



Climbing the Mountain To and Through College

Project Title: <u>Henderson Collegiate: Reaching Low-Income Students Earlier through Expanding to Offer Primary Program</u>

Henderson Collegiate currently serves 1,000 students in grades K-1 and 4-11 in rural, Tier 1 economically distressed Vance County, NC. Its students are 86% eligible for free / reduced meals and have achieved the State's highest school performance grade, the A+NG, for the past three consecutive years, placing Henderson Collegiate in the top 3.5% of all NC public schools. In the 2018-19 school year, Henderson Collegiate will add grades 2 and 12, and its founding class will be the first graduating class. The school will reach full K-12 scale the following year with the addition of its 3rd grade. The next two years of expansion to complete the K-12 model are critical to the mission of Henderson Collegiate to set students up with the skills they need to break out of the cycle of poverty by attending and graduating from the college of their choice. To ensure that students are truly set up with both the academic skills and the soft or character skills needed to be successful, the school understands that it must start working with students from the youngest age possible to maximize the strength of the foundational skills built. When the final grades are added, the school will be able to close the loop so that students have the full benefit of starting at Henderson Collegiate from Kindergarten and will be able to take more high school courses in middle school so that they can take more AP classes in high school. Completing more advanced courses will set our students up to be better prepared for the rigor and independence of the college setting and of life beyond that.

Name of Applicant: Henderson Collegiate, Inc.

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