

Application Score Sheet

Proposed Project: Seaside School, Inc., Dream Big Walton County (#341)

Proposed Project/Program County:

Board of County Commission Support: Yes

Rural County: Yes

Opportunity Zone: Yes

Total Projected Project Cost: \$29,004,236

Match Provided: \$18,978,986

Triumph Funds Requested: \$9,557,500 (33%)

Triumph Funds Recommended by Staff: \$9,557,500

Score: A

ROI: increase in household incomes expected from the program will be \$33.4 per dollar of Triumph cost

Economic Analysis, Impact and Score

The Seaside School, Inc. is requesting up to \$9,557,500 in Triumph funding to be used to deliver 3,820 milestones consisting of either industry certifications or 15 credit hour bundles of college level courses via the Dream Big Walton County project. These milestones will be achieved over a six-year project (2025 – 2030), for a cost to Triumph of \$2,502 per cert / milestone. The match committed by Seaside School and its partners is for \$19,446,936 and will consist of privately raised funds (\$3.07 million), state appropriated funding (\$9.5 million), Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) (\$2.89 million), CAPE funding (\$1.35 million), Local Capital Improvement Revenue (LCIR) (\$5 million). The majority of the TGC funding will be spent on personnel, at \$7.12 million, with \$242,500 to professional development, \$950,000 to furniture, fixtures, and equipment, \$695,000 to certs fees and expenses, and \$550,000 to grant compliance. Triumph funding is thus projected to be 33 percent of total project cost.

The Seaside School, Inc.'s Seacoast Collegiate High School (SCHS) currently serves students in 9 through 12 grades, offering students the ability to graduate high school with dual enrollment credit and an associate degree from Northwest Florida State College. The success of the project is deeply anchored in the ongoing collaboration with NWFSC, which will provide staffing and expertise to SCHS leadership. This partnership will enhance dual enrollment opportunities in South Walton, benefiting SCHS students and all future Walton County dual enrollment high school students.

Dream Big Walton County is focused on aligning educational programs with local demand to equip students with durable life skills and critical industry competencies. Funding will be used to fully equip new STEM and CTE classrooms, purchase furnishings and equipment for high-quality academic and workforce instruction, and hire personnel, including CTE specialists, technology experts, success coaches, and enhanced STEM teaching staff. This investment will

expand SCHS capacity to offer comprehensive training, including career and technical skills and certificates. Dr. Fuller notes that the proposal has clear, measurable outcomes, but cautions that the Durable Life Skills are not eligible for Triumph funding, and the Digital Tools are eligible middle school or elementary school outcomes, but not in the high school.

To ensure long-term sustainability, the program will incorporate recurring costs such as maintenance, staffing, and utilities into its regular operations through existing revenue streams. Primary funding will come from the FEFP, which allocates funds based on the number of FTE students enrolled. Additional support will be provided by CAPE Industry Certification funding and annual grant applications to fund special projects. In addition, the Seaside School Foundation has a rich history of identifying philanthropic partnerships that will be working to support the sustainability and growth of the program.

At a reimbursement rate of \$2,502 per certification, the discounted total increase in household incomes expected from the program will be \$33.4 per dollar of Triumph cost, which is high relative to the overall Triumph portfolio. For these reasons, staff rate this program “A” in terms of economic impact.

Project Summary (based on information provided by the applicant)

The Seaside School, Inc., is requesting a \$9,557,500 Triumph grant for new and expanded industry certification and dual enrollment programs at the Seaside Collegiate High School (SCHS). The proposed programs are aligned to meet current and future regional workforce needs including Business Administration, AI, Cyber Security, and Engineering. Funds will be used for furnishings and equipment in new STEM and CTE classrooms, curriculum, cert fees, materials and supplies, personnel, and grant administration/compliance resulting in 3820 milestones made up of industry certification and dual enrollment credit bundles.

The full scope of the Dream Big Walton County \$29,004,236 project includes construction of an academic building allowing for increased high school enrollment and the construction of a new building for dual enrollment and workforce education on Northwest Florida State College's (NWFSC's) South Walton campus. NWFSC approved a 40-year ground lease agreement with Seaside Schools, Inc. to develop this campus. The partnership will provide Walton County high school students with the opportunity to earn postsecondary credentials locally through a combination of in-person and online courses. The college facility will be open to students from Walton County and neighboring county high schools seeking college-level courses and workforce training.

