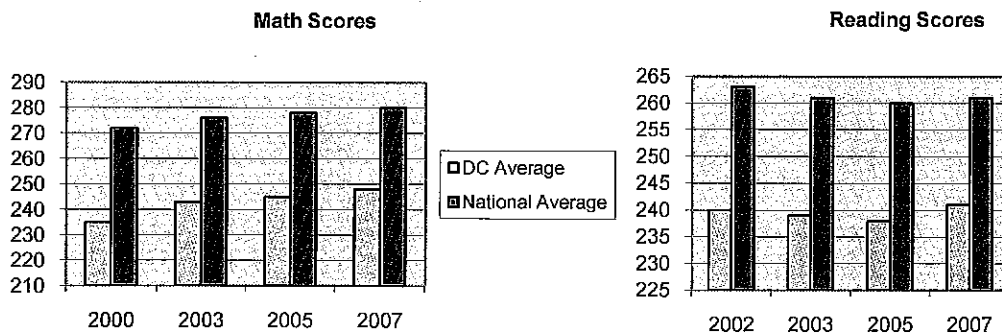


Executive Summary

The Area in which NSACS will be located: The North Star Academy Charter School (NSACS) will be located in District of Columbia (DC) around the region of Wards 6 and 5. These locations are targeted due to the high middle and high school student population. There are not many middle and high charter schools in these locations, specifically in Ward 6, with college preparatory focus.

Need and Demand for NSACS: The chart below clearly demonstrates the achievement gap in the performance between students of DC and national average in 8th grade assessments in Language Arts and Math. Our goal is to close this achievement gap between DC, specifically in one of the proposed locations and national students by reaching national standards.

Performance of 8th graders in math and reading (reported by NAEP 2006 report at NCES.ED.GOV)



NSACS polled parents at various events held in the proposed locations and completed door-to-door canvassing in various parts of the city, collecting over 500 surveys from respondents who showed an interest in NSACS and who would definitely consider enrolling their children into our school. These polls garnered interest in NSACS and demonstrated that NSACS has the potential to reach its anticipated enrollment. The surveys also helped NSACS understand parents' expectations. We contacted and visited many community organizations to present our reasoning and goals in opening a charter school and were delighted to receive many valuable responses in favor of our proposed charter school.

School Model: NSACS program rests upon a rigorous curriculum that particularly focuses on mathematics and science with college prep emphasis. DC guidelines and other successful college preparation programs have been utilized to establish specific, rigorous, manageable and measurable academic standards. This will eventually define what each student should know and be able to do upon completion of each grade level and/or grade cluster (for grades 7-12). All courses will align with DC content and performing standards. Every unit will address the standards and will receive sufficient attention during the year.

- **NSACS will meet the need for a college preparatory school** targeting low achieving students in DC and specializing in math and science education.
- **NSACS will promote a safe, caring and student-centered classroom environment** in which project-based learning will be supported by meaningful, authentic and hands-on activities. Additionally, we believe that high academic expectations from our students are vital to increase student motivation.
- **NSACS will provide individual attention to each student by** individualized lesson instruction and alternative assessments, one-on-one tutoring, intensive counseling through a supervisory system that recognizes each student's unique goals. NSACS will also collaborate with local universities to



develop a tutoring program, enlisting student volunteers from colleges in the area. NSACS believes these elements will increase student motivation to achieve.

- **NSACS will hire highly-qualified teachers and administrators.** All NSACS staff members will be dedicated to education and committed to the success of both the students and the school. A condition of employment will be that they are committed to continually improving their skills through professional development and are willing to design lessons to help meet the individual needs of students.
- **NSACS will promote parental involvement.** According to various charter school reports, among the top reasons parents choose charter schools for their children are small class sizes and greater opportunities for parental involvement. Our education program will facilitate parental involvement and as a result, nurturing long term commitment and participation from parents.
- **NSACS will integrate multi-cultural themes** into our curricula in each subject area, i.e. geography and foreign languages. Some key activities will include student contact with other cultures through participation in academic competitions, science fairs, and community service.
- **NSACS will extensively use Educational Outreach Programs** available at institutions of higher learning. We have contacted several directors of various science outreach programs at Georgetown University, George Washington University and Howard University. Such additional extracurricular opportunities for students will further support our goal of incorporating project-based learning into our curriculum.

Student and Staff Profile: North Star Academy Charter School (NSACS) is planned to open its doors in the academic year of 2009, initially serving students in grades seven through nine with an anticipated student population of 180 (60 students for each grade). Each year NSACS will add an additional grade to its population. After four years, NSACS will reach its entire anticipated population of 360 students serving students in grades 7-12 grades with 60 students in each grade.

The number of staff members will increase proportionally to the number of students and grades, starting from 14 staff members in the first year to 26 staff members in five years. The student/teacher ratio will be 12 to 1 or less.

| Grade | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Grade 7 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Grade 8 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Grade 9 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Grade 10 | - | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| Grade 11 | - | - | 60 | 60 |
| Grade 12 | - | - | - | 60 |
| Total | 180 | 240 | 300 | 360 |

Developer’s Experience: Developers of the proposed charter school have diverse and extensive expertise and experience in secondary and post-secondary math, science, and humanities in US and internationally. The broad expertise and experience of these founding members offer strong educational support and enables them to acquire financial and community support, establish a high-quality college preparatory program and oversee its operations. These developers include, a research associate from Georgetown University in DC, a medical doctor in Georgetown University Medical Center, a Banker from SunTrust Bank in DC, a lawyer working in DC, a businessman in DC, an economist in DC, educator and other individuals with diverse backgrounds.

Development Timeline: We initiated the work on this application in the autumn of 2005 and have worked on improving it since then. Many of the development goals have been accomplished.

