

**PRESS  
RELEASE**



MOBILE AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
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*"Bringing  
the Public  
Into  
Public  
Schools"*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ACCEL Day and Evening Academy is Expanding**  
*ACCEL now serving middle and high school students*

MOBILE, AL (February 4, 2019) – The Mobile Area Education Foundation (MAEF), the founding organization of the state's first charter school, is excited to announce that the Alabama Public Charter School Commission approved our expansion proposal to include grades 6th-8th. During the 2020-2021 school year, ACCEL will serve 100 middle school students and expand to 165 students the following year.

ACCEL Day and Evening Academy has been operating for 18-months, and already it is the highest performing, high poverty high school in Mobile County. We are very much on track to ensuring that students who need a smaller, more supportive learning environment can receive the support they need. After just 18 months, it is also apparent that many of ACCEL's students come with skill deficiencies that are significant and require focus and time to overcome. We believe that intervening early in the lives of youth will allow us to help them get even further along their pathway to success and graduate ready for college and careers.

The mission of Accel Day and Evening Academy is to connect to students' gifts and passions through personalized learning pathways that build students' academic skills, professional mindsets, and social and emotional well-being, so they are prepared for college and careers.

"Today marks another historical moment for MAEF, our county, our state, but mostly for the students and families of ACCEL", says Carolyn R. Akers, the Chief Executive Officer of MAEF and co-founder of ACCEL. She adds, "Over the past year and a half, the board members, faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that every child in our community has equitable access to high-quality education that prepares them for getting ready, getting in and getting through post-secondary pathways that lead to a livable wage career and a high-quality life. This expansion will enable us to intervene sooner."

Dr. Jeremiah Newell, Superintendent and co-founder of ACCEL, says, "With today's approval, we are thrilled to expand our school to offer a small, supportive, and engaging learning environment to families of middle school aged students during the 2020-2021 school year. This represents a natural evolution for our school and creates opportunities for families who want and need a smaller, more responsive middle school environment for their children to thrive."

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### **ACCEL Day and Evening Academy**

The ACCEL Day and Evening Academy is Alabama's first tuition-free public charter school. The mission of ACCEL, a NexGen learning space, is to connect to students' gifts and passions through personalized learning pathways that build students' academic skills, professional mindsets, and social and emotional well-being, so they are prepared for college and careers. Learn more at [www.accelacademymobile.com](http://www.accelacademymobile.com)

### **Mobile Area Education Foundation**

The Mobile Area Education Foundation is a county-wide partnership of citizens, businesses, local public school systems, colleges and public agencies working together to ensure that all the children of Mobile County are given the opportunity to succeed. Its mission is to build community responsibility for improving public education outcomes in Mobile County. Visit, [www.maef.net](http://www.maef.net)