



Contact: Candie A. Price, MACE, MPR
New Schools for Alabama
205-549-3214
candie@newschoolsforalabama.org

New Schools for Alabama selects \$1,500,000 Charter School Grant Recipients

BIRMINGHAM, July 31, 2020 – [New Schools for Alabama](#) has selected four new charter schools as recipients of its 2020 Alabama Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Competition. Each school will receive a three-year grant of \$1,500,000 to support the launch of a new, high-quality charter school in Alabama.

Executive Director, Tyler Barnett, said, “We had a really competitive applicant pool this year, and I’m thrilled that we can support these four groups in their efforts to build great new schools for kids. What is most exciting about these groups is that, while each may take a unique approach to educating kids in their communities, there is a common thread of exceptional leadership among them.”

This year, New Schools for Alabama received six applications. The recipients are [Accel Day & Evening Academy Middle School](#), [LIFE Academy](#), [Breakthrough Charter School](#), and Magic City Acceptance Academy. Each is slated to open in the fall of 2021.

Recipient	Location	Grades Served
Accel Day & Evening Academy Middle School	Mobile	6-8
LIFE Academy	Montgomery	K-8
Breakthrough Charter School	Marion	K-12
Magic City Acceptance Academy	Birmingham	6-12

“We are extremely grateful to receive this reward,” said Dr. Jeremiah Newell, Headmaster of Accel Day & Evening Academy in Mobile, AL. “This grant will support ACCEL in expanding to serve grades 6-12 and more than doubling its enrollment size. Our charter school is focused on ensuring our most vulnerable young people in the Mobile community receive the supports they need to thrive, and this investment will help us realize this mission to an even greater degree.”

Breakthrough Charter School, which will be located in Perry County, will provide a diverse-by-design school that emphasizes service-learning, project-based learning, and social emotional wellness. Founding Head of School, Darren Ramalho said, “We are humbled and honored to receive funding to expand educational opportunities for students in Perry County and surrounding Blackbelt counties. We look forward to partnering with Marion Military Institute and other local organizations to increase opportunities for our students.”

The CSP Grant Competition application process involves two phases, each designed to ensure a thorough, impartial review. The first phase is the Desk Audit Phase, wherein applicants submit a written application along with supporting documentation. The written application is then evaluated against a research-based rubric. Each applicant is subsequently invited to the Interview Phase, which allows applicants to present their application to the CSP Selection Committee and respond to questions. The CSP Selection Committee is composed of four individuals, each having substantial relevant experience.

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Non-recipients remain eligible to apply in each cycle until the school opens and are encouraged to do so. New Schools for Alabama plans to release applications for the next cycle in the spring of 2021.

Funding for the Alabama CSP Grant Competition is made possible by a \$25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to New Schools for Alabama to support the growth of fifteen (15) new, high-quality charter schools over the next five (5) years with an emphasis on those serving 60% or greater economically disadvantaged populations. Since 2019, New Schools for Alabama has now made \$9,000,000 in grants to support the growth of excellent charter schools in Alabama.

About New Schools for Alabama

New Schools for Alabama is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, public charity organization created to serve kids in Alabama. The organization supports the growth of excellent public charter schools in Alabama to ensure that every child has access to a quality public education. For more information go to www.newschoolsforalabama.org

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