With over 80,000 square feet of educational space, the center will feature classrooms and lab spaces for both SCHS and NWFSC. By the 2029-2030 school year, SCHS plans to have increased its annual high school enrollment from 209 to over 560 students, a 168% increase. The graduating cohorts will expand from 50 to 150 students, a 200% increase. The number of dual enrollment students is projected to grow from 100 to 300 annually over the next five years, representing a 200% increase.

SCHS's program offers students the opportunity to earn multiple industry certifications preparing students to meet the demands of high-growth industries, providing them with a competitive edge as they enter the workforce or pursue further education. Research shows that job candidates with certifications such as CompTIA Tech A+, CompTIA Security+, and Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals, are significantly more likely to secure interviews and promotions in technology-driven roles, with a 50% higher likelihood of advancement in the first year alone. Similarly, certifications in AI and cybersecurity are essential in a workforce increasingly focused on digital innovation.

In addition to coursework, students will participate in hands-on internship opportunities in fields such as AI, cybersecurity, and engineering. The internships will allow students to apply their certifications in professional settings, gaining real-world experience and insight into industry practices. Mentorship from experienced professionals will help students align their certifications with their career goals and support them in making informed decisions about their futures.

The combined experience of industry certifications, internships, and mentorship will create a powerful foundation for the students. Whether they choose to enter the workforce directly, pursue a four-year university, or attend trade school, graduates will be equipped with a well-rounded resume, practical skills, and real-world experience.

The new Business Administration A.S. degree program in partnership with NWFSC, will start in 10th grade. Within this A.S. degree program are multiple embedded business related industry certifications that will enhance student skillsets and workforce readiness. Students who complete the A.S. in Business Administration will be able to start their own business, join the workforce, or transition seamlessly into upper-division university programs in various business-related fields, such as accounting, finance, marketing, and management. Within the region, annually there are more than 550 high wage job openings aligned with this program. Unique monthly postings continue to outpace estimated hires per month, demonstrating unmet demand.

Building on the school's existing partnership with NWFSC, the project will expand dual enrollment A.A. tracks that include student attainment of industry-recognized credentials. Students attaining A.A. and A.S. degrees have an accelerated path toward a baccalaureate degree. In Walton County, an employee with a bachelor's degree earns 55.8% more per year than one with a high school education.

Postsecondary degrees will be taught by NWFSC at the newly renovated NWFSC South Walton Campus, conveniently located on the same grounds as SCHS. This arrangement is especially beneficial for students who currently need to travel approximately 36 miles to the NWFSC Niceville campus. Secondary certifications will be available to students as elective courses taught by Seacoast Collegiate High School. Students will have the flexibility to complete their coursework on the SCHS campus or from their homes. Online dual enrollment courses will be conducted through NWFSC

This model creates a college-educated workforce at the same time as it would traditionally take to produce high school graduates, accelerating individuals into in-demand careers without the cost burden associated with additional postsecondary education.

Additional Industry Certification milestones may be reached by non-Seaside School students. These might be private or homeschool students who participate in Seaside School sponsored after-school and summer programs.

For long-term sustainability, the program will integrate recurring costs such as maintenance, staffing, and utilities into its regular operations through existing revenue streams. Operating funds from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), based on the number of full-time (FTE) students enrolled, will serve as a primary funding source. With the expanded enrollment, and strategic plan to be debt free from construction costs within five fiscal years the school will be self-sustainable through its primary funding. Additional funding will come from industry certifications eligible for secondary funding on the Florida CAPE Industry list.

Seaside School, Inc., is the oldest operating charter school in Florida, having opened in 1996 shortly after the passage of charter school legislation as Seaside Neighborhood School. In 2013, a second campus was founded to expand the scope and service of the original charter from grades 5-8 to eventually serve grades 5-12. In 2016, SCHS graduated its first class of seniors each receiving a high school diploma and an associate degree from NWFSC. The school consistently maintains a waitlist for all grades served (5th-10th).

Seacoast consistently ranks among the top 10 charter schools in Florida, demonstrating exceptional student outcomes and a commitment to fostering high academic standards. Students rank in the top 2% of academic performance statewide in multiple categories. Currently, more than 65% of students graduate with an Associate's Degree, providing them with a significant head start in their college careers. Additionally, students have a pass rate exceeding 95% on all End-of-Course and AP exams in math and science, underscoring the school's commitment to academic achievement.

