

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2018

**MEMPHIS GRAD ACADEMY HIGH SET TO CLOSE AT THE END OF
THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

School operator's decision to close will end five years of serving students

Memphis, TN - Project GRAD USA, the operator for GRAD Academy Memphis High, has elected to not seek renewal of their operating contract with the Achievement School District. This action to close after the 2017-2018 school year will end what has been GRAD Academy's five years of service in the Memphis community.

This decision was made by Project GRAD USA's board based on the sustainability challenges Memphis GRAD Academy has faced. The decision was not based on any performance issues.

This announcement was shared with students and parents earlier today. In the coming days and weeks, GRAD Academy students and families will be receiving ongoing, personalized support through one-on-one meetings, information sessions, and other forms of communication to ensure they are well informed of student options for next school year. A strong emphasis is being placed on continuing the quality academic and extra-curricular programs that have defined the school. Plans are also being developed to create as much continuity as possible with the programming that is offered at GRAD Academy students' new schools, particularly with reference to Career Technical Education (CTE).

Additionally, opportunities for teachers and school staff are being created to help them better prepare for this transition.

Memphis GRAD Academy opened in the Fall of 2013 as a "new start" school serving students from across the Memphis community.

For further information, please contact Daryl Ogden, CEO, at dogden@projectgradusa.org.