

## **Sponsor Statement SY2017 EAGLE College Prep**

In the fall of 2017, EAGLE College Prep began its fifth year of operation with one school serving grades K-7 and three serving grades K-4. This marks the end of a period of rapid growth to provide schools in South St Louis. On the Spring 2017 state assessment, the LEA outperformed St. Louis Public Schools in English Language Arts and Math and the third grade at the first campus, Tower Grove South, exceeded state averages in both ELA and Math.

While not adding campuses in the near future, all current campuses continue to add grades. The Board of Directors and school leaders continue to evaluate facility needs as each school grows to ensure quality environments. Staff are discerning how the program for older students should differ from the model used with younger students, particularly making students agents in their own learning and providing extra-curricular and enrichment experiences. Currently EAGLE offers sports, dance and other clubs. This will be an important area to develop as the three newer campuses add upper grades simultaneously.

The EAGLE Board of Directors and their partner, Open Sky Education, have secured partners to help finance the opening of new schools and then successfully operated on state funding thereafter. This is accomplished through ongoing budget revisions and effective use of resources. The goal is to secure outside funding to open schools and use only public funds to run schools.

Growth has not been without challenges, with the most often cited by EAGLE being meeting enrollment in new schools, and recruiting and retaining teachers and school leaders. With teachers, leaders, and students moving to new schools as they open, the priority has been filling their positions in previous schools. Tower Grove South, after five years, demonstrates that engaging with the community and establishing a reputation leads to full enrollment and waiting lists. The three newer campuses are working toward this status in all grades.

The Office of Charter School Operations makes the following specific observations:

- Student achievement at Tower Grove South and Tower Grove East is strong in ELA and Math, while performance at Fox Park meets expectation in Math, but not in ELA. School leadership has analyzed the performance data for all schools and has addressed areas needing additional attention, including adoption of the MySci science curriculum and adding curricular and instructional coaches to support teachers.
- The Board of Directors has maintained the stability of some long-serving members and added new members on a regular basis, considering the skills needed for good governance. The board should continue planning for ongoing board education and development, both as new members join and to increase overall knowledge by the board. The board should establish a schedule for review and revision of key documents, such as board policies and contracts such as the agreement with Open

Sky, as it does with an annual review of staff and student handbooks and school policies.

- While regional leadership has remained constant, the EAGLE Board and school leadership has been challenged with maintaining continuity of building leadership in some years of recent growth. Promotion and transfer of school leaders to instill school culture in new buildings have presented challenges in maintaining leadership in existing buildings. With no immediate plans for new campuses, the next five years provide an opportunity to refine leadership models.