THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
OFFICE OF SCHOOL INNOVATION
ROOM 475 EBA
Tel. 518/474-4817
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November 26, 2012

Superintendent Ralph Pizzo
Newburgh Enlarged City School District
124 Grand Street
Newburgh, New York 12550

RE: Award Notice: School Innovation Fund Round 2– Grant #TA-09
Award Amount: $2,500,000
Time Period: January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015

Dear Superintendent Pizzo:

On behalf of the New York State Education Department (NYSED), I wish to thank you for your participation in our recent School Innovation Fund Round 2 grant competition. I am pleased to inform you that your proposal for Temple Hill Academy is one of five applications statewide that have met the preliminary standard for funding. These results are preliminary, pending the review and approval of the New York State Comptroller.

Once NYSED has obtained approval, you will receive a final approval notice from our Grants Finance Unit. *No work should be initiated until you receive final notice of approval of your award. All grants, regardless of type or dollar amount, are subject to further review, monitoring, and audit to ensure compliance. NYSED has the right to recoup funds if the approved activities are not performed and/or the funds are expended inappropriately.*

The grant resulting from this award will require that grantees accept electronic payments for amounts due on the grant. Additional information and authorization forms are available at the State Comptroller's website at www.osc.state.ny.us./epay/index.htm.

Staff in the NYSED School Turnaround Office (STO) will serve as your lead program office for project oversight, assistance, monitoring, and reporting. Once our Grants Finance Unit has issued your final Grant Award Notice, NYSED STO staff will reach out to you directly to discuss next steps. We look forward to working with you on this project. Should you have any immediate questions, STO staff can be reached at (518) 473-8852.

Sincerely,

Sally Bachofer

c: Sandra Herndon
Owen Donovan

I. Executive Summary

The Newburgh Enlarged City School District (NECSD) is one of the largest city school districts between Albany and Yonkers and a transitioning district, which likes many school districts across the country, is experiencing a lack of funding due to budget cuts and decreased state and federal support. The City of Newburgh experiences its share of difficulties. Recently, Newburgh was designated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a "High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area" and the city has a problem with violence and gangs. The city and the school district are in transition and looking for innovative ways to meet the needs of our diverse population. Specifically, NECSD needs to meet the needs of the Limited English Proficiency (LEPs) students, Students with Disabilities (SWDs), and economically disadvantaged students.

Approximately 6 years ago, the Newburgh Enlarged City School District (NECSD) was designated by the New York State Education Department as a District In Need Of Improvement. The process to remediate this status included an Audit of Curriculum Report and Joint Intervention Team (JIT) Review. The Audit of Curriculum Report recommended that NECSD implement a clearly articulated ELA curriculum and system of instruction for all learners, provide sustained PD for all staff with a special emphasis on teaching students with disabilities and English language learners, and develop a system to increase access to the core curriculum. Extensive curriculum alignment and professional development projects have taken place across the district in support of the goals based on these recommendations. Acquiring this grant will allow Temple Hill Academy to create an environment that meets the unique needs of NECSD students while building on the progress made towards reaching the district-wide goals set as a result of the Audit of Curriculum, the Joint Intervention Team Report and the Comprehensive Education Plan.

The Joint Intervention Team by means of a New York State audit has noted that the Temple Hill Academy is in need of professional development in the area of curriculum development and setting student expectations. In addition, Temple Hill Academy has struggled with lack of parent involvement. Temple Hill Academy has 1,080 students in grades K-8. 80% of the students receive free and reduced lunch, 34% of the students are Limited English Proficient (LEP), and 56% are Latino, 22% are African-American, and 22% are White.

The potential for Temple Hill Academy is present as the JIT report also cited a safe and orderly learning environment, hard working staff, receptive to outside intervention, and a commitment to securing resources. All of the schools in the district have themes to attract students. The theme at Temple Hill Academy is Academic, Cultural and Physical Development. However, due to a myriad of problems, Temple Hill Academy has not been able to implement this mission to its fullest potential

Recently Temple Hill Academy has been designated by New York State Education Department as a Priority School. The teachers are willing to accept a new model of instruction and need intense professional development to carry this out. In addition, many of the students and parents lack access to consistent health care or quality health care. While the JIT report did not specifically state anything about health and wellness, as educational aspects were its only focus, it is important that students, especially from low-income households have access to quality health and wellness programs. Removing the barriers such as cost, transportation, and language, will help these students feel physically better, which will translate in an ability to focus on the instruction. A two-pronged approach must be taken to turn this school around.

For these reasons, we are proposing the creation of a new school model to meet the following goals:

- Increase academic achievement of LEP students, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students
- Develop a program that will increase parent involvement in student learning and school governance
- Create a cadre of teachers with the capacity of teachers to develop and deliver a 21st century curriculum that is both rigorous and relevant
- Remove obstacles and deliver on-site quality health and wellness programs

To accomplish these goals, a new school that utilizes instruction will be created to increase engagement of at-risk students. Content area knowledge and real world applications will be presented in a rigorous learning environment. Students will create, communicate and collaborate using a variety of synchronous and asynchronous tools .

As a result, the units developed will focus on health and wellness as a theme.
Job-embedded professional development will be delivered by college professors and Instructional Coaches on Strategic Intervention Model, Content Enhancement, Collaborative Teaching, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, Response to Intervention, and data analysis.

The Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center will deliver its existing programs aimed at reducing obesity in children and adults, diabetes, and chronic disease through education about improving nutrition and physical activity levels. They will also offer parents access to Orange County's free cessation services, and expand and enhance existing Youth Tobacco Prevention Education,. They will also coordinate with the Food Service Department to increase access to healthy and affordable food to Temple Hill Academy students and parents utilizing Farm to Market and Farm to School programs.

The Glenn E. Hines – Boys and Girls Club will provide afterschool academic enrichment services during the academic school year will need to reach 500 students for after school and summer. Have the site director trained with coaches and sit with team to discuss directions/issues. During the summer will work with teachers – we can reach more students by

having teachers do ELA and Math K – 8 during the first half and BGC (and GHVFHC?) will deliver project based learning activities in the same classrooms and dismiss students while teachers receive professional development. Students would be in program ½ day from 8:30 to 1:00 receiving a healthy breakfast and lunch

Aware of the unique needs of our population, our partner consortium has the capacity to effectively launch, oversee and govern the proposed school due to their significant experience administering multi-year grants, improving literacy for students, and improving health care for students in the Mid-Hudson region. Mount Saint Mary College has the capacity to supervise curriculum development, provide extensive professional development to the teachers and administrators in our school. The Glen E. Hines Boys and Girls Club has the capacity to deliver quality after-school and summer enrichment programs, and the Greater Hudson Valley Family Health Center, has the capacity to provide quality health and wellness activities to all of the students in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. The staff in these organizations are highly qualified and their time will be appropriately allocated to the project described herein.