

Key Questions for Expansion & Replication



QUESTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS	EXPANSION	REPLICATION	REMAIN AT STEADY STATE
Rationale	What academic, financial, operational and community indicators signal the need for expansion?	What academic, financial, operational and community indicators signal the need for replication?	Do you need more time to prepare? Is this what the community wants?
Timing	Is now the right time to expand?	Is now the right time to replicate?	Is it better to wait?
Academic Capacity	Is new staff needed to manage the process and develop new curriculum materials and program plans? Do you have the budget?	Do you have a pipeline of internal talent to manage and implement the replication? Do you have the budget?	Do you have adequate academic capacity at your current school size?
Financial & Operational Capacity	Do your Finance and Operations Departments need additional capacity to handle the extra volume related to expansion?	Do your Finance and Operations Departments need additional capacity to handle the extra volume related to replication?	Do your Finance and Operations Departments have adequate capacity at your current size?
School Type(s)	Does your team have the expertise to serve proposed grades especially if adding a new level of instruction (elementary vs. middle vs. high school)?	Does your team understand the nuances of student and family needs in the target community? Has community outreach been conducted that meets or exceeds outreach conducted for the initial school?	Will you have the time, resources and capacity at the time of expansion/replication?
Charter Management Organization (CMO) or Shared Services	How would expansion impact any shared services or CMO agreements? Would expansion precipitate the need to create any shared services/CMO agreements?	Would replication be improved by launching a CMO (if one doesn't already exist)?	Does the team have the capacity and resources to launch a CMO or enter into a shared services agreement? Would the launch or change in a CMO/shared service agreement negatively impact the school's program and/or perceived ability to pursue the mission?
Funding	Aside from increased enrollment funding, what additional funds are available for expansion?	Aside from increased enrollment funds, are there additional funds available for replication?	Are there yet unexplored alternatives such as moving to another facility that would address any concerns prompting the consideration of expansion or replication?
Location	Can your current facility accommodate your expansion? Or will you have to operate in a separate building? Is public space available?	How will you establish a separate campus and manage multiple facilities?	Does your current facility have adequate capacity for full growth?
Facility Condition	Do you need renovations to accommodate the expansion?	Do you need renovations for the new building to be used for the replication?	Do you need renovations in your current building?
Investments/Purchases	What key investments and purchases do you have to make related to the expansion?	What key investments and purchases do you have to make related to the replication?	What key investments and purchases are needed at steady state?
Board of Trustees	Does the Board support the decision to replicate or expand? Has the board received input from the target community, current families and staff?		If not, revisit the rationale and consider what needs to happen to create buy-in.
Authorizer	Would the authorizer approve and has the school demonstrated a clear need for this growth? Is the current performance of the school strong enough to warrant introducing it to new communities?		Does the current program have room for significant improvement? If so, in what areas?
Charter Related Next Steps	Do you have to submit a material change to your existing charter for expansion?	Do you have to write a new charter application or officially request to add another campus?	Are you following your charter as originally approved?