

(2) GRIMMWAY’S NEW SCHOOLS WILL RECRUIT, ENROLL AND SERVE EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS, INCLUDING SPED AND ELS

Grimmway is firmly committed to serving educationally disadvantaged students by providing educational options where the existing public schools are failing yet no alternative options currently exist. Our expansion and replication plan over the next five years includes the following:

Grimmway Schools Enrollment Roll-Out Chart

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total New Seats	Total Seats at Capacity
Grimmway Academy (K-8)	800							800
Grimmway Academy Shafter (K-8)	620 (K-6)	90 - 7th gr	90 - 8th gr				180	800
Grimmway Academy HS (9-12)		Planning	250 - 9th gr	250 - 10th gr	250 - 11th	250 - 12th gr	1,000	1,000
Grimmway Academy #3 (K-8)					Planning	450 - K-4th	450	800
Totals	1,420	90	340	250	250	700	1,630	3,400

A detailed outreach plan is created prior to each school launch that includes a wide array of broad and specifically targeted activities. All activities and materials are in Spanish and English. Outreach and lottery application materials make clear that Grimmway is a no-cost public school open to all, with non-discrimination statements aligned with California and federal law. Parent volunteers from current schools and parents in the local community of the new school become integral partners in our efforts to disseminate information throughout the community. We know that parents talking to other parents about Grimmway is the most powerful outreach tool we have.

Outreach efforts include distributing fliers at local schools, churches, businesses, laundromats, parks, recreational facilities, community learning centers, libraries, service organizations, and other easily accessible community locations; attending local neighborhood and community events such as weekly farmers’ markets, fairs and celebrations; advertising on local radio and in the local neighborhood newspapers; making presentations to groups throughout the community and hosting open-houses on our campuses; and hosting events,

summer camps, celebrations and festivals on our campuses to spread awareness of our schools. Grimmway also focuses on establishing and maintaining strong relationships with local leaders and government organizations/agencies. We maintain comprehensive English/Spanish websites for each school where families can access enrollment applications and learn more about upcoming programs and events. See App H for a detailed recruiting/outreach plan.

Our admissions and enrollment policies and procedures are consistent with California law, District policies and federal requirements, including the Charter Schools Program Non-Regulatory Guidance. Grimmway does not require a parent/legal guardian/student to provide information prior to admission regarding a student’s disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, legal or economic status, primary language or English Learner status, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic contained in the definition of hate crimes in the CA Penal Code.²⁰ When more applications are received than there are spaces available in a school, admission is determined by a lottery. Currently enrolled students are exempt from the lottery. California law requires that preference be given for in-District residents; an additional preference may be added for residents of the local elementary school attendance area within which the charter school is located, for purposes of SB740 facilities reimbursements. Grimmway also will request preference for SED and first generation college students for GAHS to ensure these students have access to the school. At all times, Grimmway has and will conduct its lotteries in compliance with all applicable laws and guidance, including the terms of this grant.

²⁰ Cal Ed. Code § 47605(d)(1) and §220; CA Prop. 209.

At existing schools, Grimmway continues to engage the community through week-long summer camps; community cooking classes sponsored by Sprouts; Farmer's Markets; Wellness Fairs (local health and dental clinics, nutritionists, etc. present health info); Family Reunions (for alumni and current families) and Winter Carnivals (entire local community invited) for prospective and existing students, families and teachers. Grimmway will replicate this successful model as the infrastructure becomes available at expansion schools and their local communities, leveraging parent input throughout each stage of the process to ensure we reach the "hardest to reach" families. Senior staff and the Board review data about outreach efforts, applications received, enrollment data, student demographics and more to ensure we are fulfilling our mission of serving Kern County's most underserved families, including ELs and SpEd students.

