

ABSTRACT

SOAR Academy

Point of Contact: Kristina Bellamy-McClain

Project Title: SOAR Academies Start Up & Implementation Project

LEA

SOAR Academies
210 S Hudson St
Seattle, WA 98134

SEA

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
600 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Abstract

SOAR Academy, one of only eight charter schools authorized by the state of Washington in its inaugural year, will open in the fall of 2015 with 52 Kindergarten students and 52 first grade students. The K-8 school will grow a grade each year, until it reaches full capacity of 50 students per grade in the 2022-2023 school year. SOAR Academy's mission is to provide all students with a rigorous, engaging and personalized educational experience, allowing them to become productive members of a diverse society. Students will be prepared and equipped academically, socially and emotionally to succeed *in and through* high school, college and beyond.

SOAR Academy's student population will consist of a diverse student population that is representative of the Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma, WA, where the student population makeup consists of 21.6% Blacks, 16.5% Hispanics, 12.5% Islander and 10.3% Asian. Of this population, 63.2% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch, which is significantly higher than Washington State's average of 46.1%. SOAR Academy will provide a student-centered learning environment that integrates standards-based, vertically aligned curriculum, personalized learning plans, data-driven instruction, technology and arts integration for all students. Through strategic support and culturally response pedagogy, SOAR Academy will ensure that all learners develop the critical habits of mind necessary to excel in both academics and life.

SOAR Academy is led by 14-year education veteran and visionary, Kristina Bellamy-McClain, who has an extensive record of achieving high student outcomes in low-income communities in New York, California, Alaska and Washington State. Ms. Bellamy-McClain is joined by a diverse and dedicated Board of Directors, along with a staff that believes in the unwavering potential of all students, and who are committed to developing an effective and inspiring school where "Excellence is the Standard."