

ABSTRACT:

Title: NMECHS Opening Doors, Expanding Vistas

Type: Mid-phase

Absolute Priorities: AP 1, Moderate Evidence and AP 2, Field-initiated Innovations – General

Students Served: 9,600

Grade Levels: 9th through 12 grades

High-need students: low-income youth, first-generation college-goers, racially and ethnically diverse students, and others underrepresented in higher education.

Description: Currently, 21 ECHSs are open in NM and show strong student outcomes. NMPED proposes to replicate and scale-up the ECHS model to 24 additional schools. The new ECHSs will be structured as schools-within-their-own high schools, i.e. academies with college-level courses and instructors. This will yield greater cost efficiencies and enrollment interest from high-need students. Business surveys during planning will assure academies align with local workforce needs.

Project objectives and outcomes: Recruitment of 24 schools, a minimum of one academy per school; postsecondary and business partners; application to NMPED successful and school is designated ECHS; expansion of the Technical Resource Center, principal leadership training; recruitment/enrollment of high-need student population, reflecting district student percentages; career-focused curricula with authentic problem-based learning; students complete workplace experiences; students earn college credits, associate's degrees, and/or industry certifications; the project builds an off-campus college culture in the high school.

Special Features: Since the majority of ECHSs nationally and in NM are located on college or university campuses or within stand-alone buildings, this proposed design will provide a new set of data on outcomes that can be realized in high-school settings.

Partnering organizations: NMPED, NMHED, ECHSs in NM, colleges and business leaders across NM; RAND Corporation (evaluator).