



## 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.

## Challenge

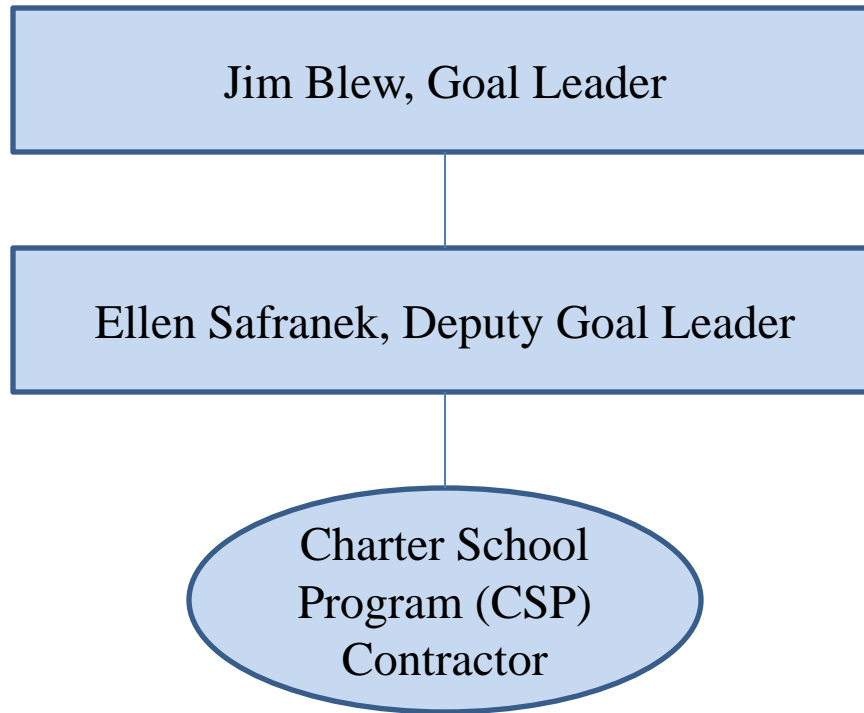
- Deliver high quality technical assistance to grantees to support them in their creation of new charter schools and increase student enrollment in charter schools.
- Charter school expansion may be limited by State and local laws and policies.
- Misunderstanding the public nature of charter schools 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

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# Goal Structure & Strategies

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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 18 Q4

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Through its Charter School Program (CSP), the Department supported 134 new charter schools in school year 2017–18 and preliminary data suggest the total number of students enrolled in CSP-supported schools is over 1.6 million, an increase of 54,000 from SY 2017. Additionally, the Department awarded eight grants under the CSP National Dissemination program: four of the grants focus on disseminating best practices related to quality charter school authorization and the other four grants focus on disseminating best practices related to facilities and facility financing.

Resources published through the National Charter School Resource Center include:

- [Washington Leadership Academy case study](#), published in May 2018: focuses on highlighting promising practices at a technology-focused charter high school in Washington, DC.
- [Native American Community Academy case study](#), published in February 2018: focuses on highlighting promising practices in community engagement and human capital capacity building.

In January 2018, IES published three reports related to charter schools focusing on the effects of intervention programs on the academic achievement of students: [Knowledge Is Power Program \(KIPP\)](#), [Green Dot Public Schools](#), and [Harlem Children's Zone \(HCZ\) Promise Academy Charter Schools](#).

Next Steps:

- For FY 2019, 30 States have active SEA and or State Entity CSP grants to support opening, replicating, or expanding charter schools within their state.
- Policy and Program Studies Service (PPSS) has a contract to develop case studies related to best practices in charter schools, charter school authorizing, and charter management organizations.

# 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 (NIA) for new grants	Q3 2018	In Progress	CSP Director	<p>The Charter Management Organization (CMO) program, a notice of proposed priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria was published, with comments due on August 27.</p> <p>CMO NFP* and NIA are anticipated to publish in November 2018; the Department plan to make awards before March 2019. In FY 2019, the Department also has the following competitions planned: <a href="#">SE</a>, <a href="#">CMO</a>, <a href="#">Developer</a>, <a href="#">CE</a>, and State Incentive.**</p>

