



Collegiate Academies

Collegiate Academies: Expanding Services for All to Deepen Impact

Abstract Narrative

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Collegiate Academies (CA) operates five (5) open-enrollment charter high schools in New Orleans and Baton Rouge that serve nearly 2,400 students, and a postsecondary program in New Orleans for students with mild to significant intellectual or developmental disabilities. Expanding opportunities for educationally disadvantaged students is at the heart of our mission:

- Without any “feeder” schools, our incoming 9th graders consistently arrive 3-5 grade levels behind in reading, according to NWEA MAP Reading assessments.
- More than 94.5 percent of our students come from low-income families.
- 20 percent of our students have a diagnosed disability, a rate nearly double that of the rest of the city and state; likewise 6 percent of our students are English Learners, again nearly double the percentage across New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

In this context, we have developed a model for public high schools that prove it is never too late—regardless of level of need or incoming abilities—to make dramatic academic gains and prepare for college. According to subgroup comparison data published by the Louisiana Department of Education, CA generates significantly more academic growth relative to peers statewide, helps more educationally disadvantaged students meet state academic standards, and graduates an impressive percentage of students with college coursework already complete.

This project will expand CA’s groundbreaking programming to a wider set of students:

- Expansion of two CA high schools to full Gr. 9-12 size, matching the current program design of existing CA schools
- Expansion to middle school grades (Gr. 5-8) for two current CA high schools
- Expand two current CA high schools by adding concurrent enrollment programming to increase the number of college credits earned by CA graduates and better position them to complete a postsecondary degree.

With the support of a 2016 CSP grant, CA has developed an effective set of management structures and practices to support the launch and expansion of high-quality charter schools. Federal grant monitoring, independent financial audits, and organizational reviews by our charter authorizers attest to strong operational and compliance systems. We have a proven capacity to drive results for educationally disadvantaged students and are energized by the possibility of deepening our impact through the proposed project, which outlines new and greater pursuits through expansion of our high-quality charter schools.