

## **Improve the Access to and the Quality and Transparency of School Choice Options for K-12 students**

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Theme: Education, Training, Employment and Social Services

# Overview

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## Goal Statement

- By September 30, 2019, the Charter School Program (CSP) will support the creation and expansion of 300 new charter schools nationally. The new charter schools will enroll an estimated 50,000 students. Additionally, by September 30, 2019, the Department will disseminate eight resources, at least one per quarter, on evidence-based and promising practices related to school choice.

# Overview

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## Challenge

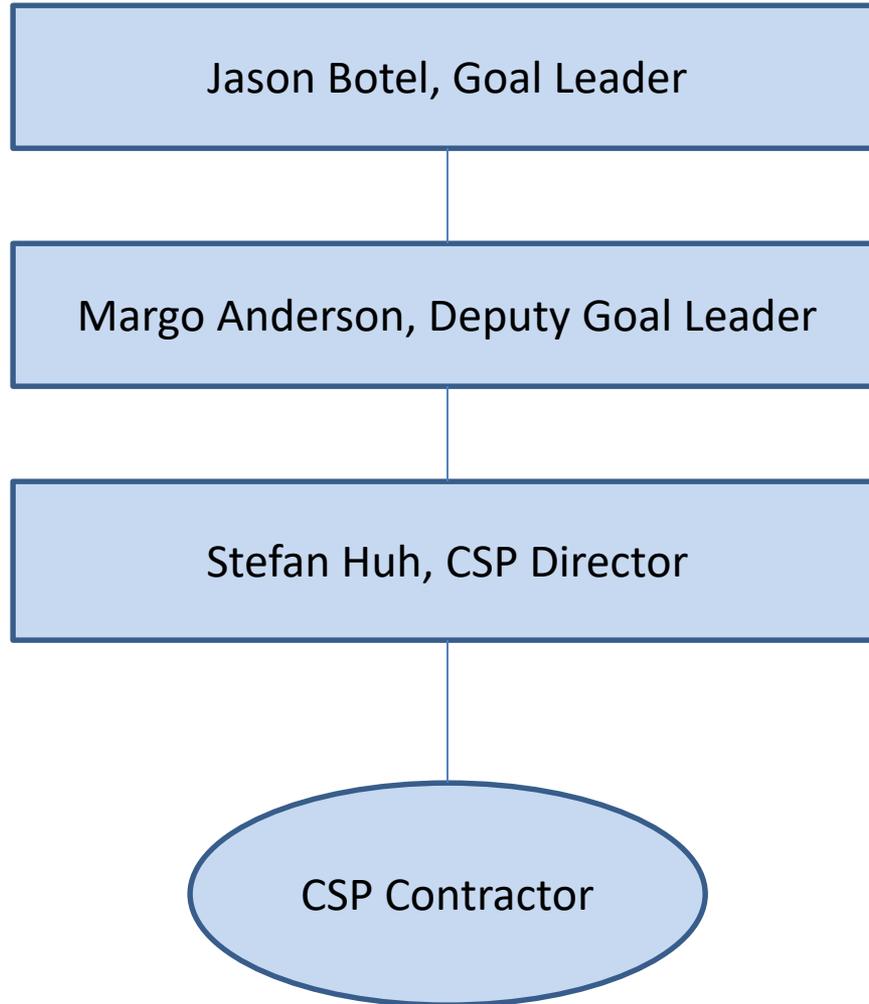
- Deliver high quality technical assistance to grantees to support them in their creation and expansion of new schools and increase of student enrollment in those schools through project implementation.
- Congressional appropriations for CSP may be insufficient to meet demand to expand educational choice and opportunities.
- Charter school growth may be limited by State and local laws and policies.
- Misunderstanding of the public nature of charter schools may impact the opening and expansion of charter schools.

