PSC 3.0 INFORMATIONAL SCHOOL PLAN SUMMARY
FOR: VALLEY REGION SPAN K-8 #1
PROPOSED BY: SYLMAR STEM ACADEMY (DREAMS)
FOR: SYLMAR STEM ACADEMY

Mission & Vision of the School

- *In 3-5 sentences, describe the school's vision for its students.*

   The Mission/Vision of the Sylmar Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is dedicated to providing a personalized and student-focused learning environment. Students will be furnished a rich learning experience that will foster academic achievement, acquisition of knowledge, and 21st century skills that will prepare students for future educational and career challenges and opportunities. Students and staff will participate in a learning community, one that is centered on a shared commitment to academic excellence, a college-bound culture and a work-ready citizenship. The Academy will also focus-upon the need to increase the number of underrepresented students (minorities, women and economically disadvantaged) who seek higher education and training in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

- *In a brief paragraph, explain what students will know and be able to do upon matriculation from your school. Address what students need to learn to be at grade level and proficient to remain on track for graduation.*

   Upon graduation students will possess 21st century skills essential to succeed in a global market society. Students will be able to: think critically to problem solve; collaborate in team settings; communicate utilizing a variety of mediums; and create strategic and innovative action plans. Moreover, students will have the skills to process new information at the highest level of Bloom's Taxonomy by: remembering and understanding knowledge (acquisition); acquiring knowledge and applying it to new situations (application); routinely solving new problems (assimilation); creating solutions and taking action (adaptation). These skills will enable students to master a standard based curriculum and be proficient in core subjects to ensure that they remain on track for graduation and college bound.

Designing Data Driven & Student Centered Instructional Programs

- *Using bullet points, note some of the key findings about students' needs at your school.*
- 95% Latino population
- 90% Free and reduced lunch
- Large English Language Learner population
- Low reclassification rate
- 50% Proficient / Advanced in elementary ELA – 34% Proficient / Advanced in middle school ELA
- 64% Proficient / Advanced in elementary math – 27% Proficient / Advanced in middle school math
- 25% Proficient / Advanced in elementary ELA for ELLs – 5% Proficient / Advanced in middle school ELA for ELLs
- 20% Proficient / Advanced in elementary ELA for SWD – 7% Proficient / Advanced in middle school ELA for SWD
- 47% Proficient / Advanced in elementary math for ELLs – 5% Proficient / Advanced in middle school math for ELLs
- Low attendance for students
- Low parent engagement
- Low identification of GATE students
- Large number of suspensions at the middle school

- *Using bullet points, list how you will design student services and interventions to prepare all students to graduate college-prepared and career-ready. Connect the services and interventions you propose to evidence and research regarding best practices.*

- Teachers that want to make a difference in our community

- Professional development for teachers
- Data based decisions for learning
- Budget autonomy
- Educational Talent Search ETS
- Youth Speak Collective
- University Partnerships
- Community Partnerships
- RTI2 (Tier 1, Tier2 and Tier3) Instruction
- CST and CELDT Test Prep Academies
- Advisory for personalization and relationship building
- Before and after school intervention classes
- Social Emotional Counseling
- Mentors
- Tutors
- Learning Lab

Instructional Program

- *Briefly describe in bullet point format how your proposal will serve the following student sub-groups (be sure to include the header for each sub-group below in your response):*

Students with disabilities will benefit from
- *Careful planning between teachers and specialists to meet instructional needs*
- *Increased focus on student collaboration in Problem Based Learning*
- *Full inclusion in all classroom academics and extra-curricular activities*
- *Trained personnel, supplemental services an aids, adapted curriculum*
- *Increased social confidence and motivation through participating in project-based learning*
- *Linked Learning: learning beyond the classroom*

Students that are socio-economically disadvantaged will benefit from
- *An increased focus on personalization and advocacy*
- *Greater sense of belonging attributed to the focused personalization and modeling from older students and adults*
- *Use of culturally relevant and responsive methodologies to improve academic English and literacy skills*
- *Family, teachers, community members working in concert toward an enhanced well-being of students*
- *Mental and physical wellness in a safe learning environment*

Gifted students will benefit from
- *An increased focus on intensive inquiry*
- *Interdisciplinary, thematic, and differentiated instruction*
- *Problem-based instruction*
- *Challenges that will require meaningful resolutions*
- *Alternative learning environments leading to advanced ideological and creative levels*

