ABSTRACT

Redefine Possible Campaign

YES Prep Public Schools, Inc. (YES Prep) is a national charter management organization that operates 13 high-quality charter schools and serves more than 9,000 students in Grades 6-12, 87% of whom are educationally disadvantaged. We have amassed 16 years of experience operating, replicating, and expanding charter schools in Houston, Texas, while maintaining our student academic achievement and attainment results and consistently surpassing local, state, and national standards. Our schools have been named U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Schools and appeared on “Best Of” lists released by Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, and The Washington Post; and our district won the inaugural 2012 Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools for our work “reducing achievement gaps for poor and minority students.” In YES Prep’s next stage of growth, the proposed Redefine Possible Campaign, our goal is to redefine possible for educationally disadvantaged students by opening 14 schools in Houston and Memphis, Tennessee, creating 13,600 new high-quality seats, serving 23,600 students at scale, and sending 3,000 seniors to colleges and universities every year. The proposed growth will make YES Prep a comparable size to the Grades 6-12 enrollment of school districts such as Spring Branch ISD in Houston, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and Oakland Unified School District, refuting the claim that charter school practices cannot work at scale. We will prove that excellence for every student is possible at the scale of a traditional public school district; and, in doing so, we will intensify the pressure on these districts to take bold steps toward change.

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