



**Chinese Immersion  
in U.S. Public  
Charter Schools**

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# Questions to Consider...

- 0 Am I a parent, teacher, school or community leader frustrated with the Chinese Immersion options in my community?
- 0 How might Charter Schools serve as one option for increasing Chinese Immersion in my district?
- 0 What do I need to consider in starting a charter school? How hard is it?
- 0 Once opened, how might a charter school operate differently than a private or traditional school?

# What is a Charter School?

- 0 Charter Schools are Independent Public Schools
  - 0 Federal Reform movement ideally suited to Chinese Immersion and other critical languages
    - 0 Site-based management
    - 0 Parent-driven choice schools
    - 0 innovative educational models
    - 0 freedom in exchange for high accountability
    - 0 flexibility in hiring Highly Qualified Teachers
  - 0 Fiscally independent, tuition free
  - 0 Authorized by school district, university, community college, or state board of directors



# Global Village Non-Profit Educational Entities

Note: **Green Areas** indicate Direct Support Areas For Collaborative Member Schools

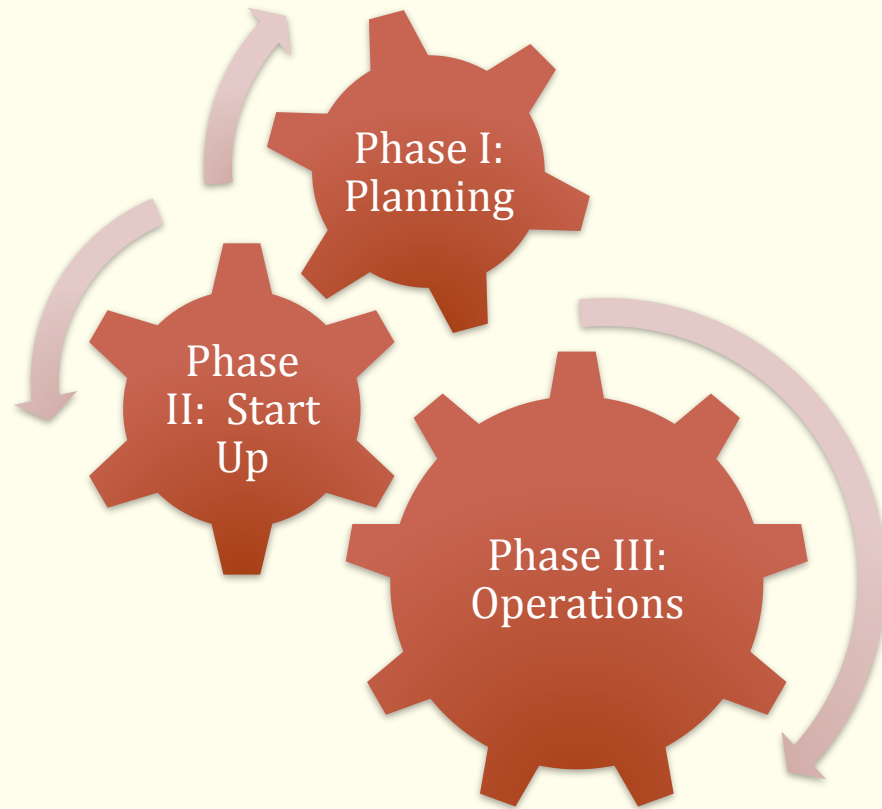


# GVA Immersion Model

Full to Partial Immersion, where 50% of the day is spent in the target language is the most effective instructional model, producing the highest proficiency levels.



# Three Phases of Starting A Charter School



# Phase One: Planning

- 0 Establish a Founding Board of Directors
  - 0 Operate under Open Meeting Laws
- 0 Determine the Mission, Vision, Educational Model
- 0 Write Charter Application
- 0 Establish Legal Entity
  - 0 Articles of Incorporation
  - 0 By Laws
  - 0 Federal I.D. Number
  - 0 Bank Account: Charter School Planning Grants, Donations

# Stakeholders

- Federal and state departments of education
- Authorizers: School districts and institutions of higher education
- Charter School Leagues and Associations
- Chinese organizations in your community. There are more than you think.
- Parents and families with K-12 students, who are interested in enriched educational experiences, immersion education, and/or foreign languages



# Founding Board of Directors

- 0 The best charter school boards have key skills:
  - 0 Leadership
  - 0 Funds development
  - 0 Legal knowledge
  - 0 Commercial real estate
  - 0 Financial planning
  - 0 Human resources
  - 0 Marketing
  - 0 Technology



