Phalen Leadership Academies (PLA) is a turnaround operator that works to transform underperforming schools into the high-quality schools that children deserve. PLA is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2013 and currently serves 4,000 children in 10 schools in Indiana, Michigan and Florida.

Over 90% of PLA scholars are eligible for free lunch. We have a strong track-record of success and we’ve developed a model that has transformed five F-rated schools into A-rated schools — all within three years of taking over leadership.

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The PLA education model has several unique elements that drive the strong growth of our scholars. Rigorous curriculum; high quality professional development; a coaching cycle that develops teachers; enrichment opportunities for scholars; and authentic partnerships with parents are just a few of the elements that drive success for PLA scholars.

Additionally, next year, every PLA school will have access to STEMNASiUM, an organization that exposes scholars of every age to STEM. It includes learning coding and Java Script, creating mobile apps, building underwater remote operating vehicles, building and piloting drones, and much more.

Our model has a proven track-record of helping children achieve remarkable success, including some of the following:

- Transforming multiple failing schools into A-rated schools
- Having the highest IREAD scores in Indiana for two consecutive years
- Increasing scholars’ passing rates on state ELA and Math tests by 11% in just one year — the highest standardized test growth for all schools in Central Indiana
- In 2016–2017, two PLA schools ranked #4 and #5 in the district for growth
- PLA schools are outperforming their host districts. Two PLA schools — one in year five and the other in only year three — are within 6% of the state test average and will beat the state average this year.

Our Model of Success Can Be Measured

The success of PLA scholars can be attributed to the comprehensive, high quality services that PLA provides to its school partners and scholars. While some educational management organizations only offer human resources and accounting support, PLA is a nonprofit that supports its partners in the following ways:

- Educational programs (research-based curriculum, pacing guides, assessments)
- Pre-launch professional development and an on-going coaching cycle for teachers
- Human resources
- Financial management and accounting
- On-site quality assurance monitoring and support
- Behavior and classroom management
- Parental engagement framework