

Expanding Opportunities through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)

IDOE Quality Counts Application



Working Together for Student Success

Overview

- The CSP Grants to State Entities program is funded under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.
- Enables sub-grants to:
 - open and prepare for the operation of new, high-quality charter schools;
 - replicate and expand high-quality charter schools.



Overview

- Indiana is committed to ensuring our students receive a quality education no matter the type of school they choose.
- The title of the application is *Quality Counts*; the focus is upon strengthening the quality of the charter schools sector.
- In SY 16-17, Indiana had 93 charter schools with an approximate enrollment of 42,690 students (4.1% of Indiana's total public school population).



Performance Measures

- Indiana 2017 CSP Grant Objectives:
 - Increase the number of high-quality charter schools statewide via incubation, replication, expansion, or improvement.
 - Leverage support specific to building the capacity necessary for the Indiana charter school sector to grow quality programs.
 - Evaluate the impact of charter schools on student outcomes
 - Improve consistency of high-quality charter school authorization statewide



Definitions

- *High-Quality* (emphasized by *Quality Counts* application)
 - Evidence of strong academic results, including above state averages in growth and proficiency on ISTEP/ILEARN or accountability grade of an A or B
 - No significant issues in the areas of student safety, school finance, operational management, or statutory/regulatory compliance
 - Success in significantly increasing student achievement, including graduation rates for all students and for each of the subgroups defined by ESSA (e.g. economically disadvantaged, ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English learners)



Definitions

- **New Charter School**
 - Opened within the past year or applied for a charter and plan to open within 18 months
- **Replication of a High-Quality Charter School**
 - Open a new charter school or campus based upon the educational model of an existing high-quality charter school
- **Expansion of a High-Quality Charter School**
 - Significantly increase enrollment or add one or more grades to a high-quality charter school



Logic Model

Indiana *Quality Counts* Logic Model

Inputs & Resources	Activities	Outputs	Short Term Goals	Mid-Term Goals	Long Term Goals
Objective 1: Increase the number of high quality charter schools statewide.					
IDOE Staff, Authorizers, & Nonprofit Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOE announces <i>Quality Counts</i> subgrant project & bidders Conference IDOE runs rigorous competitive RFP process to solicit high quality subgrant applications Nonprofit organizations share best practices and provide technical assistance to applicants 	<p>a. Subgrants awarded to highest quality applicants to <i>incubate, expand, replicate & improve charter schools</i></p> <p>b. Subgrants awarded to highest quality applicants to open new charters within existing traditional public school districts in collaboration with Indiana authorizers.</p>	By 2019, 10 new charter schools will be operational in Indiana	By 2021, 30 new charters will be operational in Indiana	Increase the number of high quality charter school seats available to Indiana students and families by successfully implementing 60 subgrants statewide.
Objective 2: Leverage support specific to building charter school capacity					
IDOE Staff & Nonprofit Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOE builds charter capacity via technical assistance IDOE enhances charters accessibility & utilization of federal resources Nonprofit provides support & share evidence based best practices 	<p>a. Specific PD for charter schools navigating growth</p> <p>b. IDOE enhances charter school access to other federal funds & student outcome data</p> <p>c. Schools share evidence based best practices across charters & traditional public schools</p>	By 2019, 10 new charter schools will be operational in Indiana	By 2021, 30 new charters will be operational in Indiana	Increase the number of high quality, fiscally sound charter schools in Indiana by supporting the implementation of 60 high quality subgrants.



Logic Model Continued

Inputs & Resources	Activities	Outputs	Short Term Goals	Mid-Term Goals	Long Term Goals
Objective 3: Evaluate the impact of charter schools on student outcomes					
IDOE Staff, Authorizers, & External Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOE collects & analyzes student outcome data for all subgrantees Evidence based best practices identified & shared 	a. IDOE hosts annual Best Practices Showcase b. Research & evaluation identifies best practices & opportunities for growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subgrantees increase students at or above proficiency on state Math assessments by 5% Subgrantees increase students at or above proficiency on state English/LA assessments by 5% 	Subgrantees decrease the achievement gap between historically under-served students and state averages.	Increased academic outcomes for students attending Indiana charter schools by the percent of charter school students scoring in the Top 75% sub group category.
Objective 4: Support implementation of high quality charter school authorizing practices					
IDOE Staff, External Experts & Authorizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOE conduct competitive process for selecting experts to support Indiana Authorizers 	a. IDOE & Selected expert collect & analyze baseline data on authorizer portfolios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up 5 year plan collaboratively with authorizers to provide tailored support 	Each authorizers' percentage of schools in their portfolios identified as Quality or Improving will increase from year 1 of the project	Increased percentage of charter schools in authorizers portfolios identified as Quality &/or Improving



Eligible Applicants

- Competitive grant process
- IDOE will only fund high-quality plans.
- Applicants that submit that are high-quality and meet the definitions for new, replication, or expansion will be considered after a rigorous peer review process.