English Language Learners will benefit from
- *Rigorous, standards-based core content instruction*
- *Project-Based instruction*
- *Authentic assessments aimed at closing the achievement gap*
- *Use of culturally relevant methodologies to improve academic English and literacy skills*
- *Cooperative grouping*
- *Focus on writing*

Standard English Learners will benefit from
- *Increased focus on using background knowledge to build academic proficiency*
- *Collaborative activities that scaffold instruction*
- *Diverse cooperative groupings and language-rich activities*
- *Project-based learning to increase oral and written language proficiency*
- *Increased focus student collaboration in Problem Based Learning*
- *Rigorous, standards-based core content instruction*

School Culture

- *In 3-5 sentences, describe the school culture that you envision for your school.*

The Sylmar STEM Academy embraces a diverse culture, in which students' backgrounds are honored and integrated into a multiethnic experience for all students, teachers, parents, staff, and community members. The Sylmar STEM Academy emphasizes high behavioral and academic expectations for teachers, students and community members. The culture is one of collaboration, accountability and mutual respect among all stakeholders; providing a safe and nurturing environment; and extensive involvement with our local community. The Sylmar STEM Academy is committed to becoming a center of culture and education that provides an anchor for the community.

- *In a brief paragraph, describe the typical day in the life of a student at your school.*

The minute students walk onto campus they will be greeted by teachers, staff and administrators that know them by first name. Students will enter classrooms that are clean, organized, colorful, print-rich, with bulletins and centers that showcase student samples of writing, projects, technology, art and authentic assessments. Students will be instructionally engaged by highly motivated teachers that utilize modeling, visuals, graphic organizers, collaborative groupings, project-based learning, music and other proven strategies that tap into audio, visual and kinesthetic learning modalities. This instruction will focus on all elements of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. From an early age students will believe that they are college bound and career focused. Students will transition through classroom and hallways named after elite universities such as Stanford, Harvard, UCLA, USC, etc. Students will feel respected and valued for their individual differences and of the unique contributions they bring to their school. Upon dismissal, students will have clear expectations of homework and other assignments. Afterschool, students will feel supported by intervention programs, homework clubs and other extra curricular activities that instill empowerment, positive self-esteem and a love for learning. Their day continues with their parents and families attending workshops, events and receiving follow-up phone calls that support them and their families at home. They sleep at night knowing that their school has truly done everything possible to promote and fulfill their educational aspirations. And so they dream big!

- *Using bullet points, list some of the extracurricular activities that will be provided at the school.*
- Dance
- Film and video
- Debate club
- Mural club
- Drill team
- Folklorico
- YOGA
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Golf

Parent Engagement & Involvement

- *In a brief paragraph or using bullet points, discuss the strategies that you will use to meaningfully engage parents and guardians in the academic achievement of their children.*
- *In your response, include how you will create a welcoming, respectful environment for parents, families, guardians.*

All parents want to see their children thrive but are often uncertain how to provide the necessary guidance. The Sylmar STEM Academy will empower and build capacity for parents allowing them to become involved in the educational process of their children through the following means of engagement and outreach avenues.

- Follow parent skill-building training programs (communication, literacy, technology, math, science)
- Develop Action Team Partnerships (ATP)
- Build and staff the Family Community Center's programs
- Parent Liaisons coordinating parent-student (family math nights, Day with Dad) and community based activities
- Staffing the computer lab
- Classroom volunteers and leadership roles
- Collaborating with service learning projects
- Collaborating with families at school and at home
- Collaborating with community at school and beyond school
- Acting as literacy models and library-student partners

Staffing

- *In a brief paragraph, describe what characteristics the school will look for when recruiting teachers and select staff in order to ensure that staff acknowledge and support the academic, social, and cultural needs of the students.*

Highly-qualified teachers and staff at Sylmar STEM Academy will share the understanding that reform is the pathway to success in our community of Sylmar. Applicants will accept the Project-based learning model in the context of the goals in our STEM school. They will be imaginative, collaborative, reflective and willing to demonstrate leadership qualities to ensure the success of every student. The Academy will seek staff members who demonstrate a willingness to build and maintain relationships with each of their students and peers, the family members and community shareholders. These relationships will be collaborative, supportive, professional, and academically and culturally relevant.

Applicant Team Contact Information

Lead and/or Team Member Name(s): Richard S. Ramos, Henry Cuaz, Dr. Ivan Cheng
Applicant Team Contact Phone Number: 818.919.4229
Applicant Team Contact Email: ramosr@lamission.edu or rramos3@lausd.net