FAPE: Grimmway Schools will ensure all educationally disadvantaged children will receive a free, appropriate education. Each new charter school, like our current two schools, shall be its own local educational agency ("LEA") member of the Kern County Consortium Special Education Local Plan Area ("SELPA") in conformity with Education Code Section 47641(a). As detailed extensively in each charter petition, Grimmway will ensure that it adopts and implements policies and procedures that comply with the mandates of state and federal laws, including, but not limited to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and any other civil rights enforced by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR). Grimmway also will comply with all provisions of AB 602, applicable SELPA guidelines, and additional federal and state laws that apply to Grimmway pertaining to

SpEd students. Furthermore, Grimmway will comply with California State Board of Education (SBE) guidelines, and all California laws pertaining to SpEd students.

No child will be excluded from the admissions process or excluded from attending Grimmway due to his/her IEP or suspected disability; Grimmway is committed to serving all students who wish to attend our schools, and will not discourage parents of students with special needs from applying for admission or enrolling their child. All teachers and staff will participate in comprehensive PD on identifying and serving students with disabilities.

As its own Local Education Agency (LEA) and member of a SELPA, each Grimmway school pledges to work in cooperation with all local and state agencies to ensure that a free and appropriate education is provided to all students with exceptional needs. Per federal law, all students with disabilities will be fully integrated into Grimmway programs, with the necessary materials, mandated services, and equipment to support their learning. The schools will ensure that any Grimmway student with a disability is properly identified, assessed and provided with necessary services and supports. Grimmway will meet all the requirements mandated within a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). The schools will include all special needs students with non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate according to their IEPs.

Search and Serve: Grimmway will follow SELPA child-find procedures to identify all students who may require assessment to consider SpEd eligibility and SpEd and related services in the case that general education interventions do not provide a free appropriate public education to the student in question. No assessment or evaluation will be used for admission purposes. Through collaboration between the faculty, parents and school leaders, Grimmway will work to identify any students who do not currently have an IEP but may be in need of pre-referral interventions.

Assessment: The SpEd Coordinator will be responsible for gathering all pertinent information and sharing such information with all others involved in the assessment. Information gathered will be used as tools to determine the student's disability, eligibility for services, and determining the nature and extent of required services. Assessments will be done only upon receipt of written parent permission. The assessment will be completed and an IEP meeting held within 60 days of receipt of the parent's written consent for assessment, consistent with applicable law. Every student who is assessed by the school will have an IEP that documents assessment results and eligibility determination for SpEd services. If the student is deemed eligible for services, Grimmway will provide specialized services according to the student's IEP.

IEPs: Grimmway will comply with the federal mandate of the least restrictive environment (LRE"). Grimmway's SPED Team (including SpEd Resource Specialist, School Psychologist, Speech Therapist, and School Counselor) will administer the SpEd program at each school and provide services for SpEd students. Any services that the SPED IEP Team or Grimmway staff cannot provide will be provided by outside contractors (such as occupational therapy, speech therapy, etc.). All Grimmway faculty and staff members will attend PD necessary to comply with state and federal SpEd laws, including those sponsored by the SELPA. The IEP team will formally review each student's IEP at least once a year to determine how the IEP is meeting his/her needs. In accordance with IDEA regulations, the IEP team will also conduct a formal review of the IEP once every three years, in which the student is reassessed and the IEP is reviewed as part of an overall comprehensive reevaluation of the student's progress.

Documentation: Grimmway will provide all required California, SELPA and Federal Government data. The SpEd Coordinator will ensure that a central file with all SpEd and IEP materials is maintained, locked and confidential, in accordance with IDEA guidelines.

Discipline: Grimmway will ensure that it follows the correct disciplinary procedures to comply with the mandates of state and federal laws, including the IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Plan of 1973, including any and all responsibilities to provide and/or fund SpEd services and/or alternative placements. Prior to imposing any discipline on a SpEd student that would legally constitute a change in placement, a manifestation determination must first be convened to determine whether the conduct at issue was a manifestation of the student's disability or caused by a failure to implement the student's IEP.

Due Process: Grimmway will provide parents with all notices of procedural safeguards as well as with information on the procedure to initiate both formal and informal dispute resolutions. In the event that a parent/guardian files a request for a due process hearing or request for mediation, Grimmway will comply with all applicable laws, regulations and SELPA policies. Parents or guardians also have the right to file a complaint with the CDE or SBE if they believe that the school or SELPA has violated federal or state laws or regulations governing SpEd.