

MASTERY CHARTER SCHOOLS' TRANSFORMATIONAL CULTURE PROJECT ABSTRACT

Mastery Charter Schools is a non-profit charter management organization currently operating 13 LEAs and 17 schools in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Camden, New Jersey serving more than 10,000 students in grades K-12. Ten of our schools are turnarounds of low-performing School District of Philadelphia schools and all schools have shown tremendous growth. Test scores improved by double digits in year one, and on average, more than 40 percentage points per grade and subject within four years of operation. Violence decreased by 80% or more and student turnover dropped by one-third. Recognized as the national leader in school turnarounds, Mastery Charter Schools is featured on the U.S. Department of Education website as the best national example of the “restart” turnaround school model.

Mastery focuses intentionally on cognitive and **non-cognitive skills** in a parallel approach to ensure that children learn and succeed. Recently we identified a gap that necessitated a shift. In response, Mastery plans to launch the *Transformational Culture Project (TCP)* to deepen and expand the non-cognitive student experience in a way that transcends the typical methods of imparting non-cognitive factors such as academic behaviors, academic mindset, perseverance, self-regulation, and social and emotional skills. When the project is complete we will have built the following system that will be replicable outside Mastery schools: (1) research-based curriculum and seminal non-cognitive student experiences that can be learned and delivered at the school level; (2) documented, robust system of professional development for teachers and school leaders at the school level and network wide led by an expert coach intended to build capacity with teachers and school leaders so the non-cognitive work can be fully infused in daily school operation and student life; (3) externally validated data tools to measure student outcomes linked to non-cognitive skill development; and (4) Tools (web based and paper) and trainings to support replication in other Districts and CMOs.