



Agency Priority Goal (APG) Action Plan

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

APG Goal Leader: Chris Rinkus, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Evidence-based Practices and State and Grantee Relations, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)

APG Deputy Goal Leader: Ellen Safranek, Director of the Charter Schools Program, OESE

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.

Challenge

- Charter school authorizers to provide more monitoring and technical assistance to both existing and new charter schools.
- Charter school expansion may be limited by State and local laws and policies.
- A misunderstanding of the public nature of charter schools may impact the opening of and increased enrollment in charter schools.

Opportunity

- Increasing the number of new charter schools nationally and the number of students enrolled in charter schools will provide opportunities for educational alternatives and choices that will better 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

Chris Rinkus, Goal Leader

Ellen Safranek, Deputy Goal Leader

Goal Structure & Strategies

The Department will:

- Conduct Charter School Program (CSP) grant competitions to award new grants to entities such as State Entities (SE) and Charter Management Organizations (CMOs).
- Monitor and provide technical assistance to grantees and review grantee performance reports for information on the creation and expansion of new charter schools and increased student enrollment.
- Determine the net new schools and student enrollment by comparing grantee reported data with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data.
- Work closely with Department-funded National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) in preparation of evidence-based and promising practices resources.

Summary of Progress – FY 2019 Q3

- In April 2019, the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) released “[Do Charter Middle Schools Improve Students’ College Outcomes?](#)” The study found that being admitted to a charter middle school did not affect college outcomes. Also, there was not a consistent relationship between a charter school's impact on middle school achievement and the school's impact on college outcomes.
- CSP conducted rule making for its Developer* grants for opening new charter schools as well as developed a Notice Inviting Application (NIA) in order to run a FY 2019 Developer grant competition.
- CSP conducted rule making for its Credit Enhancement* grants as well as developed an NIA in order to run a FY 2019 Credit Enhancement grant competition.
- CSP developed a NIA for its State Incentive* grant program in order to run a FY 2019 competition
- CSP developed and ran two competitions to establish contracts to develop and disseminate information on how:
 1. Opportunity Zones and a Qualified Opportunity Fund can be used as a lever to create and support high-quality charter schools; and
 2. To increase educational options, including charter schools, to help drive improved educational outcomes for Native American students
- CSP created a supplemental opportunity for its State Entity* grantees resulting in nine submissions currently under review

Next Steps

- The Charter School Program office is working with its counterparts across the Department to further identify and develop evidence-based promising practices that reflect and address the needs of the Charter sector.
- Publish the Developer, Credit Enhancement, and State Incentive applications in late Spring to be competed Summer FY 2019.

*Developer: Developer Grants for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools, Credit Enhancement: Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program; State Incentive: State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants Program; State Entity: Expanding Opportunities Through Quality CSP Grants to State Entities.

Key Milestones

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Milestone Owner	Comments
Release first set of resources	Q4 2018	Completed	CSP Director	<p>CSP conducted a kickoff meeting with the Department’s contractor on the profiles of best practices related to charter schools, charter school authorizing, and charter management organizations.</p> <p>In July, CSP awarded a new National Charter School Resource Center contract despite full implementation being delayed as a result of a contract challenge through July 2019.</p>
Award new grants	Q1 2019	Completed	CSP Director	CSP regulated on its CMO program and Credit Enhancement Program during Quarter 1.
Award grants	Q2 2019	Completed	CSP Director	CSP competed and awarded FY 2018 CMO grant awards. FY 2018 CMO funds were not due to be awarded until March FY 2019. CSP also made FY 2019 State Entity grant awards.

