Overview

ABOUT
KIPP is a national network of charter schools dedicated to preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life. KIPP Chicago Schools (KIPP Chicago) operates a network of eight charter schools serving K-8 students as well as KIPP Through College (KTC), a program that provides services to help KIPP charter school alumni succeed in high school and college. This year, the organization is serving nearly 3,550 students, with approximately 2,450 attending KIPP Chicago charter schools and 1,100 receiving support from KTC.

WHY WE INVESTED
KIPP Chicago is dramatically improving outcomes by providing its students with the preparation and support needed to succeed in high school and college. The most recent data demonstrates that KIPP Chicago alumni graduate high school, enroll in college and persist in college at a rate of 54 percent, compared to 32 percent for schools with similar student demographics. KIPP Chicago is the highest-performing K-8 charter network in the city and leads the KIPP Network in percent of students meeting or exceeding typical growth on NWEA Map testing. KIPP Chicago’s leadership team is a key driver of the organization’s success, both in terms of student outcomes and network expansion. At the helm of the organization is Executive Director April Goble, who has set a strong vision for the organization and ensure that every KIPP Chicago school is held to high standards.

GRANTEE SINCE
2013

INVESTMENT TO DATE
$2.81M

CURRENT NUMBER SERVED
3,547

LEADERSHIP
April Goble
Executive Director
Our Assessment

PROGRAM
KIPP Chicago serves the North Lawndale, Austin and Englewood neighborhoods, communities that are historically underserved and experiencing high poverty rates and where there are significant disparities in achievement. Despite these challenges, KIPP Chicago is dramatically improving outcomes by providing its students with the preparation and support they need to succeed in high school and college. In SY18, KIPP Chicago was the highest-performing K-8 charter network in the city, as measured by Chicago Public School’s (CPS) School Quality Rating Policy, the district’s system for measuring annual school performance. KIPP Chicago outperformed schools with similar student demographics in both reading and math on NWEA and also leads the national KIPP network on growth in this area. Through KTC, the organization continues its mission of supporting students in getting to and through high school and college. The most recently available data show that KIPP Chicago alumni outperform students at demographically-similar schools on a number of critical metrics – 85% of KIPP Chicago alumni graduate from high school (vs. 77%), 84% of high school graduates enroll in college (vs. 70%) and 76% of college enrollees persist to their sophomore year (vs. 60%).

LEADERSHIP
KIPP Chicago is led by a dynamic, impactful and committed leadership team. Executive Director April Goble has a clear vision for the network and empowers her staff to continuously achieve impressive outcomes for students. In an industry with high leader and teacher turnover rates, KIPP Chicago stands out as a school network that has retained top leaders.

Many of KIPP Chicago’s senior leaders have been with the organization for some time and have been promoted from within. All of KIPP Chicago’s school leaders have been with the organization for at least six years; three have been committed to KIPP for more than a decade. Looking to the future, KIPP Chicago has set a goal that 50% of school leadership teams will be led by people of color and the organization has developed mentoring and recruiting efforts to build a robust and diverse pipeline.
Our Assessment

**OPERATIONS**
KIPP Chicago’s operations run smoothly and allow for the focus of the organization to remain on academics. The school-based operations team successfully recruits and enrolls families before the first day of school and has achieved average daily attendance rates over 96%. Despite a significant decrease in CPS’s student population, KIPP Chicago remains fully enrolled at every campus.

KIPP Chicago consistently meets or exceeds its revenue targets, but uncertainty stemming from the upcoming mayoral election and changing attitudes toward charter schools make it hard to predict future funding from CPS. KIPP Chicago will need to continue meeting its aggressive fundraising targets to ensure model consistency.

**SCALE**
KIPP Chicago is currently serving approximately 2,450 students at its eight schools in Chicago (four K-4 primary schools and four 5-8 middle schools), plus 1,100 high school and college students through KTC. There are no plans to open additional campuses, but four (one middle and three primary schools) are still growing to scale. From FY19 and FY23, KIPP Chicago expects to grow to serve 3,600 students in its existing schools and 2,000 students through KTC annually. The organization is committed to building on its robust programming to respond to students’ holistic needs, with an increased focus on areas such as trauma-informed care, arts education and nutrition strategies. A Better Chicago believes that this work, in combination with KIPP Chicago’s already-high bar for academic performance, has the power to unlock student potential even further.
Grantee Performance

**KEY OUTCOME**
College persistence rate of 9th graders

**REVENUE**
In millions

**SCALE**
Students served
Our Impact

INVESTMENT TO DATE

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Talent Recruitment Strategy: In 2018, KIPP Chicago worked with On-Ramps to recruit a Director of Development. A Better Chicago vetted search firms and covered 50 percent of the fees.

Branding and Website Redesign: In 2017, KIPP Chicago worked with a branding and design firm to refresh its brand identity and update its website. A Better Chicago vetted vendors, supported with project management and covered 50 percent of the fees.

Expansion support: In 2015, KIPP Chicago worked with an independent consultant to complete a proposal to open two new schools and expand a third campus in Chicago. A Better Chicago vetted consultants and covered 75 percent of the fees.
Contact Us

For more information, contact:

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