## Opportunity

- Increasing the number of new charter schools nationally and the number of charter school students will provide opportunities for educational alternatives and choices that can better address the nation's ability to prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century.
- Increasing public and private school choices and opportunities that empower parents, local communities, and students to achieve their educational goals and career ambitions, which includes being more transparent about school choice opportunities.

# Leadership

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# Goal Structure & Strategies

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The Department will:

- Conduct CSP grant competitions to award new grants such as State Entities and Charter Management Organizations (CMOs).
- Monitor and provide technical assistance to awarded grants and review grantee annual performance reports for information on the creation and expansion of new charter schools and student enrollment.
- Compare grantee reported data with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data to determine the net new schools and student enrollment.
- Work closely with the CSP contractor that manages the National Charter School Resource Center to discuss the preparation of evidence-based and promising practices resources, including discussion of a timeline and an approach for resource production and dissemination.

# Summary of Progress – FY 18 Q1

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In Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2018 (October 1, 2017-December 31, 2018), the Department:

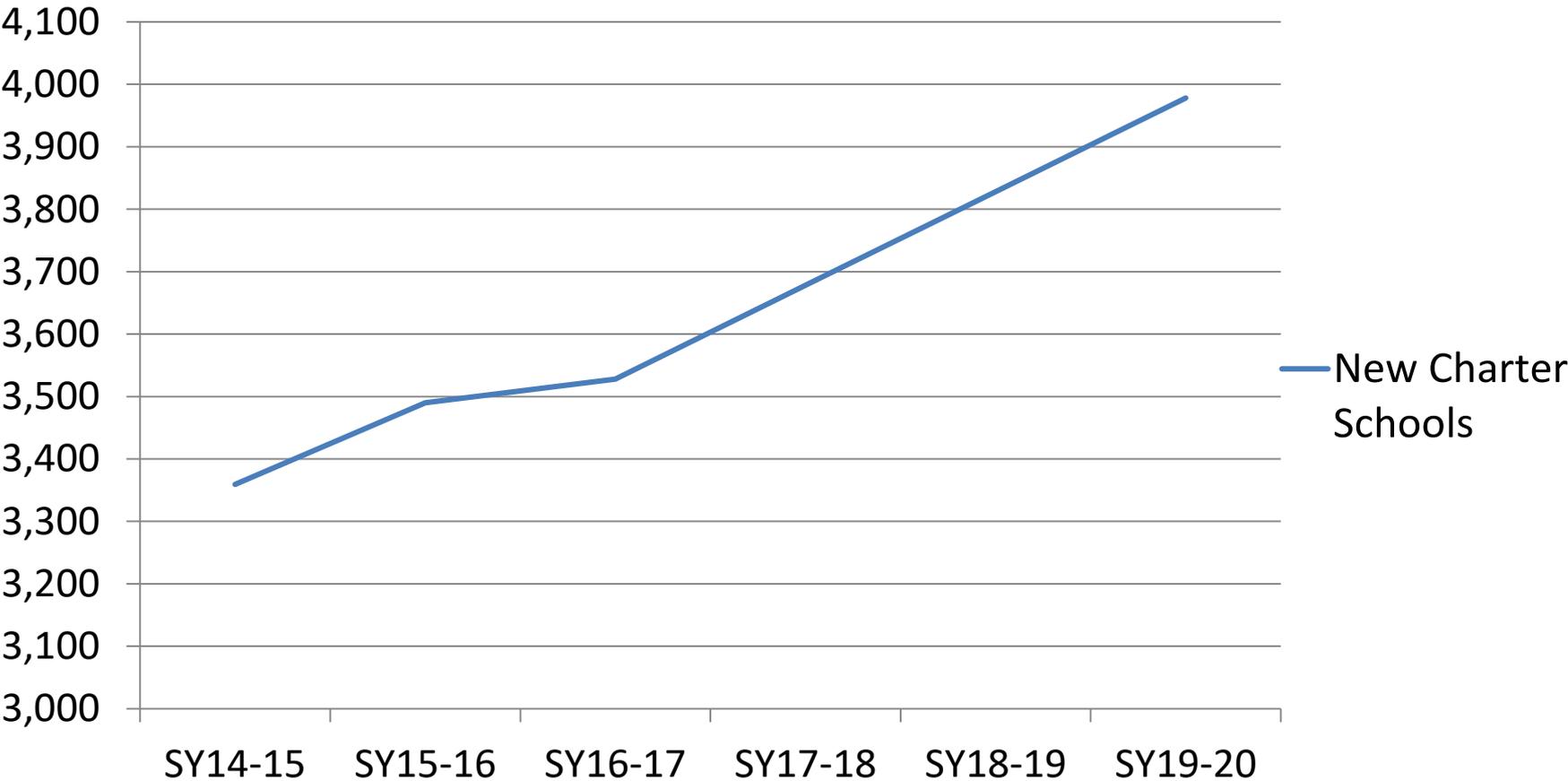
- Developed notices inviting applications for new State Entities and CMO grant competitions.
- Continued to monitor existing State Entities and CMO grantees.
- Discussed timeline for resource development with the CSP contractor to determine what resources can be produced and by when.
- Identified and began to resolve or mitigate data issues with State reported data collected by NCES. Data issues include lag times in data availability, and completeness and accuracy of the data.