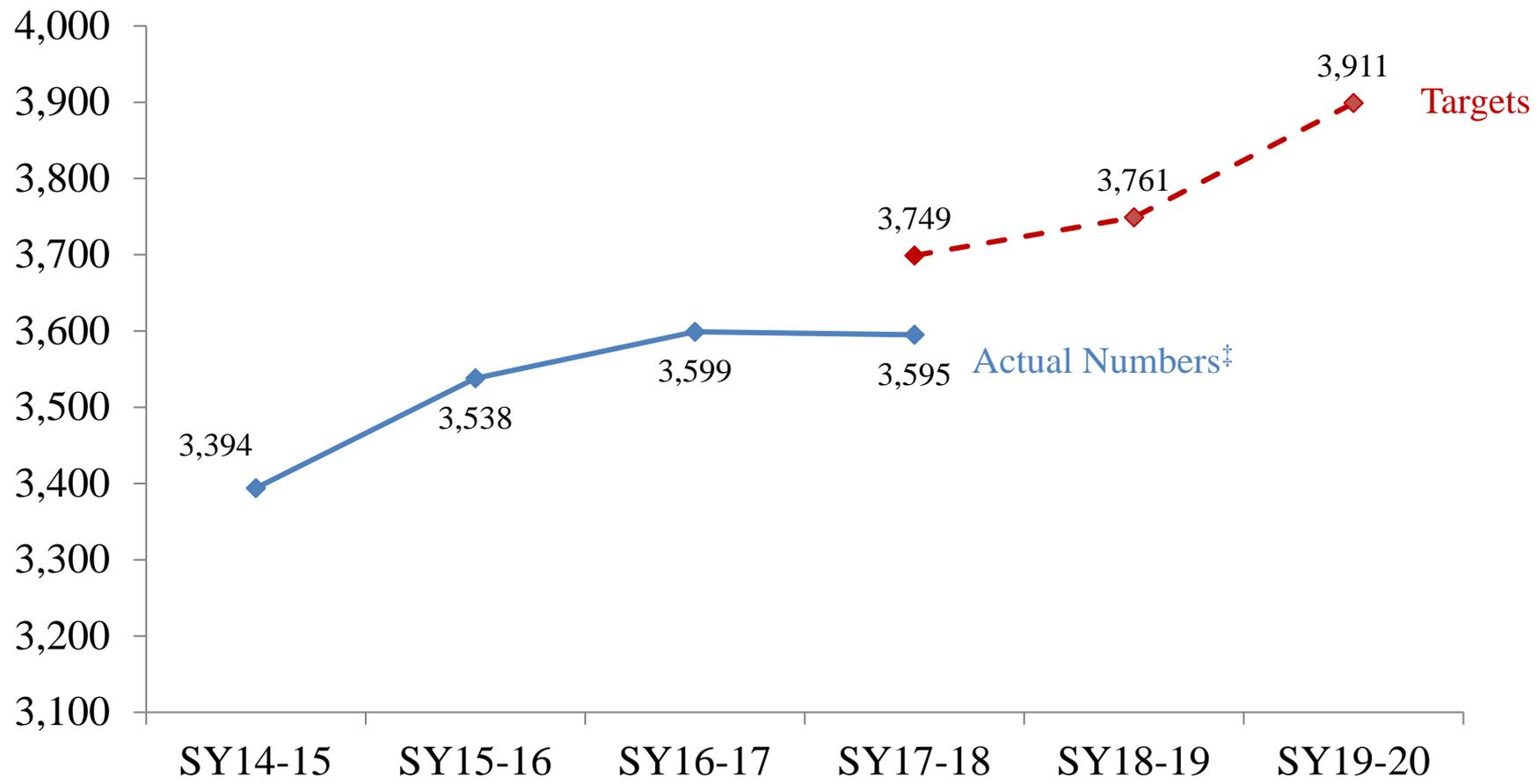
Key Milestones

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Milestone Owner	Comments
Publish Notices Inviting Applications (NIA) for new grants	Q3 2019	In Progress	CSP Director	<p>CSP conducted rule making for its Developer grants for opening new charter schools as well as developed an NIA in order to run a FY 2019 Developer grant competition.</p> <p>CSP conducted rule making for its Credit Enhancement grants as well as developed an NIA in order to run a FY 2019 Credit Enhancement grant competition.</p> <p>CSP developed a NIA for its State Incentive grant program in order to run a FY 2019 competition</p>
Release resources	Q4 2019	In Progress	CSP Director	

*CMO: Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter School Grant program.

