

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Action Item
July 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Consideration of Application for Hope Operator Designation for Mater Academy

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Approval

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

Section 1002.333(2), F.S.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, authorizes high-impact charter school organizations to apply to the State Board of Education to be recognized and designated as a Hope Operator. To be eligible for the Hope Operator designation, a charter school organization must meet both of the following criteria:

- Be a non-profit organization with tax exempt status under s. 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- Operate three or more public charter schools that serve student grades K-12 in Florida or other states with a record of serving students from low-income families.

Additionally, the charter school organization must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Awarded a United States Department of Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools within the most recent three years;
- Receives funding through the National Fund of the Charter School Growth fund; or
- Was selected by a district school board as a school turnaround operator, pursuant to Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes

Mater Academy is a nonprofit organization with tax exempt status. It operates 28 public charter schools in Florida that serve 17,151 students in grades K through 12. Across all of those schools, the average rate of students on free or reduced-price lunch is 76 percent. The organization was awarded a United States Department of Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools in 2020.

Once designated by the State Board of Education, a Hope Operator is authorized to enter into a performance-based agreement with a school district to establish, open and operate one or more public charter schools to serve students from persistently low-performing public schools or in a Florida Opportunity Zone.

Supporting Documentation Included: Application packet for Mater Academy

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