

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

## Rhode Island Department of Education

**State:**

Rhode Island

**PR Award Number:**

U282A170024

**Duration (Years):**

5 Years

**Year 1 Funding:**

\$675,000.00

**Total Expected Funding:**

\$6,000,000.00

**Total Estimate of charter  
school support over lifetime:**

9 new charter schools

**Rhode Island Department  
of Education:**

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Although Rhode Island may be the nation's smallest state, Rhode Island charter schools possess the nation's largest impact in terms of student achievement. According to a 2013 study by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Rhode Island charter schools provide the largest learning gains in terms of additional days of learning in reading and math when compared to their traditional public school counterparts.

Due to this significantly large impact, demand from families to participate in one of these high quality opportunities significantly outpaces the available supply. For the 2017-18 school year, more families submitted charter lottery applications (8,651) than the totality of all students who enrolled in a charter school during the 2016-17 school year (8,087). Furthermore, the significant majority of these applications were from families of educationally disadvantaged students, with more than 86% of all applications coming from students in Rhode Island's core urban districts.

Rhode Island Department of Education's (RIDE) proposed Rhode Island Charter Schools Program (RICSP) will deliver on the promise of ensuring that all Rhode Island students, irrespective of their zip code or socioeconomic status, have access to a high-quality education.

The RICSP will deliver on this promise by accomplishing the following three objectives:

**Objective 1:** Increase the number of high-quality educational opportunities for Rhode Island's most educationally disadvantaged students.

**Objective 2:** Improve the quality and efficiency of RIDE as Rhode Island's sole charter school authorizer; thereby, enabling Rhode Island charters to better focus on student achievement, and reducing barriers for Rhode Island charters to increase the number of high-quality educational opportunities.

**Objective 3:** Foster partnerships among existing charter schools and traditional school districts to raise achievement for all students in Rhode Island, particularly for educationally disadvantaged students.

Through the RICSP, RIDE will support the ambitious and responsible growth of nine (9) new charter schools over the course of the grant. Assuming an average of 300 students per school, this growth corresponds to an increase of available seats by 33% when compared to Rhode Island charter sector's 2016-17 enrollment. Further, RIDE will leverage the RICSP to enhance the efficiency of RIDE as an authorizer and the efficacy of collaboration between charter schools and traditional districts, ensuring that all students are able to receive a high quality education.