



## Agency Priority Goal Action Plan

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

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# 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 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

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## Challenge

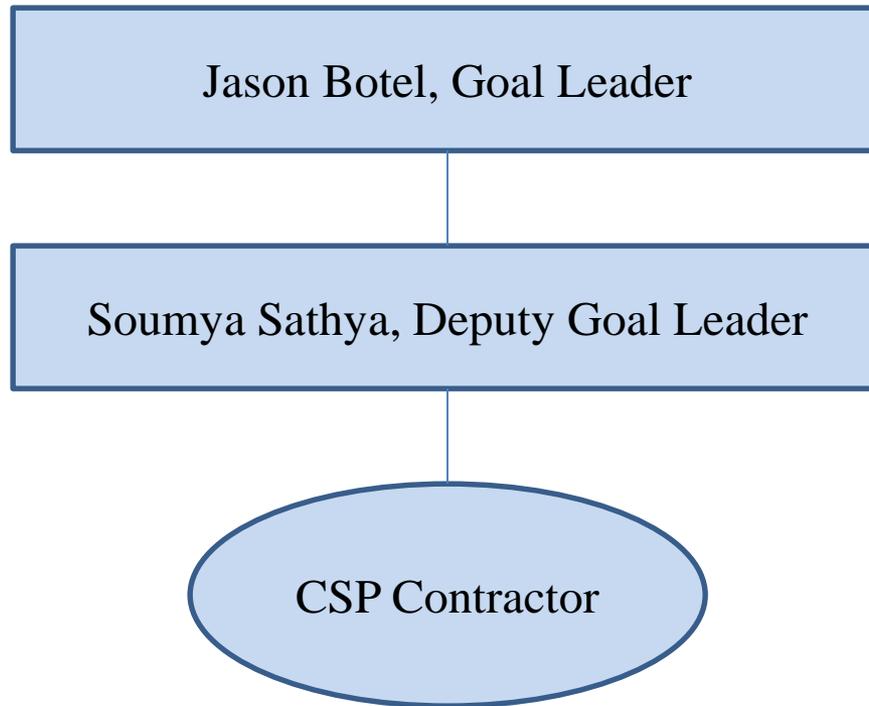
- Deliver high quality technical assistance to grantees to support them in their creation and expansion of new schools and increase of student enrollment in those schools through project implementation.
- Congressional appropriations for CSP may be insufficient to meet demand to expand educational choice 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 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

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# Goal Structure & Strategies

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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 grantees 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 Q3

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- IES awarded [R&D Center contract](#) on School Choice to Tulane University.
- Charter School Program (CSP) hosted a webinar discussing best practices for oversight of charter management organization (CMO) and education management organization (EMO) relationships with charter schools in July 2018.
- CSP published a replication and expansion notice of propose priority (NPP) in the federal register for public comment on July 25, 2018. The comment period closes August 27, 2018.
- CSP conducted discretionary grant competitions during Quarter 3 and expects to make new awards by September 30, 2018, including:
  - [new State entities competition](#) that closed May 20, 2018;
  - [new Developer competition for new, replicating, and expanding grantees](#) that closed April 16, 2018;
  - [credit enhancement for charter school facilities program](#) that closed May 11, 2018; and
  - [national dissemination grant competition](#) that closed on July 9, 2018.