In 2023, 100% of graduates (n=59) were accepted into a college or university to pursue degrees. Of those, 44 students simultaneously earned the high school diploma with the A.A. degree from NWSFC, accumulating more than 3,300 college credits. Students benefited from entering with junior standing and their families saved more than \$760,000 in college tuition. Adding to this financial savings, the class secured an outstanding \$3,648,845 in scholarships, showcasing both academic prowess and dedication. Noteworthy is the fact that 34% of the students received the Bright Futures scholarship, earning an additional \$260,000 in tuition-free college credits as a graduating class.

With over two million dollars in reserves, the school recently secured a bond to complete the construction of two of three buildings planned for its expansion. The Seaside School operates on an annual budget of six million dollars, which is projected to increase by an additional two million over the next four years. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and an independent charter school, The Seaside School, Inc. holds the same financial responsibilities as public school districts and government entities. Every year, they must hire an independent auditor to conduct a comprehensive review of financial practices.

Budget and Funding

See attached

Letters of Support

InDyne, Inc.

Hon. Boots McCormick, Walton County Commissioner

Hon. Danny Glidewell, Walton County Commissioner

Hon. Donna John's, Walton County Commissioner

Hon. Tony Anderson, Walton County Commissioner

Hon. Mel Ponder, Okaloosa County Commissioner

Dr. Cristie Kedroski, Interim President- Northwest Florida State College

Hon. Shane Abbott, Florida House of Representatives

Ashley Rogers, Chair, Walton County EDA, Inc.

Ms. Jennifer Conoley, President and CEO - Florida's Great Northwest

Mr. Russell Hughes, Superintendent - Walton County School District

Mr. Dewayne Youngblood, SVP - United Community Bank

Ms. Megan Harrison, President and CEO- Walton County Chamber of Commerce

Exhibit B

Project 341, Dream Big Walton

Budget

Estimated construction start date if applicable March 1, 2024

Estimated education component start date if applicable August 8, 2024

	Personnel	Professional Development	F,F, and E	Certification Fees, Materials and Supplies	Grant Compliance	Construction	Total
<i>Please change year # to actual year</i>							
Project Total							
2024 (PRE-Approval)	\$289,844.00	\$19,000.00	\$62,424.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$11,000,000.00	\$11,396,268.00
2025	\$1,459,062.00	\$40,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$5,974,062.00
2026	\$1,979,687.00	\$47,500.00	\$180,000.00	\$138,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,445,187.00
2027	\$2,042,344.00	\$47,500.00	\$145,000.00	\$184,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,518,844.00
2028	\$2,187,625.00	\$47,500.00	\$225,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,760,125.00
2029	\$2,267,750.00	\$47,500.00	\$125,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,690,250.00
2030	\$1,112,000.00	\$12,500.00	\$25,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,219,500.00
Project Total	\$11,338,312.00	\$261,500.00	\$1,012,424.00	\$842,000.00	\$550,000.00	\$15,000,000.00	\$29,004,236.00
Triumph							
2024	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2025	\$660,000	\$40,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$1,150,000
2026	\$1,040,000	\$47,500	\$180,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$1,467,500
2027	\$1,200,000	\$47,500	\$145,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$1,642,500
2028	\$1,500,000	\$47,500	\$225,000	\$175,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$2,047,500
2029	\$1,800,000	\$47,500	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$2,222,500
2030	\$920,000	\$12,500	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$1,027,500
Triumph Total	\$7,120,000.00	\$242,500.00	\$950,000.00	\$695,000.00	\$550,000.00		\$9,557,500.00
Grantee Matching Totals							
2024 (Pre-Award)	\$289,844	\$19,000	\$62,424	\$25,000	\$0	\$11,000,000	\$11,396,268
2025	\$799,062	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$4,000,000	\$4,824,062
2026	\$939,687	\$0	\$0	\$38,000	\$0	\$0	\$977,687
2027	\$842,344	\$0	\$0	\$34,000	\$0	\$0	\$876,344
2028	\$687,625	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$712,625
2029	\$467,750	\$0	\$0	\$33,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,750
2030	\$192,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$192,000
Grantee Total	\$4,218,312.00	\$19,000.00	\$62,424.00	\$180,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000,000.00	\$18,978,986.00