

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

Goal Leader: Jason Botel, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary
and Secondary Education (OESE)

Deputy Goal Leader: Margo Anderson, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII)

Theme: Education, Training, Employment and Social Services

Overview

Goal Statement

- By September 30, 2019, the Charter School Program (CSP) will support the creation and expansion of 300 new charter schools nationally. The CSP will also support the enrollment of 50,000 students in new charter schools. 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

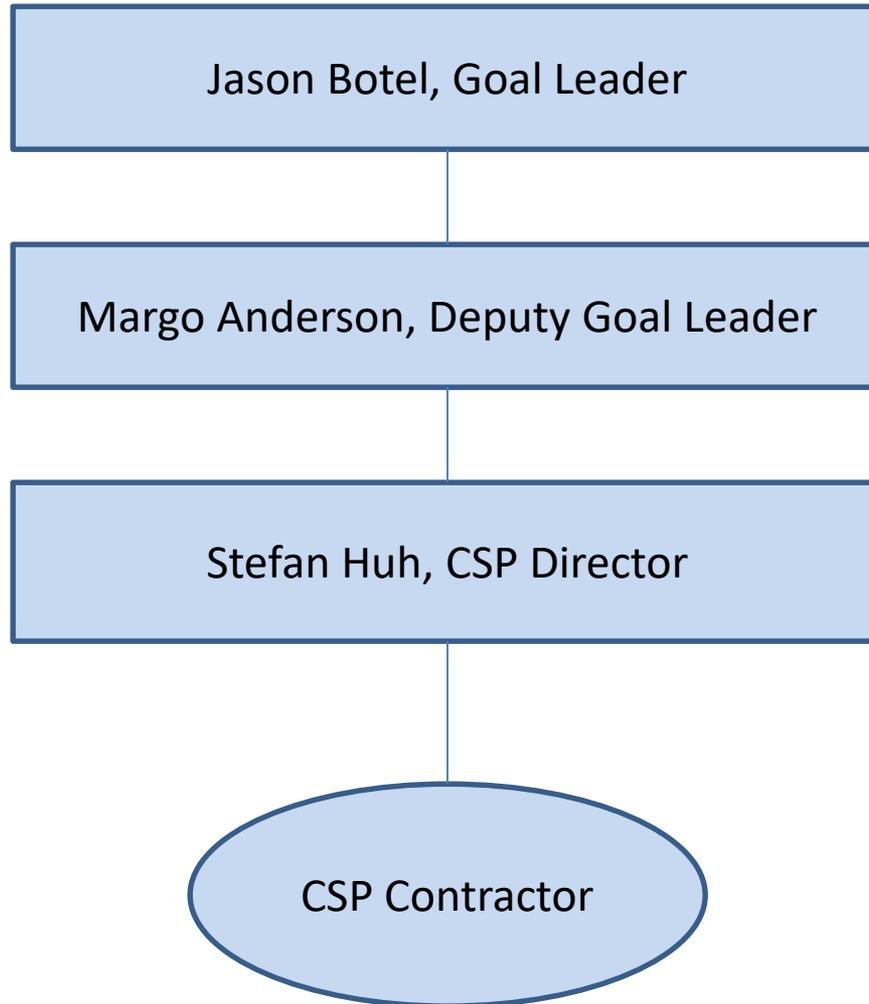
Challenge

- 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 21st century.
- Increasing public and private school choices 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



Goal Structure & Strategies

The Department will:

- Conduct CSP grant competitions to award new grants to entities 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 Q2

- IES released three intervention reports on different charter schools.
 - [Green Dot Public Schools](#);
 - [Harlem Children’s Zone \(HCZ\) Promise Academy Charter Schools](#); and
 - [Knowledge is Power Program \(KIPP\)](#).
- Continued to monitor existing State Entities and CMO grantees.

