

FY 2018 Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
Grants to State Entities (CFDA Number: 84.282A)
Project Abstract

Michigan Department of Education

State:
Michigan

PR Award Number:
U282A180010

Duration (Years):
5 Years

Year 1 Funding:
\$4,200,961.00

Total Expected Funding:
\$47,222,222.00

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Michigan was involved in the initial charter school movement and experienced rapid growth. As of 2018, the state of Michigan has 44 authorizers, 297 charter school districts, 365 schools, and is serving over 110,000 students. With the statute that allows for flexibility, autonomy and increased funding, Michigan can leverage the benefits of charter schools. As a previous grant recipient, the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) understands the importance of the grant and its capacity to create, replicate or expand high-quality charter schools. The grant also provides the capacity for Michigan to revamp its system of support to serve students better. In examining the statewide system of charter schools, the following goals were developed to drive the objectives. The all-around goals are for (1) **Technical Assistance** that is targeted to establish and support quality developers and establish schools that are in and around areas that provide access to underserved populations; (2) **Strategic Placement of Schools** in underserved educational areas and grade levels (i.e., high school) and the closure of poor performers for replacement opportunities; (3) **Access to Quality Data** that supports decision making and improvement of systems for the MDE, charter schools, and smaller authorizers; and (4) better **Coordination of Federal Funding** and the leveraging of those funds for charter schools. The program objectives are designed to drive further research and evaluation findings that support meeting goals and outcomes. The objectives of the project include:

Objective 1: Increase the number of high-quality charter schools serving at-risk populations and areas of need including but not limited to content, grade level, and curriculum;

Objective 2: Provide quality technical assistance for new, expanded, and replicated programs serving educationally disadvantaged students;

Objective 3: Upgrade and utilize PSAEP for their respective school data collection, information sharing, training, communication and support among charter schools;

Objective 4: Improve the quality of low performing charter schools through training and technical assistance; and

Objective 5: Use current PSAEP to build profiles of authorizer strengths and weaknesses in various grade levels in charter schools.

The MDE has created partnerships with various state authorizers, associations, and organizations to make the project a success for all special populations. The collaboration includes (not limited to) technical assistance, disseminating best practices, compliance, reporting, a complete system of data collection and evaluation, CSP promotion and outreach, curriculum frameworks, and onboarding of charter developers to meet the purpose of the CSP grant. The *Application Requirements* are embedded throughout the application, and the *Competitive Priorities* are all aligned with the objectives to ensure a cohesive and systematic approach to improving charter schools in Michigan.