



Small Expansion Application

Charter School Name:

Esperanza Elementary

Charter School Director:

Eulogio Alejandre

Does this request meet the definition of a small expansion, as found in R277-552-2(4), which is: is for 50 or fewer students; would not necessitate a significant renovation; and is for no more than one additional grade?

Yes No

Explanation from the charter school of justified need, as allowed by R277-552-6(4).

See attached pages

Signatures from all the school's governing board members, as allowed by R277-552-6(4). Add additional page or lines as needed.

James Cody Case
Board Chair

[Signature]
Board Member

Matty Burke
Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

For SCSB Staff Use Only:

No concerns, move to board meeting

or

On-going remediation

Corrective action plan (CAP)

State turnaround

System of Support

Comprehensive Support and Improvement

SCSB Warning

SCSB Probation



4956 W 3500 S, West Valley City, UT 84119

Board Statement

Esperanza Elementary would like to propose the small expansion that would include 50 students that would be promoted from 6th grade to 7th grade for the 2024-2025 school year.

Esperanza is in compliance and is meeting its charter agreement with the state. Esperanza has strived to offer a rigorous education and support its students in becoming proficient in Mathematics, English, science as well as Spanish. Esperanza is in the 10th year of operation and has increased over the decade reaching higher and higher academic proficiency and growth. When the school began, the students that we adopted from other areas achieved 9% in mathematics, 10% in ELA and 11% in science. Since that time, through educators', paraprofessionals', administrators', student and parent efforts, student proficiency has increased to 35%, 30% and 36% respectively. The school and its constituents continue to support student learning.

Esperanza provides all services required by state, federal and local law and Board rule. Esperanza has been proficient and capable in carrying out statewide assessments consistent with state law including RISE, WIDA, Acadience Reading, Acadience Math, and more.

Esperanza has always provided evidence-based instruction for the special populations and demographics that it serves. Esperanza offers a dual immersion Spanish program that employs SIOP strategies, dual immersion as well as TWIOP strategies. Special care is taken as data is collected to meet students' needs in effective reading strategies including LETRS and 95% and effective problem-solving strategies provided by "Bridges in Mathematics" as well as "i_Ready Classroom". Care is made to use the most effective strategies in classrooms as well as in other areas of the school. Cultural lessons are offered on a regular basis by teachers so that all cultures in the building feel accepted, safe and invited into the building. Esperanza serves all students accepted by lottery including students qualified for Special Education. The school makes a special effort to reach its ever-growing Latinx audience.

Teachers at Esperanza are certified and hold Utah licenses. Most of the educator population has been grown from within the original employees of the school and have taken time to complete licensing through Weber State. A few teachers are also working on their M.Ed. degrees. Each educator holds a K-8 Utah license and would be highly qualified to teach the 7th grade according to state guidelines. Esperanza currently employs one principal / director and two assistant administrators that are qualified for both elementary as well as secondary schools. Esperanza

currently has 537 students and with the proposed 50 additional students, administration would be sufficient to meet the needs of nearly 600 potential students. Esperanza retains between 85 and 90% of its students yearly and has done so for at least the last three years. The school has an active wait list of 105 students and has had a list as high as 200 in past years.

Esperanza holds sufficient numbers in its 6th grade class to continue into the following school year with 50 students. Should for any reason, those numbers drop below projection, Esperanza will hold a lottery on its wait list families as well as advertise to nearby dual-immersion schools who do not have direct access to dual-immersion at 50% English /50% Spanish in their middle feeder schools. The board is working collaboratively with school staff to determine the best program for its incoming 7th graders.

Esperanza is financially viable, passes yearly audits with minimal to no minor adjustments. Esperanza stays within budget, strives to keep a healthy account of “Cash on Hand” and invests in a PTF account for future expenses.

Esperanza has always kept its commitment to student safety during regular school hours as well as during after school and summer school programs. Esperanza has quickly responded to all State Charter Board suggestions and implemented those strategies with effectiveness. Esperanza continues its effort to effectively educate its students and serve the community in which they reside.

Director’s Statement

Esperanza Elementary School submits its application to add 50 students in seventh grade starting on August of 2024. We do so as required by Utah State Law and USBE code as outlined on its announcement of August 8, 2023. Esperanza Elementary School has met the terms of our charter agreement as evidenced in every audit since we opened in August of 2014. Esperanza Elementary School has shown continued improvement in all academic assessments starting in the spring of 2015 where students scored 9% in mathematics, 10% proficient in English Arts, and 11% proficient in Science. Only 4% of our students were proficient in Spanish literacy. In 2023, preliminary results show that our students had improved to 35% proficiency in math, 30% in English Language Arts, and 36% in science. In Spanish students are now above the national average of 50% proficient. In 2022, students were 37% in mathematics, 28% in English Language Arts, and 36% proficient in science. In Spanish, our students were above the 50% proficient mark.

Esperanza Elementary School has always provided educational services according and state law and board rule. We have always provided training to faculty and staff in order to carry out state assessments, and providing evidence-based instruction for special populations is our greatest asset. In particular ELL students, Latinx students, special education students, and behaviorally

challenged students. We currently have three fully licensed administrators who are biliterate in Spanish and English. We also have 80 faculty and staff who are all bilingual. We have twenty-three teachers, twenty-one teachers hold a professional license from the Utah State Board of Education, including three teachers in our special education department who hold the professional license and are biliterate in Spanish and English. Of the twenty-one teachers who hold a professional license, nineteen arrived at Esperanza Elementary School as teacher assistants and the school supported them with time, guidance, and financially in order for them to obtain a professional license.

Esperanza is compliance with all applicable school legal obligations. We have also always had above an 80% reenrollment rate. Our waitlist is always above 40% and sometimes it hovers around 60% of our annual enrollment. As evidenced by our financial records, we maintain over 100-days cash on hand.

Our annual financial reports, annual program reports, and financial audit statements indicate that Esperanza Elementary School is financially viable institution. We have the financial position to add and additional facilities required to serve 50 additional, if approved.

Finally, Esperanza Elementary School has not dealt with any student safety issues. We promote the ideal that student safety takes priority all other responsibilities of the school.