

**FOR: ACADEMIES OF EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT (AEE) PILOT SCHOOL AT  
CARSON**  
**PROPOSED BY: AEE DESIGN TEAM**  
**FOR: CARSON HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mission & Vision of the School**

The *Academies of Education and Empowerment (AEE)* envisions a school where teachers, students, parents, and members of the community work together to unlock student potential and inspire them to make a positive impact on their society. Specifically, we hope to create socially conscious educators and active citizens. *AEE* will be a school where students connect what they have learned in the classroom to real world situations and use that knowledge to make a difference.

Once students have graduated from *AEE*, students will be able to formulate and articulate complex ideas, exhibit critical thinking skills such as questioning, analyzing and evaluating, and work effectively in group settings. In addition, *AEE* graduates will know how to use and present ideas using technology and make connections between academics and real world situations. Students of *AEE* will also participate in one of two academies, one focusing on careers with children and the other looking at social justice issues in the community. In order to graduate all students are expected to take all A-G courses and pass their classes with a C or better. Students will also be expected to participate in seminar classes and academy elective courses.

**Designing Data Driven & Student Centered Instructional Programs**

Student needs:

- Decrease 9<sup>th</sup> grade retention rates
- Decrease rate of students who are failing A-G courses
- Increase math proficiency rate (proficient or advanced)
- Increase academic performance of historically underserved subgroups

Ensuring students are college-prepared and career ready:

- **9<sup>th</sup> grade essentials and connections lab:** To address the key deficiencies that incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders have in Math and English, students will participate in an intervention course aimed at improving students' skills. Students will then apply their skills in projects that encourage the students to be hands-on and engaged. *AEE* believes that this is an important intervention because it encourages and supports success in their academic classes and engages the students in their education through project based learning.
- **Freshmen Success Academy:** During their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year all *AEE* students will be a part of the Freshmen Success Academy (FSA). 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will share a core group of teachers and participate in a specially designed curriculum that will engage, support and inspire students to be academically successful. *AEE* believes that FSA will provide the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students with the academic and social tools needed to ensure student promotion to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **Seminar Courses:** Students will participate in a 7<sup>th</sup> period seminar course where they will participate in grade level appropriate activities to ensure students' success in school and prepare them for college and career.
- **Interdisciplinary Instruction:** Grade level academic teams of teachers will work together to correlate teaching of topics and integrate common teaching strategies. Every interdisciplinary unit will end in a project that will incorporate the skills and concepts taught in the lesson. Research shows that interdisciplinary teaching results in increased student engagement, parent involvement, attendance and performance on standardized testing.
- **Success For All Conferences:** Success For All (SFA's) Conferences: Students, parents and essential adults will participate in SFA meetings when students are failing, exhibiting poor behavior, or poor attendance. The meeting will allow parents, teachers, students and community members to work together to find solutions for students' success.

**Instructional Program**

**ALL Students at *AEE* will be provided with coursework that is rigorous and engaging. *AEE* strongly believes that curriculum should be interdisciplinary, project-based and hands-on.**

**Additionally, all students will be encouraged to participate in internships and honors and AP courses. Lastly, we believe that all students will be successful when they are expected to perform at high levels and are given many opportunities to succeed. The following accommodations will also be made:**

**Students with disabilities** - All students with disabilities that elect to participate in *AEE* will be mainstreamed into the general education classroom. To support students with learning and physical disabilities, students will be provided with modifications and accommodations to their classroom learning and schedule as outlined in their IEP's and as appropriate to their disabilities.

*AEE* strongly believes and educational scholars indicate that when students are mainstreamed in the general education classroom, they have the opportunity to learn more than students that are pulled out of the general education classes.

**Socio-economically disadvantaged students** - Students that are traditionally underserved will be provided with access to A-G courses, rigorous academics as well as extracurricular activities that encourage students to be college prepared and career ready.

**Special needs students** - Students with special needs will be provided with the skills needed to be successful in high school and beyond. These interventions include the 7<sup>th</sup> period schedule which allows for additional opportunities to be successful. The SFA conferences, intervention classes and the seminar classes. Lastly, students will be afforded all the accommodations and modifications necessary to ensure academic success.

**Gifted students** - *AEE* will provide all students as well as the gifted population with rigorous, engaging, interdisciplinary and project based curriculum based on the A-G requirements. Gifted students will be encouraged to share their abilities with their peers through a variety of mediums.

**English Language Learners** – To meet the needs of English Language Learners, all faculty will be trained in utilizing SDAIE strategies and scaffolding to ensure access to the curriculum.

**Standard English Learners** – Similar to the ELL student, the SEL student will be taught using SDAIE strategies and scaffolding. In addition curriculum will be designed so that it is culturally inclusive and sensitive, as well as interdisciplinary to engage the students.

### School Culture

#### ***AEE* culture:**

*AEE* envisions a culture where students are highly motivated and flourish academically in a safe learning environment. At *AEE*, faculty and staff will continuously work to make learning relevant so that the material is fun, exciting and meaningful. Students will be exposed to what it takes to succeed in a college atmosphere as well as prepare them to transition into the career of their choice. Lastly, faculty and staff will work on building positive relationships, celebrating the students' academic successes, and encouraging them to actively participate in their education.

#### **A day in the life of an *AEE* students:**

Students at *AEE* will be in highly engaging, hands on classrooms. They will be expected to participate in their core academic classes of English, Math, Science and History as well as participation in a Seminar class and career based or academic elective. Classes are designed to be interdisciplinary and rigorous so that students are constantly engaged in critical thinking skills. Students will be on a 7<sup>th</sup> period block schedule that will find them in periods 1-6 on Mondays and a rotating block of 1,3,5, 7 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2, 4, 6, 7 on Wednesday and Friday.

#### **Extracurricular activities:**

- Clubs (i.e Green Team, Human Rights Club, Animal Rights Club, Leader of the future, film club, Future Educators, etc.)
- College trips
- Beach trip and other team building activities.

### Parent Engagement & Involvement

*AEE* believes that engaging parents in the educational process is essential for a successful school. *AEE* openly welcomes all parents to participate in the educational process. To engage parents, *AEE* will ask parents to be active participants in their child's academic life by:

- Provide them with online access to grades.
- Participating in learning walks and inviting the parents into the classroom.
- Garnering parent participation and sharing in their child's learning experience at students led conferences and showcases.
- Provide meeting times for parent convenience.

Additionally, for parents of struggling students *AEE* will keep them informed by either contacting parents of students who receive any D's or Fails on the five week progress report or conducting Success For All conferences where the faculty, students and parents will work together to find solutions for students success. Lastly, parents will be encouraged to participate in CEAC, ELAC, Governing Council, staff selection committees and PTA meetings.

### **Staffing**

*AEE* is looking for highly qualified and motivated faculty and staff. *AEE* will be expected to work together collaboratively for the benefit of the student population. This includes spending time creating interdisciplinary units with other faculty members, participating in extracurricular activities with the students, or participating on committees to ensure the smooth functioning of the school. Lastly, all *AEE* faculty and staff will be willing to evaluate and be evaluated by their peers.

### **Applicant Team Contact Information**

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