

Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
Grants to State Entities
(CFDA Number: 84.282A)
Project Abstract
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation & Improvement
Charter Schools Program

State:

Indiana

PR Award Number:

U282A17017

Duration (Years):

5 Years

Year 1 Funding:

\$9,328,143.00

Total Expected Funding:

\$59,966,575.00

Total Estimate of charter school support over lifetime:

60 new, replication, or expansion charter schools

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Indiana Department of Education

Indiana is on the forefront of the school-choice movement, with a charter law that has been in place since 2001. Indiana has made it a priority to give all Hoosier families a plethora of high quality options from which to choose. Charter schools are a critical component to Indiana's educational landscape and essential to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to attend the high quality school of their choice. Indiana is home to some of the most innovative and high quality charter schools in the country. Our charter school sector has aggressively embraced accountability and evidence based policymaking, while keeping a laser like focus on home grown educational solutions for Indiana students navigating poverty. We believe we are well poised within the absolute priorities of the CSP and address the competitive priorities in ways that will lead to the expansion of high-quality charter schools across our state.

Indiana benefits from being a state that has already moved forward with school choice policy. As our federal regulations shift to evidence based best practices, as defined by ESSA, Indiana's robust longitudinal data set within a school choice landscape makes us uniquely well positioned to better understand the impact of school choice on student outcomes. We are home to a flourishing charter school sector that embraced innovation and quality, leaving us with charter schools that have wait lists. We also have a newly emerging rural group of charter schools to support. Our nonprofit partners are poised and ready to support charter schools with resources and technical assistance as they navigate incubation, replication, expansion, or improvement. Finally, our small number of diverse charter school authorizers provide the opportunity to support authorizers statewide with implementation of in-state best practices, while encouraging them to implement national standards of best practice.

Indiana 2017 CSP Grant Objectives:

- 1. Increase the number of high quality charter schools statewide via incubation, replication, expansion, or improvement.*
- 2. Leverage support specific to building the capacity necessary for the Indiana charter school sector to grow quality programs.*
- 3. Evaluate the impact of charter schools on student outcomes.*
- 4. Improve consistency of high quality charter school authorizing statewide.*