

Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School

Prospectus

Mission:

The mission of Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School (HHCS) is to provide an academically rigorous, highly individualized education empowering students to become academically and socially successful and ready to excel in their postsecondary education pursuing degrees in Healthcare, Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics or the field of their choice.

Target Student Population:

Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School (HHCS) will be located in North St. Louis, with immediate proximity to corridors in 63108, 63112, 63113, 63115, and 63120 zip codes. There is a sufficient population according to the census maps along with enrollment data to support opening HHCS within this area of St. Louis.

This area is characterized by high dropout rate and traditionally low graduation rates for students from this area. Community anecdotal input also demonstrates a clear need for the school. Finally, the recruitment methods will support the enrollment needs from this population. The school will be open to any student who is eligible for admission to the K-12 school, and either lives in the City of St. Louis or is eligible to attend City of St. Louis public schools under the guidelines of the voluntary transfer program, and submits a timely application.

As documented in Kids Count Data Book 2016¹ official data, the median household income in St. Louis is \$34,800 as compared to the median household income for all residents of Missouri at \$47,764. Also, 28.8% of the people are living below the poverty level in St. Louis against the 15.5% across the entire state. The area is characterized by a high percentage of unemployment and high poverty rates. It is considered a high risk area for students. According to the Kids Count in Missouri, data book 2016, St. Louis City's composite county rank was 115. The city ranked worst in most of the indicators and outcome documented to measure "The State of Our State's Children". St. Louis City child population stands at 64,355, out of which:

- 60.9% are in single parent families
- 42.9% live in poverty
- 86.1% are enrolled in free/reduced lunch
- 2,175 are English Language Learners/Limited English Proficient.

Although there was approximately a 3.5% decrease in high school dropout rate in 2014, as shown in Kids Count in Missouri, data book 2010-2014, 10.6% is still dismal compared to the 3% for the entire state of Missouri. Hence, there is still urgent need to reduce the gap between St. Louis City and the state rates.

The school design:

Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School (HHCS) will utilize a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) model, integrating the health and wellness development. HHCS will develop a rigorous and motivating curriculum aligned with the Missouri Learning Standards and paired with engaging differentiated instructional techniques. The intent at HHCS of employing a STEM model integrated with health and wellness development is to prepare students to pursue postsecondary education and eventually join the work force in the ever-expanding fields of healthcare, science, engineering and technology.

¹ http://mokidscount.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/2016KCDB_FINAL.pdf

Ensuring that every student is prepared for the future, HHCS is designed to provide rigorous academics, experiential leadership, along with positive social and physical development. The curricular and instructional ingredients will allow all students to excel. The HHCS curriculum will also incorporate each student’s development of leadership skills as well as understanding the importance of maintaining a physically and socially active, healthy lifestyle.

A critical ingredient supporting all Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School students is the Society of Caring Patrons (SCPs), an independent association of parents, grandparents, neighbors, and guardians. The SCP will serve as a safety net to provide support and tutoring for all students through advocacy and parent liaison activities.

A day in the life of the school for students, staff, parents, etc:

The Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School (HHCS) day for students is filled with activity and opportunity. Engaged parents and community members will be involved in programming and activities planning meetings, tutoring and volunteer activities. Students will begin each school day attending daily advising in which experienced and research-oriented faculty advisors provide guidance and leadership. Following advising, students will move to a variety of engaging courses using block scheduled time for instruction, inquiry, investigation, research and analysis. Below is a sample daily schedule:

Sample 6th Grade Students Schedule

Time	Period Mon- Thurs	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Period Fri	Friday
7:45-8:00	Students Arrival						
8:00-8:25	Breakfast						
8:30-8:46		Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory		Advisory
8:48-9:46	1	Math	Reading	Math	Social Studies	1	Healthcare Clinical
9:48 - 10:46	2	Science	Healthcare	ELA	Reading	2	Spanish
10:48-11:46	3	Scholar Seminar	Scholar Seminar	Scholar Seminar	STEM	3	STEM
11:48-12:46	Lunch					Lunch	
12:48-1:46	4	Social Studies	Economics	Science	ELA	4	Math
1:48-2:46	5	ELA	Spanish	Reading	Economics	5	College PREP/ Dismissal
2:48-3:46	6	Health & Physical Education	Science Lab	Social Studies	Science	Staff Meeting, Professional Development	
3:48-4:46	7	College PREP	College PREP	College PREP	College PREP	Teacher Co-Lessons Planning	
4:46-5:00	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal		

Academic, operational, financial outcomes:

In year one, HHCS will serve students in grades six and seven; 100 students in each grade level. Each year thereafter an additional grade will be added through grade twelve. In year three, HHCS envisions adding 90 kindergarten students and 90 students in grade one, each year thereafter adding an additional grade level through grade five. With this model HHCS will reach the full continuum of kindergarten through grade twelve in eight years.

Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School (HHCS) holds itself to high standards for student academic achievement and institutional capacity growth. To measure its success and alignment with its mission and vision, HHCS will demonstrate the following outcomes:

a. Academic outcomes:

HHCS will establish student goal-setting around achieving proficiency or qualifying for advanced learning opportunities. Outcomes will be measured along the following yardsticks:

- *State Academic Proficiency:* In five years, 85% of students who have attended HHCS continuously for three years will meet or exceed their minimum grade level standards in core courses, following yearly educational performance goals, and/or as measured by multiple administrations of standardized tests. HHCS students will compare competitively scoring at or above state academic proficiency on the annual Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests.
- *National Achievement and Growth Norms:* In five years, the performance of 85% of students who have attended HHCS continuously for three years will meet or exceed their grade level standards in various subject areas, as measured in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Similarly, HHCS students will compare competitively in national achievement and growth norms, ranking in higher achievement percentile for core courses on Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)
- *At Risk Students:* 75% of At-risk students who have attended HHCS continuously for one full year will demonstrate advancement in their education functional threshold in their areas of prior deficiency.
- *Graduation and College Preparedness:* 90% students will make yearly progress and meet requirements to achieve High School Diploma at the end of their 12th grade and be ready to enter and succeed in college, career and life.

b. Operational outcomes

HHCS will attain 96% of its enrollment target, 93% of students average daily attendance, and 90% yearly retention rate.

c. Financial outcomes

By the fifth year of operation, Hi-tech Healthcare Charter School will demonstrate financial viability as a vibrant academic learning community and healthcare institution that is operating at a minimum of 20% cash reserve.

Explanation how the school design can produce those outcomes:

Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School (HHCS)'s school is designed to develop and empower students to succeed throughout their public education careers.

This will be accomplished through a highly structured and integrated instructional program based on best practices along with strategically selected and applied social supports designed to assist the students to overcome obstacles to their success. These strategies will be encased in a framework that allows for individualizing instructional strategies based on individual student needs, as may be requisite, singly or combined, to specific appropriate individual subject areas and/or student learning needs/style. All instruction and activities will be accessible to students with disabilities,

English Language Learners (ELL) and to those who may experience difficulty with traditional Math and Science curricula and methods. To support instruction across the curriculum, technology and assistive tools will be used in a variety of ways.

The development process will equip students with critical mathematical, health, technology, science, social science, and English language skills preparing them for both high school completion and postsecondary education attainment. The goal is to help students develop academic, social and personal competitive advantage to excel in the 21st century marketplace. The empowerment process will enable students to discover ways to make important contributions to their personal advancement, to their families, to their communities and to better society. The Society of Caring Patrons (SCPs) will provide support and advocacy to ensure that the extreme challenges many students and families encounter do not stop a youth from pursuing education and attaining the highest limit of his or her potentials.

The school’s innovation:

Hi-Tech Healthcare Charter School’s curriculum will fuse STEM Education with health and wellness development. This trans-disciplinary approach will support the whole student by also addressing the physical and mental health of students as an integral component of learning, growing, thriving and succeeding.

The founding team and their capacity to open and operate the school:

The founding members of the Board of Directors of Hi-Tech Charter School, who will provide policy guidance and oversight over the creation of the charter school, represent experienced, competent professionals and engaged community leaders and residents. All are voting members.

Founding Members

Name, Qualifications, Role	Relevant Experience/Skills Demonstrating Competence
Dr. Cheryl Ray <i>Credentials:</i> Doctor of Divinity, Masters in Social Work, Missouri Licensed Clinical Social Worker <i>Role:</i> Chair, Board of Trustees	Over 20 years’ experience as an educator, serving at risk youth, learning disabled and behaviorally disorder students in St. Louis and other Missouri Public Schools.
Dr. Francis Onukwue, <i>Credentials:</i> MA Theology; Masters Business Administration; PhD Financial Management <i>Role:</i> Co-Chair, Board of Trustees	Former college professor and an Entrepreneurship and Startup consultant Strong background in education, business law and regulation, finance, accounting and human resources Has experience in start-up for-profit and nonprofit entities and has managed nonprofit institutions for 26 years. Also experienced in Legal, Real Estate and Facilities, and Finance backgrounds, as well as deep knowledge of city, state and federal laws and regulations.
Barbara Brown <i>Credentials:</i> Masters Business Administration; Bachelor Business Administration <i>Role:</i> Community Relations Representative	Hi-Tech Charities Vice President of Operations Former HTC’s AEL Instructor. Facilities Planner and Analyst in Boeing Corporation for 15 years

<p>Chidimma Nwankwere Credentials: Master's in Health Administration; BA Education Role: Executive Director</p>	<p>Hi-Tech Charities Vice President of Programs Former Hi-Tech Charities Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Director for 7 years Experienced educator and veteran school administrator: started from scratch and operated a K through 12 and College preparatory institution, grown from 25 students and 4 staff to over 2,000 students and 100 staff. Strong background in managing of for-profit and not-for-profit organization</p>
<p>Dr. Winnetta Ellis Credentials: Doctor of Divinity; Master's in Education Role: Member, Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Experienced educator for over twenty-seven years as a classroom teacher, Mathematics Teacher, Music Specialist, Professional Development Presenter, and as an Administrator. (Instructional Coordinator) Various certifications: Elementary Principal (K – 8) Secondary Principal (7 – 12) Elementary Education (K – 8) Music (K – 9)</p>
<p>Tiawana Thompson Credentials: Masters Business Administration; Bachelor Liberal Studies Role: Member, Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in health administration from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. Bachelor Degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in Liberal Studies with areas of emphasis in Communication, Psychology, Sociology and Social Work.</p>
<p>Nakita Irving Credentials: Bachelor of Arts Role: Secretary, Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Over 15 years in Healthcare and Healthcare finance, Community Action, Leadership Development</p>
<p>Louise Holland Credentials: Masters in Chemistry Role: Treasurer, Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Instructor; Cosmetology, Missouri Licensed Cosmetology Instructor; Trained Public Speaker/Public Speaking, Student Recruiter for Elaine Beauty College</p>
<p>LaRhonda Thompson-Hill Credentials: Small Business Entrepreneur Role: Member, Board of Trustees</p>	<p>Woman owned small business entrepreneur for over 11years in commercial arts and entertainment industry working with at-risk youth and young adults with different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.</p>