

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

Alabama Coalition for Public Charter Schools

State:

Alabama

PR Award Number:

U282A190004

Duration (Years): 5

Year 1 Funding:

\$5,000,000.00

Total Expected Funding:

\$ 25,000,000.00

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For years, Alabama has ranked nearly last in the nation in almost every indicator of educational quality and equity, and that trend persists today. On the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), Alabama ranks 50th in math and 46th in reading. The state also ranks 45th on the ACT College Entrance Exam and suffers among the worst, most historic opportunity gaps in the country—especially among Black, Hispanic, and low-income students.

Recognizing the urgent need for better schools, a bipartisan coalition passed the Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act in 2015 to allow for the creation of high-quality charter schools. Since the passage of the law, authorizers have approved twelve (12) charter schools for opening, and more await in the pipeline. However, such modest growth—even in the absence of CSP State Entities funding—cannot meet the urgent, statewide demand for better schools from Alabama students and families. To meet those needs, Alabama is requesting \$25,000,000 with an express mission to kickstart and sustain the presence of high-quality charter schools throughout Alabama, specifically for our most educationally disadvantaged students. The project has two (2) objectives:

Objective 1: Increase the number of high-quality charter schools by at least 15 over the next five years with an emphasis on those serving educationally disadvantaged students; and

Objective 2: Advance Alabama’s standing as a national leader in authorizing quality.

As the applicant for the state, New Schools for Alabama (NSFA) is uniquely positioned to successfully deliver on the activities described herein. We will rely on our own internal expertise and strategically leverage our relationships with the key partners described in the application to achieve our objectives.