

## **Mater Academy, Inc.**

**Grantee:**

Mater Academy, Inc.

**PR Award Number:**

S282M200013

**Duration (Years):** 5

**Year 1 Funding:**

\$8,625,937

**Total Expected Funding:**

\$57,123,615

**Mater Academy, Inc.:**

7901 NW 103<sup>rd</sup> Street

Hialeah Gardens, FL 33016

Project Title: Promoting and Expanding educational opportunities for underserved students

Project description and goals: Mater prepares disadvantaged students for college success at 28 schools in Florida and Nevada. Mater Elementary opened its doors in 1997, and five years later, Mater opened its first high school. Mater has since expanded to: 14 Elementary schools, 3 K-8 schools, 3 middle schools, a virtual middle/high school, and 5 high schools.

With this project, Mater seeks to open: 11 elementary K-5 centers, 9 Elem/ Middle K-8 centers, 7 Middle Schools, 2 6-12 Middle/High Schools, and 9 High Schools. Part of the project entails expanding grade levels offered at existing Mater campuses. The majority are new school sites. Creating these schools will increase Mater's enrollment by almost 20 thousand new students. To date, Mater has graduated 13 high school classes. In 2019, 90% of Mater's graduates matriculated to college after high school. Mater student's complete college at a rate of 65% compared to a national average of 9% for low-income and first-generation students.

Expected outcomes: Mater will provide new capacity to 20 thousand disadvantaged students in: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Nevada, and Texas. Where possible, Mater will place schools in "Qualified Opportunity Zones."

Mater expects to maintain its exceptional record of eliminating the income achievement gap.

Contribution to Research, Policy, or Practice: Mater educators and alumni have a long history of sharing best practices. They present at state and national education conferences. Mater will share all systems, practices, and strategies it develops to achieve the project's goals. Mater is a national outlier serving low income students. Stanford CREDO's report on charter management organizations lists Mater as a high performer. (<https://credo.stanford.edu/pdfs/CMO%20FINAL.pdf>). It shows that low-income students achieve excellent educational results at Mater. CREDO lists Mater as a high performing "Hybrid Network." It is also one of the largest such Hybrid Networks. Mater hopes to assist with Stanford CREDO's observation that: "Sadly, the Hybrid affiliated schools also make up the smallest sector of charter schools." (Stanford CREDO CMO Study, page 44.)