

## **Mastery Charter School**

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### **Abstract**

Mastery Charter School is a college preparatory K-12 charter school network serving predominantly low-income (84%), minority students (95%) in the high-crime urban communities of Philadelphia. Our expertise is in turning around formerly failing public schools and converting them to excellent charter schools. Mastery schools are created around the vision that we exist to close the achievement gap and deliver break-through results for all children in the communities we serve. Under this model, Mastery was named an Exemplar Charter School by the U.S. Department of Education (1 of 15 nationally), earned the EPIC award for value-added growth two of our campuses in 2009 (only 2/21 charter school winners nationally), and meet or exceed the state average in math and Reading by year four of operation at every school.

The Mastery Charter School Expansion grant will support the creation of 15 new high-quality Mastery charter schools serving more than 8,500 additional students in the cities of Philadelphia and Camden between Fall 2010 and Fall 2014. Grant funds will be used to support one-time start up costs associated with the planning year and first two years of operating each new school. Based on the Mastery financial model, each school becomes fiscally sustainable on per pupil dollars by the end of their third year of operation. A small portion of grant funds will also be used to ramp up Central Office support of the new schools through enhanced teacher training and new teacher coaching programs as we add more than 145 new teachers each academic year for the next five years. Resources will be developed to document Mastery's capacity building initiatives over the next five years so that other charter operators nationally can use these tools in planning expansion efforts. Mastery's Office of Innovation will provide administrative oversight for the expansion project and ensure that objectives are achieved in a timely and efficient manner.