



Contact: Candie A. Price, MACE, MPR
New Schools for Alabama
205-542-7449
candie@newschoolsforalabama.org

New Schools for Alabama Selects Three New Charter School Grant Recipients

BIRMINGHAM, May 13, 2021 – New Schools for Alabama has selected three new charter schools as recipients of its 2021 Alabama Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Competition. Two schools will receive a three-year grant of \$1,500,000, one school will receive a three year grant of \$1,000,000 to support the launch of new, high-quality charter schools in Alabama.

Executive Director, Tyler Barnett, said, “We had a really competitive applicant pool this year, and I’m thrilled that we can support these groups in their efforts to build great new schools for kids. What is most exciting about these groups is that, while each may take a unique approach to educating kids in their communities, there is a common thread of exceptional leadership among them.”

This year, New Schools for Alabama received four applications. The recipients are Empower Community School, Ivy Classical Academy, and Phalen Leadership Academies—Bellingrath Middle School. Each recipient is slated to open in the fall of 2021.

Recipient	Location	Grades	Award Amount
Empower Community Schools	Bessemer	K-8	\$1,500,000
Ivy Classical Academy	Autauga County	K-12	\$1,000,000
Phalen Leadership Academies—Bellingrath Middle School	Montgomery	K-5	\$1,500,000

“We’re excited for the opportunity to receive this grant to help us serve students in the Bessemer community,” said Dr. Anthony Oliver, founder and Executive Director of Empower Community School in Bessemer. “This funding supports programming for student academic and social emotional development. We’re looking forward to continuing our collaboration with parents, students, and partners to launch this amazing opportunity.”

Phalen Leadership Academies—Bellingrath Middle School, which is the charter management organization that was selected to lead the conversion charter school effort in Montgomery Public Schools, provides a personalized, data-driven instructional model to ensure that students are on-track to succeed in college and career when they exit the program. Earl Martin Phalen, CEO of Phalen Leadership Academies, said, “We feel so fortunate to be a recipient of the CSP grant. This will give our scholars the resources for new curriculum, additional professional development for our staff, small group daily tutoring, access to high-quality summer learning program, and other resources like technology and educational software. We’re really excited about what this is going to mean for our children.” Phalen Leadership Academies is also leading the conversion charter school effort at Davis Elementary, which re-opens next fall, and Nixon Elementary.

-more-



The CSP Grant Competition application process involves two phases, each designed to ensure a thorough, impartial review. The first phase is the Desk Audit Phase, wherein applicants submit a written application along with supporting documentation. The written application is then evaluated against a research-based rubric. Each applicant is subsequently invited to the Interview Phase, which allows applicants to present their application to the CSP Selection Committee and respond to questions. The CSP Selection Committee is composed of four individuals, each having substantial relevant experience.

Non-recipients remain eligible to apply in each cycle until the school opens and are encouraged to do so. New Schools for Alabama plans to release applications for the next cycle in the spring of 2021.

Funding for the Alabama CSP Grant Competition is made possible by a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to New Schools for Alabama to support the growth of fifteen (15) new, high-quality charter schools over the next five (5) years with an emphasis on those serving 60% or greater economically disadvantaged populations.

About New Schools for Alabama

New Schools for Alabama is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public charity organization created to serve kids in Alabama. The organization supports the growth of excellent public charter schools in Alabama to ensure that every child has access to a quality public education. For more information go to www.newschoolsforalabama.org

###