# Key Milestones

| Milestone Summary  |                    |                  |                 |  |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| Key Milestone  | Milestone Due Date | Milestone Status | Milestone Owner | Comments   |
| Establish timelines for preparation of resources with CSP contractor | Q2 2018            | In Progress      | CSP Director    | This milestone will impact the timeline for the development and dissemination of resources on evidence-based and promising practices related to school choice. |
| Publish Notices Inviting Applications for new grants                 | Q3 2018            | In Progress      | CSP Director    | This milestone will impact both the number of open and operating charter schools as well as number of students enrolled in charter schools.                    |
| Release first set of resources                                       | Q4 2018            | In Progress      | CSP Director    | Resources will be discussed and finalized with the CSP contractor.   |
| Award new grants   | Q1 2019            | In Progress      | CSP Director    | Anticipate making State Entities awards by September 30, 2018 and CMO awards by December 2018.   |

# Key Indicators

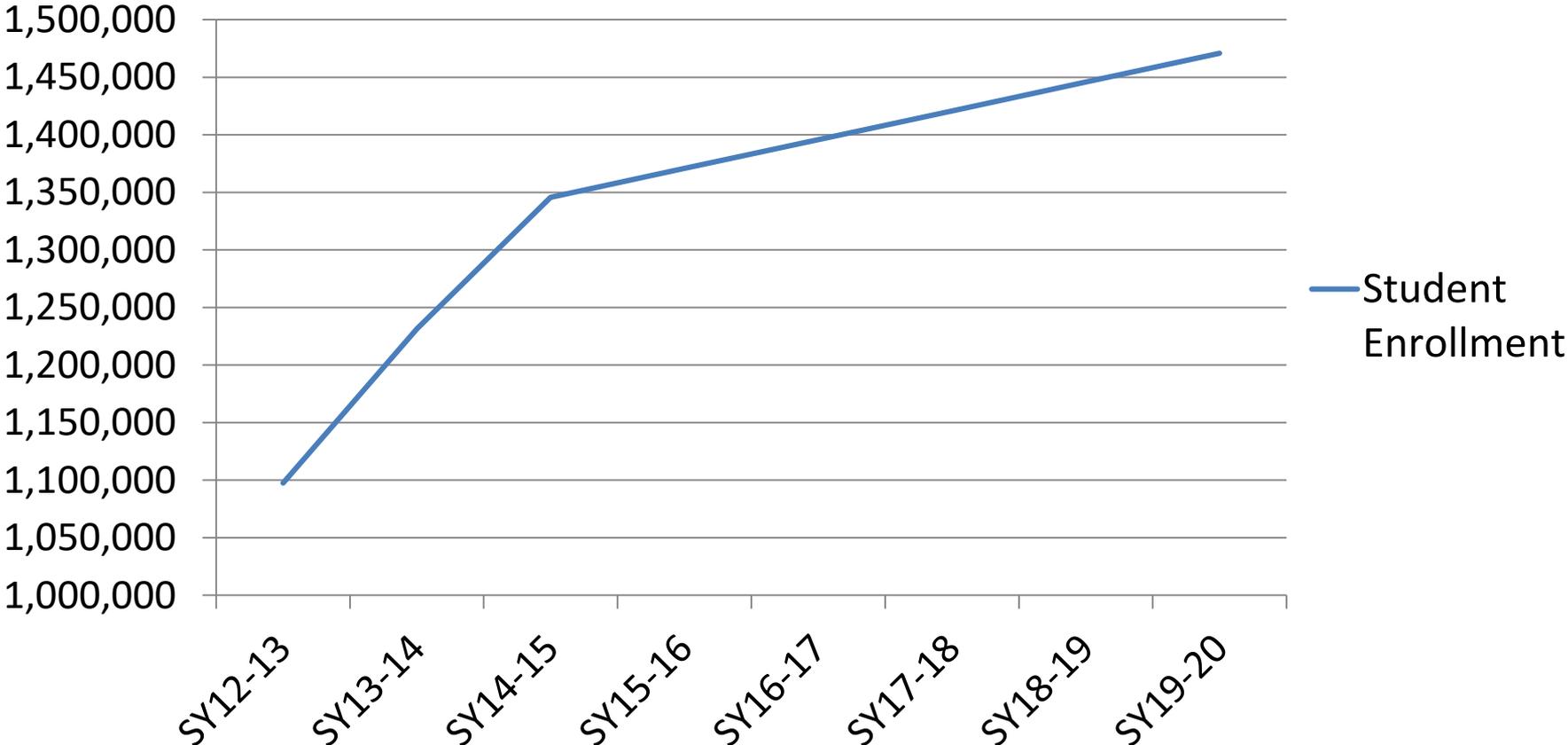
## Aggregate # of Open and Operating CSP-Funded Charter Schools



\*Source: National Center for Education Statistics CCD (<https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>) and Grantee Annual Performance Reports.

# Key Indicators

## Student Enrollment in CSP-Funded Charter Schools



\*Source: National Center for Education Statistics CCD (<https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/>) and Grantee Annual Performance Reports.