Charter “Hierarchy”

- State Board of Education
 - Authorizers (e.g. Traditional LEAs, Indianapolis Mayor, ICSB, Ball State, Public Schools, etc.)
 - Organizer (Nonprofit charter school board unique to each charter)
 - Education Service Providers (optional; for-profit or non-profit management organization)
 - Charter School (principal, teachers)
- IDOE serves as the SEA over the funding and a source of support for the “hierarchy.”



Understanding Flexibility

- Traditional Charter Schools (IC 20-24 generally)
- Innovation Network Charter Schools (IC 20-25.7-5)
- Conversion Charter Schools (IC 20-24-11)
- Innovation Network Schools (IC 20-25.7 generally)
- Transformation Zones (IC 20-31-9.5-9.5)
- Freeway Accreditation



Who Is Eligible to Participate in CSP Quality Counts?

- Yes
 - Traditional Charter Schools
 - Innovation Network Charter Schools
 - Conversion Charter Schools
- No
 - Innovation Network Schools
 - Transformation Zones
- Traditional public schools may participate by following the procedures detailed here to develop a new charter or convert an existing school to a charter.



Traditional Charter Schools

- Public schools open to all students for application.
 - Funded through basic tuition support in the same manner as any other traditional public school
 - Created through a contract (the charter agreement) between an authorizer and an organizer
 - Independent of any school corporation and considered their own LEA for federal purposes



Traditional Charter Schools

What is an Authorizer? (IC 20-24-1-2.5)

- An authorizer is the entity that may extend a charter to an organizer to operate a charter school. The authorizer is ultimately responsible for the performance of the school. Additionally, the authorizer receives up to 3% set-aside of the basic tuition support funding for the charter school to be used for administration. Authorizers must be officially registered with Indiana SBOE.
- Who can be an authorizer?
 - A governing body of a school corporation,
 - The executive of a consolidated city,
 - The Indiana Charter School Board, or
 - A governing body of any nonprofit college or university offering four year or more advanced degrees.



Traditional Charter Schools

What is an Organizer? (IC 20-24-1-7)

- An organizer is an independent board of a charter school that is a party to the charter contract with the authorizer.
- The organizer is the entity that physically operates the school.
- Organizers must have received nonprofit status from the IRS or have applied for such status.
- Organizers are the sole fiscal agents for a charter school and has exclusive control over the funds received by the charter school and the financial matters of the charter school. IC 20-24-7-1



Traditional Charter Schools

What is an Education Service Provider (ESP)? (IC 20-24-1-6.1)

- An ESP is:
 - a for profit education management organization;
 - a nonprofit charter management organization; or
 - a school design provider.
- Organizers may choose to contract with an ESP to provide educational design, implementation, or comprehensive management over the charter school.
- An ESP does not have to be utilized by an organizer.



Innovation Network Charter School (IC 20-25.7-5)

- This may be thought of as a traditional charter school that is under the umbrella of a public school corporation.
- Still must have received a charter from a registered authorizer and be operated by an organizer.
- All laws that apply to charter schools also apply to Innovation Network Charter Schools, except where noted.
 - The accountability for an Innovation Network Charter School is included in the public school corporation's accountability.
 - All state funding for the Innovation Network Charter School must flow through the public school corporation. Such distribution should be detailed in the Innovation Network Agreement between the Innovation Network Charter School and the public school corporation.



Innovation Network Charter School (IC 20-25.7-5)

How are Innovation Network Charter Schools created?

- A local school board may enter into an agreement with an organizer to reconstitute a school into an Innovation Network Charter School, or to create such a school within a vacant or underutilized building.
- The Innovation Network Charter School would still need to receive a charter from a registered authorizer to operate.



