

Vanguard Academy Charter School Expansion Application

POPULATION AND ENROLLMENT

1. Describe the population of the school that includes a demographic profile listing the percentage of minority students, the percentage of students with disabilities qualifying for special education services, the percentage of economically disadvantaged students, the percentage of English Learners, academic performance of students entering the school, and distance travelled by current students.

The demographic profile of Vanguard's population consists of the following:

- 1% minority students
- 5% students with disabilities qualifying for special education services
- 77% students who are economically disadvantaged students (qualify for free or reduced lunch)
- 0% English Learners
- The academic performance of students entering the school are provided by state assessment reports from spring RISE proficiency levels. The data shows the average proficiency rates of students **entering** 7th grade at Vanguard over the past 3 years:

ELA Average = 13% student proficiency rate

MATH Average = 45% student proficiency rate

- The distance travelled by students to attend Vanguard are estimated using the district of residence data from our SIS. Currently, the following districts of residence and number of students living within those district boundaries are included in our data:

Box Elder: 1 student (+/-60 miles)

Davis County: 27 students (+/-20 miles)

Granite District: 268 students (+/-5 miles)

Jordan District: 104 students (+/-10 miles)

Salt Lake District: 25 students (+/-5 miles)

Murray District: 11 students (+/-8 miles)

Canyons District: 29 students (+/-13 miles)

Approximate distance travelled by most students is between 5 and 10 miles each direction to and from school.

2. Compare the description in question one (1) to the local school district of the sponsoring school.

Granite School District:

- 50% minority students
- 13% students with disabilities qualifying for special education services
- 56% students who are economically disadvantaged students (qualify for free or reduced lunch)
- 23% English Learners

The current academic performance comparisons show the student proficiency rates for both Vanguard Academy and Granite School District:

| Vanguard Academy | | Granite School District | |
|------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| -ELA | 49% | -ELA | 31% |
| -Math | 73% | -Math | 33% |

3. Enrollment practices, processes, and policies of the school

During the open enrollment window, students may enroll using the form on our website via online submission or printed and mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to the school, or families may also obtain forms from our main office and submit completed forms in person or by mail or email.

If we receive more enrollment applications than we have seats, we will hold a lottery to fill our seats and generate a wait list for students applying for enrollment over our enrollment cap. All families of enrolled students are notified of the date, time, and location of the lottery along with Vanguard's enrollment procedures, including the enrollment lottery drawing preference categories as outlined in our charters Exhibit A document:

Enrollment preferences permitted by Vanguard board policy and Utah Code 53G-6-502:

- a. children or grandchildren of founding members
- b. children or grandchildren of the governing board
- c. siblings of students currently or previously enrolled and graduated
- d. children of school employees.

4. Enrollment time frame that will be implemented and shared with the public:

Our open enrollment window is posted on our website and runs from January 1st to January 31st each year. Enrollment guidelines, dates and forms are:

- Posted on our website
- Published in our school newsletters
- Announced and posted in the Vanguard school building
- Distributed to schools in the area

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EDUCATIONAL PLAN

1. Provide a description of philosophical approach to improving pupil achievement used.

Vanguard Academy's educational philosophy centers on student achievement and growth. Vanguard uses state and classroom data to measure and monitor student progress and proficiency. Each student's achievement is monitored and tracked weekly. Individualized textbooks and learning objectives are designed as needed to provide students intervention and assistance in helping them gain the knowledge and strategies necessary to master course content and concepts. Vanguard believes that 100% of our students are capable of continued progress and achievement provided they have adequate and appropriate support.

2. Describe the program of instruction used, including methods of instruction and curriculum for the core academic content areas, which supports the school's philosophy and aligns to Utah Core Standards.

Vanguard Academy teaches a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) curriculum, where the subjects are coordinated to co-support each other under a formal educational structure of how science, technology, engineering, mathematics and the broad spectrum of the arts, all relate to one another in reality.

Vanguard teachers utilize problem-based learning as a platform to deliver high quality curriculum. Our curricula contain programs and stratagems for incorporating cooperative group work, thus giving students the opportunity to take real world scenarios, model the mathematics, science, and literacy surrounding it, and make accurate predictions based on their findings. Each curriculum is well-aligned to the state core standards to ensure that students gain the knowledge that they need at every given grade level during their time at Vanguard. All teachers are expected to collaborate and incorporate cross-curricular alignment and appropriate teaching methodologies to include writing skills, critical thinking skills, concepts from math and science, chemistry, financial literacy, etc. We utilize curricula and teaching strategies that encourage our students to learn every concept, step by step, to the point where they have a working knowledge of every concept taught at each grade level.

