

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

Texas Education Agency

State:
Texas

PR Award Number:
U282A170018

Duration (Years):
3 Years

Year 1 Funding:
\$17,825,885.00

Total Expected Funding:
\$59,164,996.00

Total Estimate of charter school support over lifetime:
115 replication/expansion charter schools

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A grand opportunity exists in Texas: To catalyze the replication of approximately 115 high quality charter schools which will serve more than 55,000 students. Texas aims to meet this goal by replicating existing high-performing *state-authorized* charter schools and by catalyzing the rapid expansion of the high-performing *district-authorized* charter school sector.

In 2016, the Department awarded Texas a Charter School Program (CSP) grant for support of planning, design and initial implementation (**start-up**) of authorized charter schools. These "start-up" subgrants have supported the launch of 10 new *state-authorized* charter campuses (state charters) and seven new *district-authorized* charter campuses (district charters). TEA anticipates using the existing grant to support at least 30 more campus start-ups.

Whereas the current CSP grant supports new state and district charter start-ups, Texas proposes to use this new CSP grant to support the **replication and expansion of existing successful charter schools**. There is major opportunity, represented in the capacity of both the state-authorized and district-authorized charter sectors, to serve more students. Since December 2016, existing state-authorized charter school operators have sought approval (via charter amendment) to open or expand more than 100 campuses to serve an additional 44,000 students. Moreover, Texas is making an intentional effort to catalyze the *district-authorized* charter school sector. In 2013, the Texas Legislature expanded the chartering authority of school districts by adding a provision enabling them to award a charter for the operation of multiple campuses. The Commissioner has encouraged district superintendents to use this new authority to replicate successful district-authorized charter schools. This new CSP grant would provide necessary planning and implementation capital for replications, and it would allow TEA to launch a Texas Authorizer Leadership Academy (TALA) to enhance the quality of district authorizers.

The Commissioner of Education, TEA staff, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Legislative leaders, and numerous district superintendents are eager to ensure more students have access to high-quality charter schools.