Next Steps:

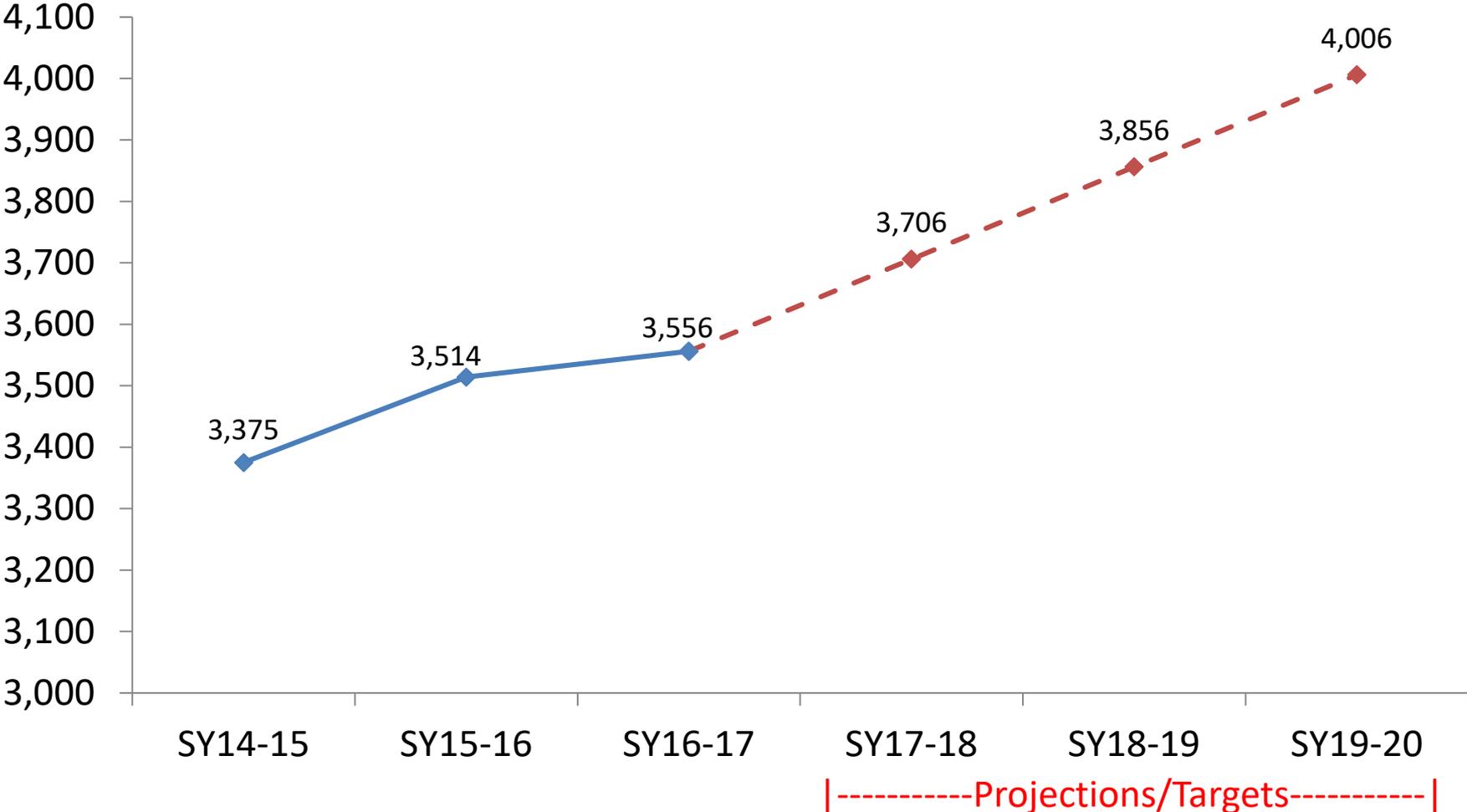
- IES to compete R&D Center on School Choice, to be awarded Q3.
- CSP to host webinar discussing best practices for oversight of CMO and EMO relationships with charter schools in May 2018.
- CSP will continue development of Dear Colleague letter and accompanying framework and strategy for performing a minimum level of monitoring, risk assessment, and mitigation procedures related to charter school contractual relationships with CMOs, to be released Q4.

