students.

As an IHE, ACC is a partner providing opportunities for our students to take college classes and acquire dual credit. CINGHS is committed to providing our students college opportunities and experiences through Austin Community College. CINGHS will pay for all classes, textbooks and materials for any of our students eligible to take a college class at ACC. While we attempt to match our schedules up this is often difficult so many of our students take classes outside of the school day and in the Summer as well and we pay for them.

Our parents are an integral part of our school and educational community and we are continuously communicating with them through various means, Remind, email, phone calls and bi-monthly Parent Involvement Committee meetings.

All our strategic partnerships are essential to our success. As one of the most established TSTEM Principal's in the State (since 2006) establishing partnerships throughout the community are one of the Key Elements of a successful TSTEM school.

Describe the Academy's work-based and contextual learning in the curriculum.

As a 100% PBL STEM/STEAM School in its 3rd year with current grades 8-12 and next year 9-12 our students are just beginning to receive drivers licenses and drive. Our workbase and predominantly been externships at school with our business partner, OneSeventeen Media. However, we have reached out to numerous businesses that have provided workshops, real authentic problems, and participated in our work fair to provide a real context of what skills and opportunities certain job entail. By providing authentic real world problems we are able to create authentic deeper PBL projects that students are able to engage, research, and provide an end product that the work base attend to listen and judge their presentations.

Describe the STEM-focused extracurricular activities (field experiences, clubs, and competitions) offered to students.

Austin Chick Tech (14 girls last year and 12 girls this year)

Semi Tech University (28 of our students at Tokyo Electronics)

UT NASCENT Fellowship for 2-3 students and a teacher-NanoTechnology (\$2000) during the Summer

Every other Friday- our Video Game Club/E-sports where we play against other schools virtually

First Robotics as a club provided by an outside team

Finally because of our trimester schedule and our 100% PBL school most of our students graduate with
6 years of Math

6 years of Science

5 years of ELA

5 years of Social Studies

2-3 years of Engineering

Computer Science as a foreign language.

Virtual Reality Physical Education

and various other courses.

Our Board has approved and we are exploring the installation of a FAB Lab once we secure the location for our students as well