Abstract

Through its strategic expansion and replication program, the Noble Network of Charter Schools will expand its educational model, which is proven effective: Noble is the top-ranked open enrollment high school in Chicago according to 2009 ACT scores and sends more than 90% of its mostly minority and low-income students to college each year. Noble recently completed a 5-year strategic plan with the goal of increasing its capacity to 10,000 students (10% of Chicago Public School students) by 2015 via expansion of current campuses and opening of six new high school campuses.

Noble has opened nine new high school campuses modeled on its original campus since 2006. Replication efforts have strengthened Noble’s performance as seen through annual improvements in key standardized test scores including the ACT, Prairie State Achievement Exam and Education Planning and Assessment System tests. Noble achieved its greatest ACT growth to date from 2008 to 2009, the first year that expansion campuses took the ACT. This strongly suggests correlation between expansion and academic growth.

Noble’s success is largely the result of its cultural and academic models, which fuel the achievement of the ten Noble high schools across Chicago. These will continue to be the key contribution for research, policy and practice.

Noble’s objectives are to increase the number of students receiving a high-quality education, while further improving student achievement. By increasing in size, Noble increases the efficiency of its model, and also benefits from the development and expansion of new and existing systems that strengthen the performance of all Noble schools. Noble’s final objective is to ensure the organizational sustainability of the CMO to effectively support the organization’s growth.