

Crescent City Schools (CCS), a charter management organization in New Orleans, Louisiana, is pleased to submit a proposal through the CSP. The *Growing Quality Schools in the Crescent City* (GQS) project will allow high-quality operator CCS to grow to serve an additional 740 students in New Orleans by both expanding an existing high-quality PreK-8 school, and replicating the successful CCS model to turn around a low-performing K-8 school.

GQS will address Absolute Priority 2: low-income demographic. CCS' network includes three schools – Paul Habans Charter School, Akili Academy of New Orleans, and Harriet Tubman Charter School. Each school serves a population that is at least 93% economically disadvantaged, according to Louisiana state measures¹, far exceeding the 40% required to meet Absolute Priority 2. CCS anticipates that the expansion and the replication schools proposed in this project will serve a similar population of students.

While the absolute performance scores on state exams for CCS are not higher than the statewide averages (Fig. 2 in narrative), the Louisiana Progress Index shows CCS is achieving more progress with educationally disadvantaged students than other public schools statewide (Fig. 3). Additionally, every school in the CCS network is growing students to proficiency on state exams faster than schools across the city and state. And, despite starting further behind than peers across the city or state, CCS on average is moving a higher percentage of students to proficiency on state exams than the city or state (Fig. 4). The GQS project will help meet an urgent citywide need for more quality school options for New Orleans families.

¹ LDOE defines "economically disadvantaged students" as those eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, awaiting foster care, migrant, and incarcerated children. This is the state's measure for poverty status.