

**Grantee Name:**

MBEF College & Career Academies, Inc.

**Grant Award Number:**

S282B230005

**ALN:**

84.282B – Opening a New Charter School

**State:**

West Virginia

**Project Duration:**

3 Years

**Year 1 Funding:**

\$1,212,780

**Total Expected Funding:**

\$1,575,432

**Grantee Address:**

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**MBEF College & Career Academies, Inc.****MECCA Business Learning Institute, West Virginia Public Charter School**

**TARGET POPULATION:** Middle and high school students, grades 6-12.

**SCHOOL DESIGN CURATORS:** MECCA Business Learning Institute's (MBLI) founders and school design team are educators, school system professionals, and parents with backgrounds in school system administration, executive and school leadership, school psychology, charter school founding, program management, teaching and learning, curriculum development, and human capital, with a collective record of success as educators in public education. In addition, classroom teachers, faculty, and staff, from various school districts, played key roles in facilitating dialogue around the changes needed in public education for students to thrive. To that end, MBLI serves as a platform for educators to explore innovative approaches and ideas in education.

**GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS:** MBLI's goals and objectives include outcomes that address increases in student academic achievement schoolwide.

- **SMART Goal #1:** MBLI WV will foster "Core", "M-Core", and "Encore" knowledge acquisition and skills development.
- **SMART Goal #2:** MBLI will prepare students to identify, find, evaluate, and use information effectively.
- **SMART Goal #3:** MBLI will instill the qualities of integrity, civility, friendship, empathy, kindness, supportiveness, and personal, social, and civic responsibility.
- **SMART Goal #4:** MBLI will create and maintain a positive school culture and environment.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING:** The MBLI school design as a college preparatory and career academy represents an original approach to educating middle school students. MBLI builds on strong examples of effective practice and research and expanded learning opportunities for teachers and students. Students in all grades take "CORE" academic classes in Math,

Science, Reading/English/Language Arts, and Social Studies/History/Geography, and "M-CORE" academic classes in Business. Additionally, students explore technology, languages other than English, physical education/health, art, and music through "ENCORE" academic classes. Programming also includes "FLEX" blocks for School Foundations, Advisory, Supplemental Instruction, Study Hall, and Talented and Gifted Seminars. In addition, students will be engaged in service learning.

**CULTIVATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** MBLI aims to improve student achievement and significantly exceed the academic performance of existing public schools through Student Learning Plans that personalize education, building vocabulary and comprehension skills, emphasizing reading and writing, meaningful math engagement, maximizing the percentage of time students are engaged in content, academic support and enrichment, differentiating instruction, performance assessments, employing cooperative learning, encouraging students to take responsibility for their learning, giving guidelines for high-quality work, ensuring guidelines are based on local standards for academic achievement, and using guidelines diagnostically, not just to assign grades.

**OPENING AND PROJECTED ENROLLMENT:** MBLI plans to will be located in Berkeley County, West Virginia, and open to students in September 2024, initially enrolling 250 sixth- and seventh-grade students with annual grade expansion phases through high school grade 12.

**PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS:** MBLI's stakeholders include the founders, design team, community partners and families living in West Virginia, and particularly, those living within the proposed county site. MBLI enacted a purposeful strategy to reach the Berkeley County community at macro- and micro-levels. Community groups and families were invited to learn about and explore education at a charter school and encouraged to join in designing MBLI as a community-embedded school. This community input and engagement strategy will facilitate meeting enrollment targets as families and community members have been engaged in the development of MBLI, from the beginning, alongside the Founders.

**Competition Priorities Addressed: *Competitive Preference Priority*** – Promoting High-Quality Educator- and Community-Centered Charter Schools to Support Underserved Students.