Some of the curricula we currently use at Vanguard include:

- College Preparatory Mathematics (CPM), for mathematics instruction
- HMH Science Dimensions for Jr. High Science; Pearson curriculum for High School Physics, Chemistry, and Biology; and AP CSA Course by Edhesive curriculum for Computer Science
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) for Engineering and Robotics classes
- Pearson Common Core Literature for English Language Arts
- Glencoe and We the People for Social Sciences
- Breezin' Thru Theory and teacher-selected performance pieces for music

3. Describe how the school provides, as required by state and federal law, special education and related services.

Vanguard provides a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities by providing individualized special education and related service instruction in their least restrictive environment and providing them access to the general curriculum.

According to Vanguard's 2020 Results Driven Accountability (RDA) letter issued by the Utah State Board of Education, 91.67% of Vanguard students with a disability are receiving instruction inside general education classes for 80% or more of the day as compared to the state target of 58.97%. Because our students are provided educational opportunities in their least restrictive environment (LRE), through educational interaction with their peers, participation in

the regular education classrooms, and acquisition of individual learning strategies, all of Vanguard's students with disabilities were able to participate in the state testing at the end of the year. Vanguard students exceeded the state target for proficiency for literacy:

- Grades 3-8 (37.5%)
- Grade 10 (33.33%)

Struggling students are provided progress-monitoring as part of Vanguard's child find process to ensure student success. As a result, our graduation rate for students with an IEP is currently 80%. Parents are given a survey prior to their child's IEP meeting to involve them in the development of the individualized education program (IEP). Parents are also invited and encouraged to attend the IEP meeting and are given opportunities to provide input in their students' education plans. Vanguard data, according to the RDA letter, reveals that 100% of our parents are involved in the IEP process.

4. If the school serves or intends to expand to serve a high school population, identify the graduation requirements for the school that will meet State requirements. Describe the process and criteria for awarding course credit.

In order to graduate from Vanguard Academy, a student must:

1. Earn a minimum of 24 credits as designated by the Utah State Board of Education and the Vanguard Academy Board.

2. Meet attendance requirements as designated by Vanguard Academy and USBE

3. Pass the Civics Exam as required by the Utah State Board of Education.

Credit is awarded on the basis of a student's participation, mastery of subject matter, and/or attainment of skills and is granted for courses taken in grades 9-12. Credits earned during the summer prior to ninth grade may be applied toward graduation.

Working as a team, Vanguard academic advisors, students, and parents meet on an annual basis to set goals and establish the framework and a "Graduation Progress Summary" (GPS) plan for the courses student will take while attending Vanguard. This framework is created in accordance with Vanguard's mission for students to excel in college and careers and guides students through the process of selecting academic and career pathways and aligning their course selections to support selected pathways.

5. List the Contractual Agreement Goals of the sponsoring school and describe the school's performance against the goals. Include goals identified Exhibit A. If the school is not meeting all its goals, describe the governing board's corrective action plan.

Vanguard Academy is currently meeting or exceeding our Contractual Agreement Goals as specified in Exhibit A.

Goal 1. At least 95% of our students will complete a post-secondary academic plan.

- o Currently, 100% of our students and parents have worked with our academic advisors and have completed a post-secondary plan.

Goal 2. At least 50% of Vanguard students will graduate high school with at least 12 college credits.

- o Vanguard has exceeded this goal each year that we have had graduates

 - In 2018, 74% of Vanguard students graduated with at least 12 college credits

 - In 2019, 70% of Vanguard students graduated with at least 12 college credits

 - In 2020, 66% of Vanguard students graduated with at least 12 college credits

Goal 3. At least 80% of Vanguard students will graduate high school, calculated using Utah's graduation rate formula.

- o Vanguard's 4-year graduation rate is 95.9% based upon the data from the state report card.

Goal 4. At least 50% of Vanguard students will reach a score predictive of college success on the ACT Composite and/or individual subtests (Composite = 18)

- o 70.4% of Vanguard students received a composite score of 18 or higher on the exam based upon data from the state report card.