

PRESS ADVISORY

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FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WILL OFFER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

(NEW BRUNSWICK) – Greater Brunswick Charter School (GBCS) is proud to announce its partnership with Real Estate Advisory and Development Services, Inc. and the New Jersey Charter Public Schools Association through a New Jersey Department of Education dissemination grant.

Through the Gaining Ground project, Greater Brunswick Charter School will contribute to the long-term sustainability and viability of excellent public schools by building capacity among school leaders for the purchase and renovation of permanent, high quality educational facilities.

“We are very interested in using our experience at Greater Brunswick Charter School to help demystify the facilities development process for other school leaders,” said Rick Pressler, lead person at GBCS. “Charter school leaders face unique concerns with regard to school facilities. Our team will help them avoid mistakes that take the attention away from our most critical responsibility – providing an excellent education to New Jersey’s children.”

Real Estate Advisory and Development Services (READS) executive director Brian Keenan agreed: “We are honored to have been chosen to work with Greater Brunswick Charter School and the New Jersey Charter Public Schools Association on this project. Our expertise in facilities development brings concrete tools and skills to help school leaders secure safe, healthy facilities that will be available to their students on time and on budget.”

“Charter schools receive no direct aid for the costs of their buildings, so school leaders and trustees must take responsibility for securing a suitable facility,” said Jennifer Langer, executive director of the New Jersey Charter Public Schools Association. “Greater Brunswick Charter School’s successful project provides an excellent model of how charter schools can provide a permanent learning environment for their children that makes a meaningful contribution to the larger community.”

The Gaining Ground project will provide financial and real estate development training to school leaders through large group, small group, and hands-on interactions, including a facilities clinic, subsequent workshops, individual technical assistance from industry specialists, and tours of the GBCS facility.

The charter school law was enacted in 1996 in New Jersey as a reform movement to offer families choice and accountability in public education. New Jersey’s charter schools are free public schools that are open to all children and typically offer their students more individualized

Ground
Gaining | A Facility Development Initiative for New Jersey's Charter Schools

attention, longer school days, longer school years, and innovative programs with less funding than other public schools. The charter schools of New Jersey serve approximately 15,000 students, and the vast majority of charter school children come from low-income households. These uniquely accountable public schools, which are authorized and evaluated by the NJ Department of Education, are created and sustained by the communities they serve.