Key Indicators

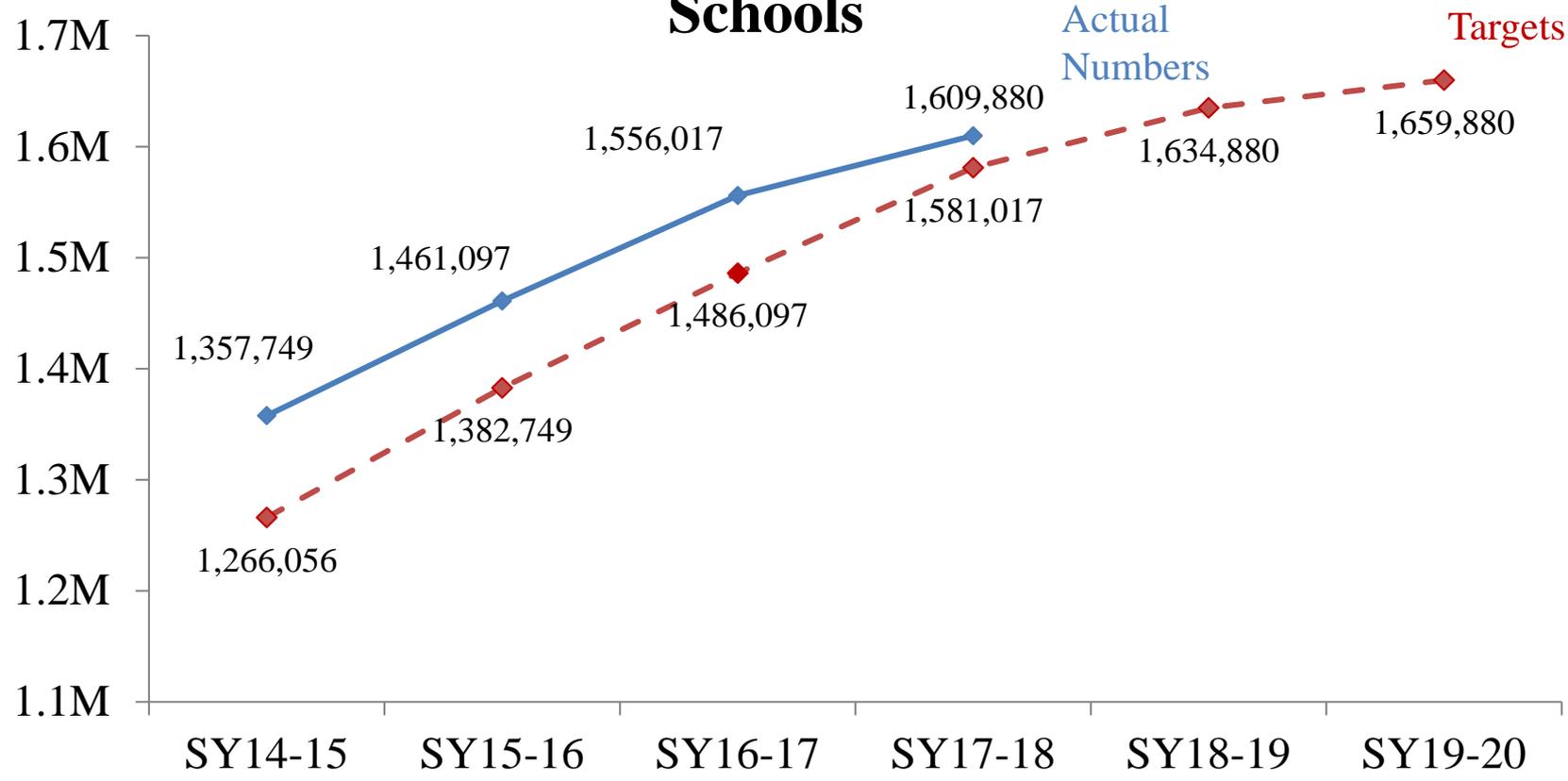
Aggregate # of Open and Operating CSP-Funded Charter Schools



[‡] In SY 2017-18: 134 new, CSP-supported charter schools opened and 101 charter schools expanded under a CSP grant.
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 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Common Core of Data (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 reconcile and validate the data.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- Department of Education: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE) and Institute of Education Sciences, including National Center for Education Statistics
- Charter School Program Grantees
- State Educational Agencies and State Authorizers
- Charter Management Organizations

Program Activities:

- Grant Competitions
- Monitor existing grants and grantee reports on their performance.

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.