## Next Steps:

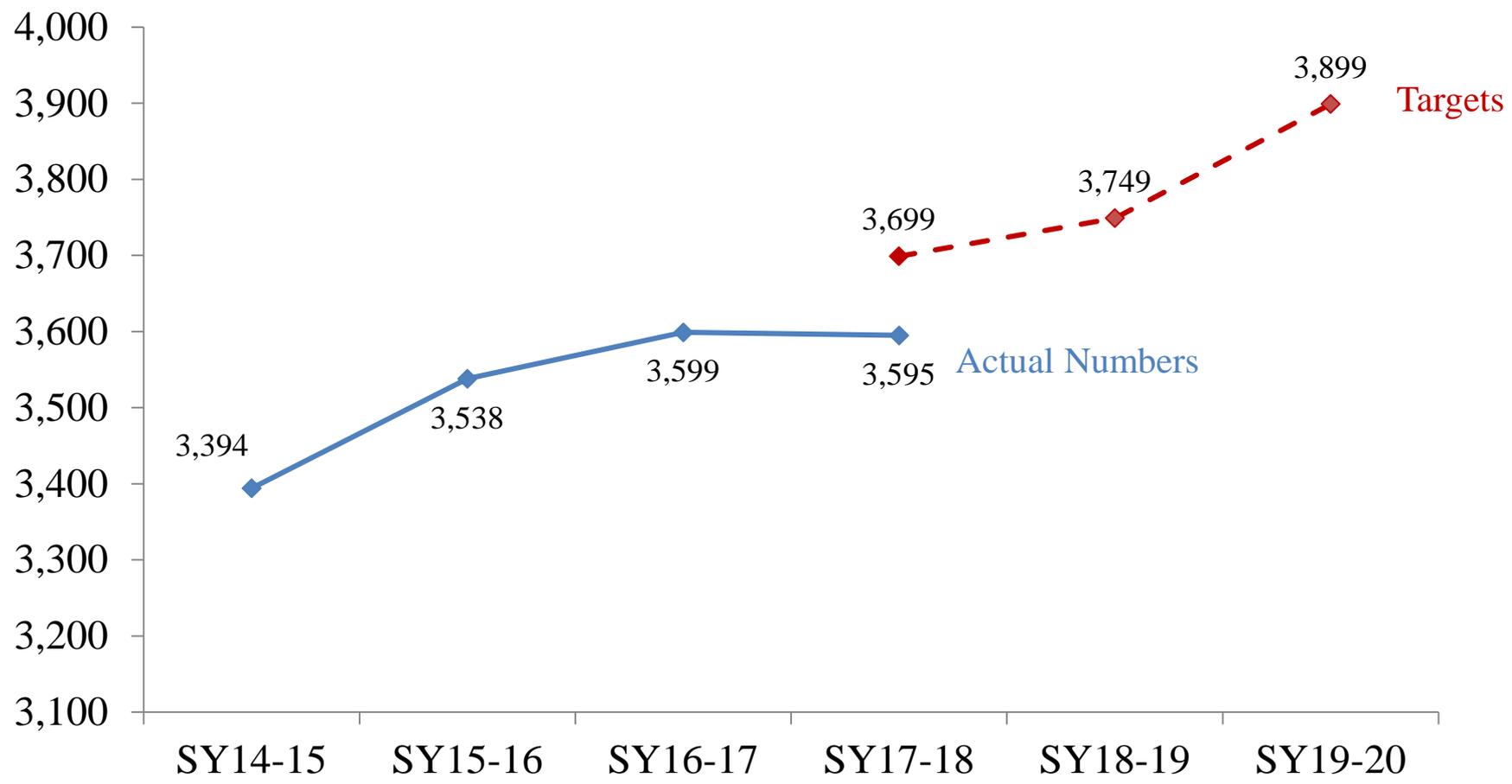
- CSP will continue development of Dear Colleague letters and accompanying framework and strategy for performing a minimum level of monitoring, risk assessment, and mitigation procedures related to charter school contractual relationships with CMOs, anticipated to be released in Quarter 4.
- CSP plans to make new awards under the CMO competition by March 2019.

# Key Milestones

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Milestone Owner	Comments
Establish timelines for preparation of resources with Charter School Program (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	Four of the five CSP competitions have been announced to date. For the fifth program, the Charter Management Organization (CMO) program, a notice of proposed priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria was published, with comments due on August 27. We plan to publish a notice of final priorities and notice inviting applications in Q1 of FY2019.
Release first set of resources	Q4 2018	In Progress	CSP Director	Resources have been finalized with the CSP contractor.
Award new grants	Q1 2019	In Progress	CSP Director	Anticipate making awards under the following programs by September 30, 2018: State Entities, Credit Enhancement, Developer, and National Dissemination. Anticipate making CMO awards by March 2019.

