MEMORANDUM

TO: Charter School Principals and Administrators
Charter School Authorizers

FROM: Nathan Williamson, Director of Title Grants and Support
Cole Dietrich, Assistant Director of Charter Schools and Special Programs

DATE: August 9, 2017
SUBJECT: Newly Opened and Significantly Expanded Charter Schools

The purpose of this memo is to inform newly-opened charter schools in addition to those that experience a significant expansion of enrollment that they may qualify for funding under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Section 4306 of the ESSA requires that the Department make initial allocations for newly-opened charter schools within 5 months of the start of the school year. Similarly, this requirement extends to additional funding for charter schools that experience a significant expansion in enrollment. While the Department will attempt to make these funds available as early as possible, these funds will be made available no later than January 1, 2018.

This requirement applies to the following federal programs:
- Title I, Part A
- Title II, Part A
- Title III, Part A
- IDEA, Part B

Criteria for Significant Expansion of Enrollment
A charter school must meet both of the following criteria to qualify as having significantly expanded enrollment:
1. A minimum student enrollment of 300
2. An increase of 50% or more in student enrollment
   a. For Title III funds, the charter school must meet criterion 1 as well as experience an increase of 50% in the number of identified English learners (ELs) enrolled.
   b. For IDEA Part B funds, the charter school must meet criterion 1 as well as experience an increase of 50% in the number of students with disabilities.

Process for Qualifying for Additional Funds
Initial counts and significant expansion determinations for Title I, II, and IDEA, Part B will be based upon data submitted via the PE Data Collection. Title III allocations and significant expansion determinations will be based upon EL counts submitted via the LM Data Collection. IDEO will then generate initial allocations and significant expansion determinations for those schools that qualify. These funds shall be made available within 5 months of the start of the school year, no later than January 1, 2018.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns,

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