

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:

Wisconsin

PR Award Number:

U282A170002

Duration (Years):

5 Years

Year 1 Funding:

\$18,280,435.00

Total Expected Funding:

\$95,777,775.00

Total Estimate of charter school support over lifetime:

78 new charter schools

37 replication/expansion charter schools

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Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Wisconsin State Superintendent Tony Evers is committed to every student graduating with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college or career. He is also committed to eliminating persistent achievement gaps among Wisconsin's students. To achieve these goals, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will support the development of high-quality charter schools that will increase academic achievement for all students, especially those that are educationally disadvantaged.

Changes in Wisconsin's law increased the number of independent authorizers, strengthened charter school accountability, and promoted higher levels of authorizer oversight. These changes have improved the charter school program in Wisconsin. Currently, over 43,000 students are served in 237 charter schools across the state.

This project focuses on implementing a state-wide strategy that strengthens charter school authorizing, supports the development of high-quality charter schools and the replication and expansion of successful high-quality charter schools, and promotes statewide collaboration and sharing of best practices. By prioritizing funding to high-quality grant applicants whose plan will improve student academic achievement, especially for educationally disadvantaged secondary students, Wisconsin's Charter School Program demonstrates its commitment to supporting and improving academic outcomes for all students.

The DPI plans to strengthen its charter school program as follows:

1. Support the growth of high-quality charter schools in Wisconsin, especially those focused on improving academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged secondary charter school students.
2. Strengthen and improve authorizing quality and promote the adoption of best practices for all authorizers in Wisconsin.
3. Promote and support collaboration and sharing of best practices between high-quality charter schools and other schools in the state, especially those that experience difficulty in adequately serving educationally disadvantaged students.

With this grant, Wisconsin will support high-quality charter schools through extensive technical assistance, targeted outreach, and robust monitoring. Authorizing quality will be improved statewide, collaborative partnerships will be forged and cultivated and best and promising practices of successful charter schools will be disseminated to all areas of the state, especially to those Local Education Agencies with struggling schools.