# Key Application Components

## 0 Clear and Concise Executive Summary

- 0 Vision and mission statement
- 0 Need for school
- 0 The school's grade structure
- 0 Proposed location
- 0 Target population or community
- 0 The design team's history
- 0 Overview of educational program
- 0 SMART performance goals
- 0 Governance structure



# Charter Application...

- 0 Academic and Operational Goals
- 0 Sound Educational Program
- 0 School Culture and Climate: A day in the life...
- 0 Plan for At-Risk Students (RtI, ELL, SPED)
- 0 Accountability and Assessment Plan
- 0 Organizational Leadership, Structure, Capacity
- 0 Staff Qualifications, Recruitment Plan
- 0 Financial Plan: 5-year Budget, Grants, Cash Flow
- 0 Facilities Plan or Strategy

# Money

- **Per-Pupil Operating Revenue (PPOR) and Capital Construction Funding:** Charter schools are publically funded in the same way as traditional public elementary schools.
- **Start-up Grants:** Apply for start-up grant through your state.
- **.gov grants:** Chinese is deemed a critical language by the U.S. Department of Defense, leading to several federal grant programs. Consider the FLAP Program run by the NSEP and STARTALK programs.
- **Han Ban in China:** will send free text books in many cases, offer exchange teacher programs, and may fund some projects for K-12 education in Chinese language and culture. Contact the local Chinese consulate to start.
- **Local University:** Chinese language and education programs may be interested in curriculum development and research. Partner with Confucius Institutes.

# Marketing

- 0 Send out press releases, contact TV and radio stations—Chinese Immersion is an interesting topic!
- 0 Talk to people as much as possible about your idea: send letters and emails to legislators, hold public meetings at libraries, send direct mail brochures
- 0 Participate in all events and fairs related to Chinese and education in your community
- 0 Launch a website that includes an online enrollment form for letters of intent. Create blogs, twitter and yahoo groups, and other online chat forums
- 0 Develop a recognizable logo

# Planning Phase I Milestones

- 0 Corporation established
- 0 Board is functioning
- 0 School is planned and designed
- 0 Charter application is approved
- 0 Community support is solicited
  - 0 Have many *Letters of Intent* to enroll
- 0 Possible facilities are identified



# Phase II: Start Up

- Adopt Governance Structure: Carver, Traditional Non-profit, or Corporate Governance Structure
- Recruit and Hire Principal and Staff
  - Contracts, Benefits, Job Descriptions
- Systems Implementation
  - Forms for everything!
  - Funds Accounting System
  - Student Information System
  - Enrollment Systems
  - Report Card Systems
  - Communications Systems



# Identifying Quality Staff

- 0 Teachers must meet federal NCLB “Highly Qualified” requirements but do not need to be state certified
- 0 Guest Teacher Program through College Board
- 0 Use Chinese educational websites in the U.S. such as CLTA, and state-wide websites such as MNK-12 Chinese listserve.
- 0 Advertise in local and national newspapers and job posting websites.
- 0 Recognize Cross-Cultural Challenges

See Video on topic at Global Village Academy website



# Milestones for Start Up Phase II

- 0 Occupy fully furnished building
- 0 Systems in Place: Student Information, Assessments
- 0 Curriculum
- 0 Technology Plan Developed: Phones, Computers, Smart Boards, Security Systems
- 0 School is fully enrolled and staffed
- 0 Board is meeting once per month

# Phase III: Operations

- 0 Training and Supporting Staff
- 0 Developing and Refining Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- 0 Communicating with Parents, Community and Stakeholders
- 0 Network: ACTFL, Asia Society, CAL, CARLA

# Design and Implement Curriculum

- 0 Connect with other immersion programs nationwide. Invite teachers to your school to meet and train your teachers.
- 0 This is content-based: state standards and theme-based teaching/hands-on teaching. The same strategies for ELL work in immersion.
- 0 Be intentional about literacy development

# Data and Assessments

- 0 All public schools are accountable to standards for state testing in English.
- 0 Use the ELLOPA/SOPA at least one time, if not two times a year, to evaluate student oral language growth.
- 0 Develop grade-level standardized literacy tests, based on reading and writing curriculum outcomes. Use backwards design to develop these. Where do you expect children to score in character recognition, comprehension, and writing skills by the end of your program? (Stamp, HSK)

# Milestones for Fully Operating School

- No less than 85% of students meet core subject and Chinese language proficiencies benchmarks
- High student retention. Wait list is long -- 300 plus students
- Positive fund balance and potential for facilities bond financing
- High parent satisfaction
- Low teacher, administrator, and Board of Director turn over
- Substantive community partnerships



**AN INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL**

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