

FY 2019 Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)
Grants to State Entities (CFDA Number: 84.282A)
Project Abstract

State:

New Hampshire

PR Award Number:

U282A190001

Duration (Years): 5

Year 1 Funding:

\$3,309,873.00

Total Expected Funding:

\$46,000,000.00

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The New Hampshire Department of Education

New Hampshire's (NH) national recognition as a state that supports innovative practices of competency-based, personalized teaching and learning, as well as home to a coherent system of innovative assessment and accountability, makes it a true testing ground for new school development, particularly for at-risk students. Currently the state is home to 28 public charter schools. Seven of these schools meet the federal definition for high-quality charter school replication.

A reflection of the Granite State's innovative approach to public charter schools is the NH Career Academy. This proposed charter school will enable students to graduate after a "super-senior" (extended 12th) year with a high school diploma, an associate's degree, an industry recognized credential, and a job interview with a NH company. This high school/community college collaboration is just one of NH's inventive efforts to address the growing disparity in academic achievement between students from economically advantaged homes vs. economically disadvantaged homes and to support at-risk students.

The five primary objectives of NH's CSP application are:
Objective 1: Increase, expand, or replicate the number of high-quality charter schools, especially those aiding at-risk, educationally disadvantaged students in rural and urban settings. **Objective 2:** Use CSP grant funds to improve student growth and achievement among charter school students, increasing student graduation

for college and career readiness. **Objective 3:** Broadly disseminate charter school best practices to other NH public schools and LEAs to increase quality educational options statewide. **Objective 4:** Empower current and new public charter schools to become fiscally strong, independent, laboratories of innovation. **Objective 5:** Strengthen and support authorizer quality and promote adoption of best practices for authorizers.

The reasonable expansion goals outlined in this plan (20 new schools, 7 replications and 5 expansions of high quality charter schools over 5-years) will allow controlled growth, ensuring that new schools receive the supports needed for success. A 2019 CSP award will also enable NH to target sub-grantee awards toward existing charter schools that have demonstrated success and to expand or replicate the work they are doing. NH's 2010 CSP grant helped create a foundation for charter school success. The NH Department of Education respectfully requests \$46,000,000 in grant funds to build on these efforts and to meet the needs of students in this small but determined state.