



## ACE State Summary – Houston

March 2019

### Key Academic Findings

- **ACE scholars achieve higher rates of proficiency in reading and math** – A higher proportion of ACE scholars are proficient in reading and math than their FRL-eligible peers in the comparison Houston school districts. The largest differences are in third-grade reading, where ACE scholars' proficiency is 17.5 to 35.5 percentage points higher than the performance of their FRL-eligible peers. Math proficiency rates are comparable between ACE partner schools and Houston-area public schools, with approximately 43 percent of eighth-grade students scoring at or above proficiency.
- **Students at ACE partner schools graduate from high school at a higher rate** – The graduation rate for students at ACE partner schools is 97.2 percent, which is notably higher than the graduation rate for FRL-eligible students at the five comparison school districts in Houston.
- **ACE schools report higher college matriculation rates than Houston school districts** – Nearly all students at ACE partner schools go on to college (99.8 percent), which is 37.3 to 57.6 percentage points higher than the college matriculation rate for any of the comparison school districts in the Houston area.

### Key Findings from Parents

- **Academics, faith, and safety drive parental choice** – Most ACE parents choose private schools due to better academics (88.1 percent), faith-based curriculum (83.3 percent), and safer environments (82.7 percent).
- **Children in ACE households are poorer than the average household in Houston** – The median household income for ACE households is \$28,809, compared to an annual median income of \$52,127 for Houston households with school-aged children.

### ACE Partner School Findings

- **ACE-affiliated schools are at 72.4 percent capacity** – ACE partner schools in Houston have 2,529 empty seats.