# Key Indicators

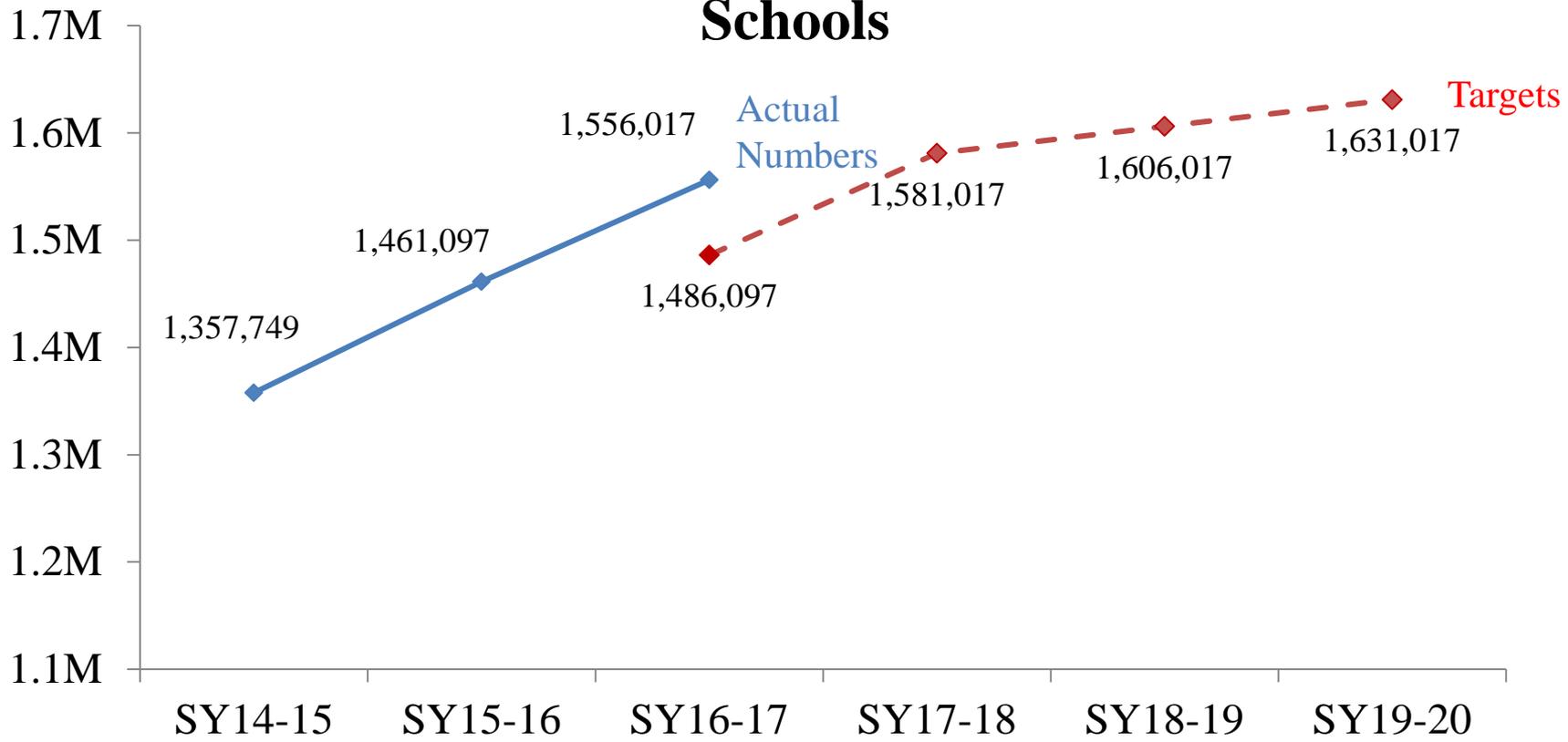
## Aggregate # of Open and Operating CSP-Funded Charter Schools



\*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 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) CCD and Charter School Program (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). CSP staff will verify the data in 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
- Charter School Program (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 Agency Priority Goals. Additionally, the work of CSP involves collaboration with Congress and key constituents to support the work of the programs and CSP grantees.