# Data Accuracy and Reliability

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The data for open and operating charter schools and for students enrolled in charter schools derive from the NCES CCD and CSP grant annual performance reports (where schools are identified in the grant applications). The CSP team will calculate the cumulative actual using the self-reported data in grantee annual performance reports and will provide the aggregated data for reporting. These data are compared to data in the NCES CCD (which includes a list of all charter schools, from which the CSP will identify which charter schools have received CSP funds). Program officers will verify the data in submitted annual performance reports with their grantees and with the CSP contractor, who will reconcile CSP-funded charter schools to the NCES CCD.

CSP and NCES will establish a process for reconciling and validating the data.

# Additional Information

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## Contributing Programs

### Organizations:

- Department of Education: Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) and Institute of Education Sciences, including National Center for Education Statistics
- CSP Grantees
- State Educational Agencies and State Authorizers
- Charter Management Organizations

### Program Activities:

- Grant Competitions
- Monitoring of existing grants and grantee reporting

### Regulations:

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA)

### Other Federal Activities:

- National Charter School Resource Center

## Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

The Department conducted Congressional consultation as part of the development of its FY 2018-22 Strategic Plan and the FY 2018-19 APGs. Additionally, the work of CSP involves collaboration with Congress and key constituents to support the work of the programs and CSP grantees.