**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**New Schools for Alabama Awarded $10.55 Million Federal Credit Enhancement Grant**

**to Boost Charter School Facilities Access**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL - October 8, 2024,** New Schools for Alabama (NSFA) is thrilled to announce it has been awarded a $10,550,000 Credit Enhancement Grant by the U.S. Department of Education. This competitive grant award will strengthen NSFA's efforts to expand access to affordable facilities for charter schools across Alabama.

The grant provides NSFA with the ability to guarantee a portion of selected loans to charter schools across the state, thus increasing the likelihood that lenders will support charter schools with low-cost financing for facilities. Access to low-cost facilities financing is one of the most consistent barriers to charter school success. With this award, NSFA will guarantee loans it makes to charter schools through its own revolving loan fund as well as loans from third party lenders willing to provide low-cost debt to Alabama charter schools.

NSFA anticipates leveraging this $10,550,000 award to produce $50 million or more in lending capital for Alabama charter schools. As schools repay their facilities loans, credit enhancement funds are recycled to support additional charter school facilities loans, helping NSFA develop a sustainable model for supporting the growth of high-quality charter schools for years to come.

"This award marks a significant step forward in our mission to address the funding inequities faced by Alabama charter schools and ensure access to excellent public schools for all students," said Tyler Barnett, CEO of New Schools for Alabama. "By creating more opportunities for charter schools to secure affordable and effectively structured facilities loans we can begin addressing a key obstacle to charter school growth and innovation. The award is an affirmation of our commitment to empowering school leaders and supporting their success."

Because charter schools have limited access to traditional funding mechanisms like local tax dollars, they are uniquely dependent on low-cost lending to get access to suitable facilities. NSFA expects this grant will make a transformative difference in ensuring that charter schools

can develop and maintain safe and effective learning environments by ensuring they have

access to affordable facilities loans.

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For more information on New Schools for Alabama and its commitment to helping charter schools access affordable facilities, please visit [www.newschoolsforalabama.org](http://www.newschoolsforalabama.org/).

**About New Schools for Alabama**

New Schools for Alabama (NSFA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the growth of excellent charter schools in Alabama to ensure that every child has access to a quality public education. NSFA partners with educators, community leaders, and policymakers to support the growth and development of innovative public schools that put students first.