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	Completed	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	Three of the five CSP competitions have been announced to date.
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

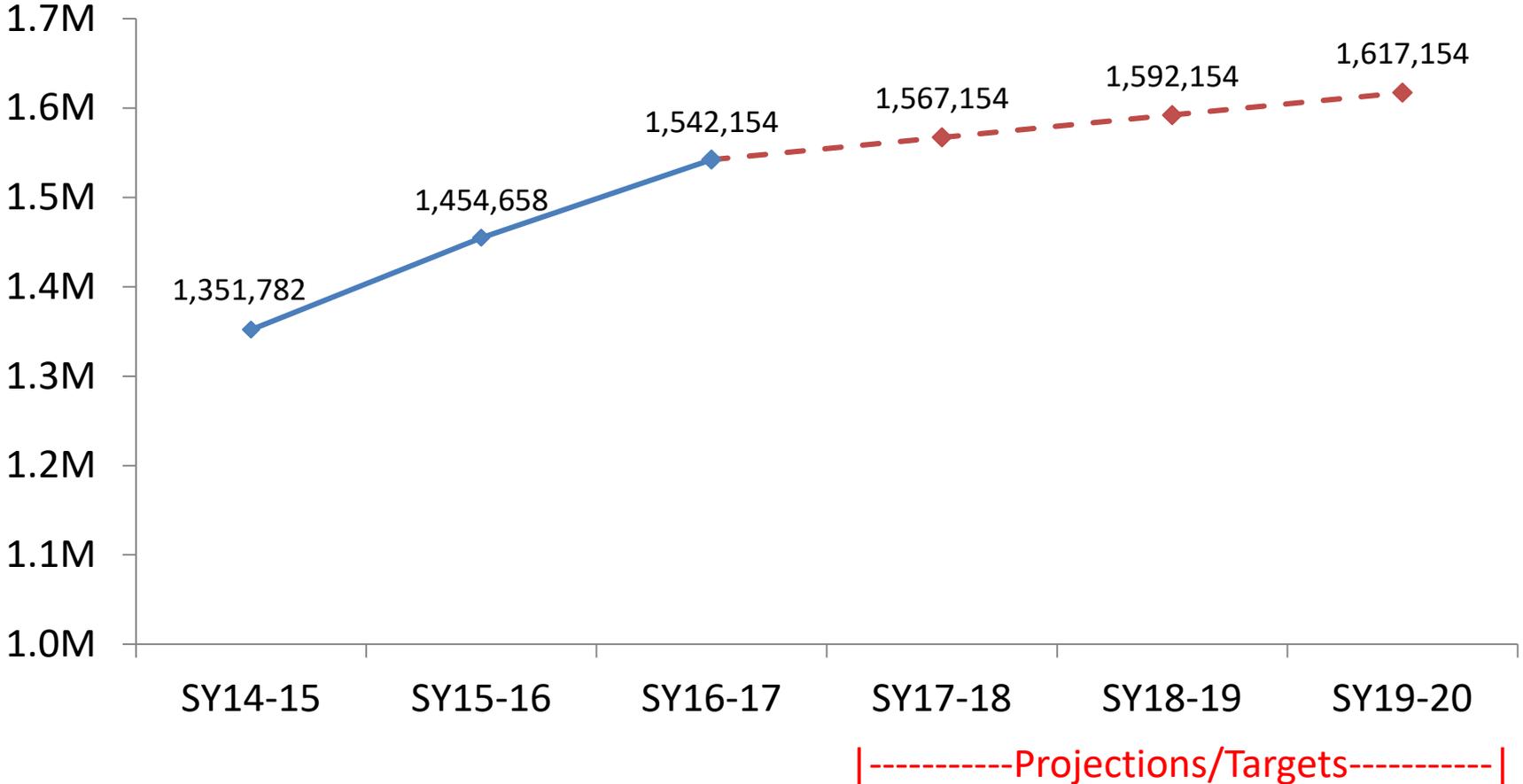
Aggregate # of Open and Operating CSP-Funded Charter Schools



*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

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 established a process for reconciling and validating the data.

Additional Information

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.