Conversion Charter Schools (IC 20-24-11)

- An existing public elementary or secondary school may be converted into a charter school if:
 - at least 51% of the parents of students who attend the school sign a petition supporting the conversion;
 - the school has received a “D” or “F” grade for two consecutive years; and
 - the local school board votes in support of the conversion.
- Just as with any other charter school, a conversion charter school is created by a charter agreement between an authorizer and an organizer.
- Of note, if any school within that public school corporation has received four consecutive “F” grades, the school corporation may not act as the conversion charter school’s authorizer.



Innovation Network Schools (IC 20-25.7)

- Two ways in which an Innovation Network School may be created:
 - A group of teachers and the principal/superintendent may submit a plan to the local school board for approval.
 - A local school board may establish an Innovation Network School of their own initiative.
- Innovation Network Schools are distinct from Innovation Network Charter Schools.
- Innovation Network Schools are not charter schools, and do not require an authorizer or organizer.
- Innovation Network Schools are wholly schools within the LEA of the public school corporation and are treated as such.
- Innovation Network Schools are utilized to create autonomy and flexibility within a school corporation. Innovation Network Schools are allowed greater flexibility and innovation in school structure, instruction and administration at the building level.
- Innovation Network Schools are not constrained by collective bargaining.



Transformation Zones (IC 20-31-9.5-9.5)

- Transformation Zone Creation:
 - The governing body of a school that has received a “D” or “F” grade may submit a plan to the Indiana SBOE to create a transformation zone.
- Transformation Zones are not charter schools and are not necessarily a cluster of charter schools. No authorizer or organizer need be involved within a transformation zone.
- A school corporation could choose to place charter schools within a transformation zone.
- Transformation zones are utilized to create autonomy and flexibility within a school corporation. Transformation zones allow greater flexibility and innovation in school structure, instruction, and administration at the building level.
- Transformation zone schools are not constrained by collective bargaining.



Grant Logistics

- IDOE's \$59 Million Application Distribution
 - At least 90% must be provided in competitive subgrants to eligible applicants.
 - At least 7% must be utilized for state-level technical assistance activities.
 - No more than 3% state-level administration (IDOE staff, indirect costs etc.).



Grant Logistics

- Competitive Sub-Grants
 - Max length of 5 years, including no more than 18 months of a planning period (before a new charter school would open).
- Maximum sub-grant of \$900,000 to utilize over the length of the grant.



Subgrant Allowable Activities

- Costs associated with preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional personnel, including professional development and hiring during the planning period.
- Acquiring supplies, training, equipment, and educational materials.
- Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes (excluding construction).
- Providing one-time startup costs associated with providing transportation.
- Carrying out community engagement activities.
- Providing for other appropriate, non-sustained costs related to opening, replicating, or expanding a high-quality charter school.



Restrictions

- No construction; funding cannot be used to build new buildings.
- Our application is a “contract” with the USED. IDOE will be held to what is written in the grant.
- Funding cannot be redirected for other uses (e.g. traditional public schools that are not charters, general cost activities etc.).



Charter Options to Explore

- Prospective charter developers might wish to consider:
 - Opening/expanding prekindergarten (as long as one K-12 grade is included within the charter school).
 - Developing a magnet charter option to expand options for parents (i.e. within an existing charter school network or traditional public school corporation) such as dual language immersion, STEM.
 - Preparation for postsecondary
 - Early college charter school to focus upon dual credit, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate.
 - Career/technical education charter school.



Technical Assistance

- 7% of the total funding must be utilized for state-level activities. IDOE's plan includes
 - Support for authorizers (training, common standards/practices, evaluation framework)
 - Capacity building support for developers, educators, and community members based upon a needs assessment
 - Develop innovative practices to share across various school settings.
 - Improve educator skills to serve English learners, students with disabilities
 - Increase qualified teachers in special education, EL, high ability, STEM, early childhood, and other shortage areas.
 - Research study to evaluate impact of charter schools on student achievement
 - Data/grants management portals



Timeline (tentative)

- Oct: Peer Reviewer Applications Due
- Nov. 15: Release of the RFP
- Nov. 1-30: Regional Meetings, Online Technical Assistance, Open Calls
- Dec. 1-29: Bidder's Conference Sessions
- Dec. 29: FY 18 Applications Due



Contact Info

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