\*NFP: notice of final priority

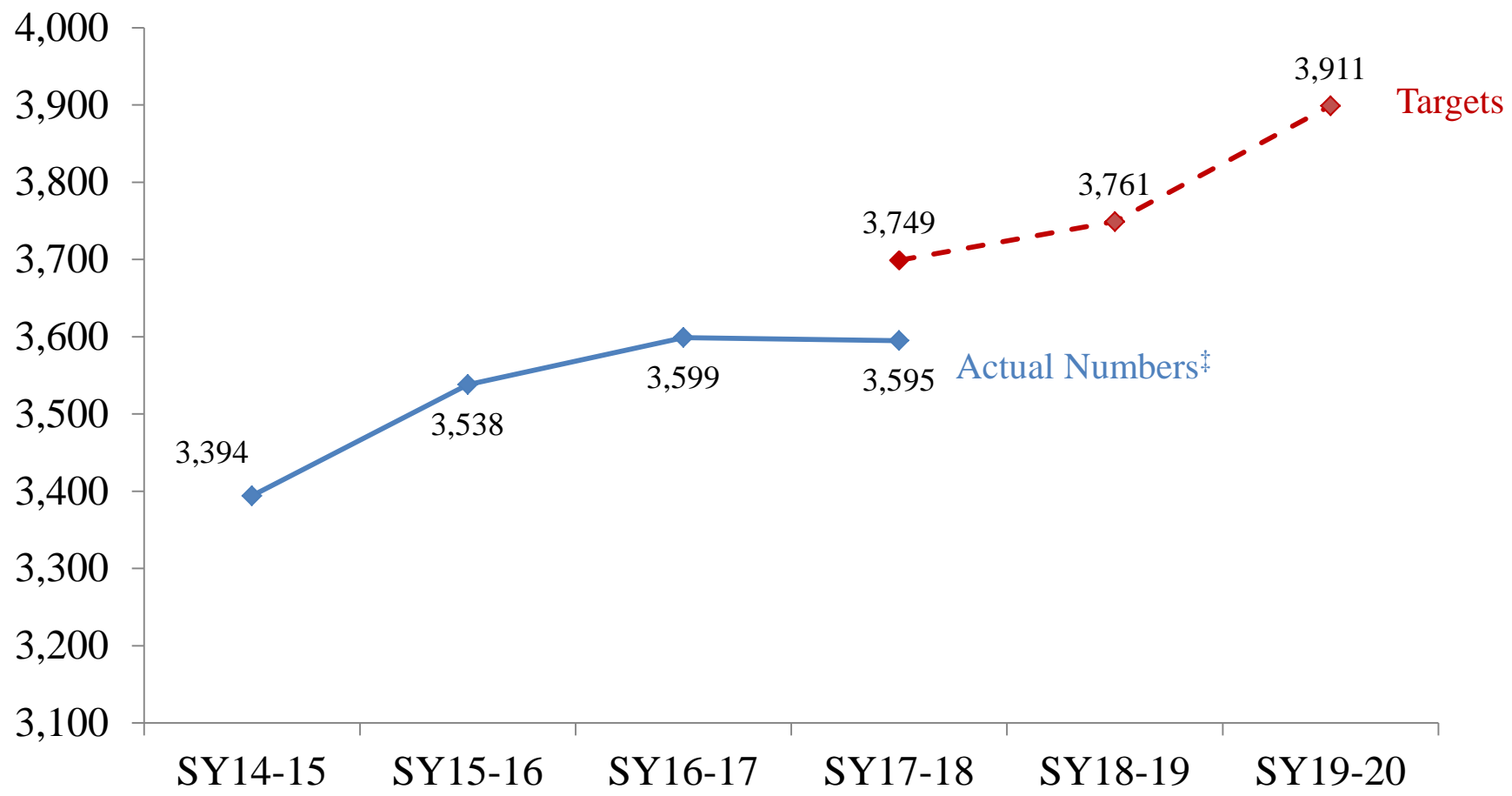
\*\*SE: Expanding Opportunities Through Quality CSP Grants to State Entities; CMO: Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter School Grant program; Developer: Developer Grants for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools; CE: Credit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

# Key Milestones

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Milestone Owner	Comments
Release first set of resources	Q4 2018	Complete	CSP Director	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. CSP awarded a new NCSRC contract however full implementation is delayed pending the resolution of a contract challenge.
Award new grants	Q1 2019	In Progress	CSP Director	Awards were made by September 30, 2018 for the following programs: State Entities, Credit Enhancement, Developer, and National Dissemination. Due to rulemaking, the Replication and Expansion competition was granted an extension and anticipates making awards by March 2019 with FY 2018 funding.

# Key Indicators

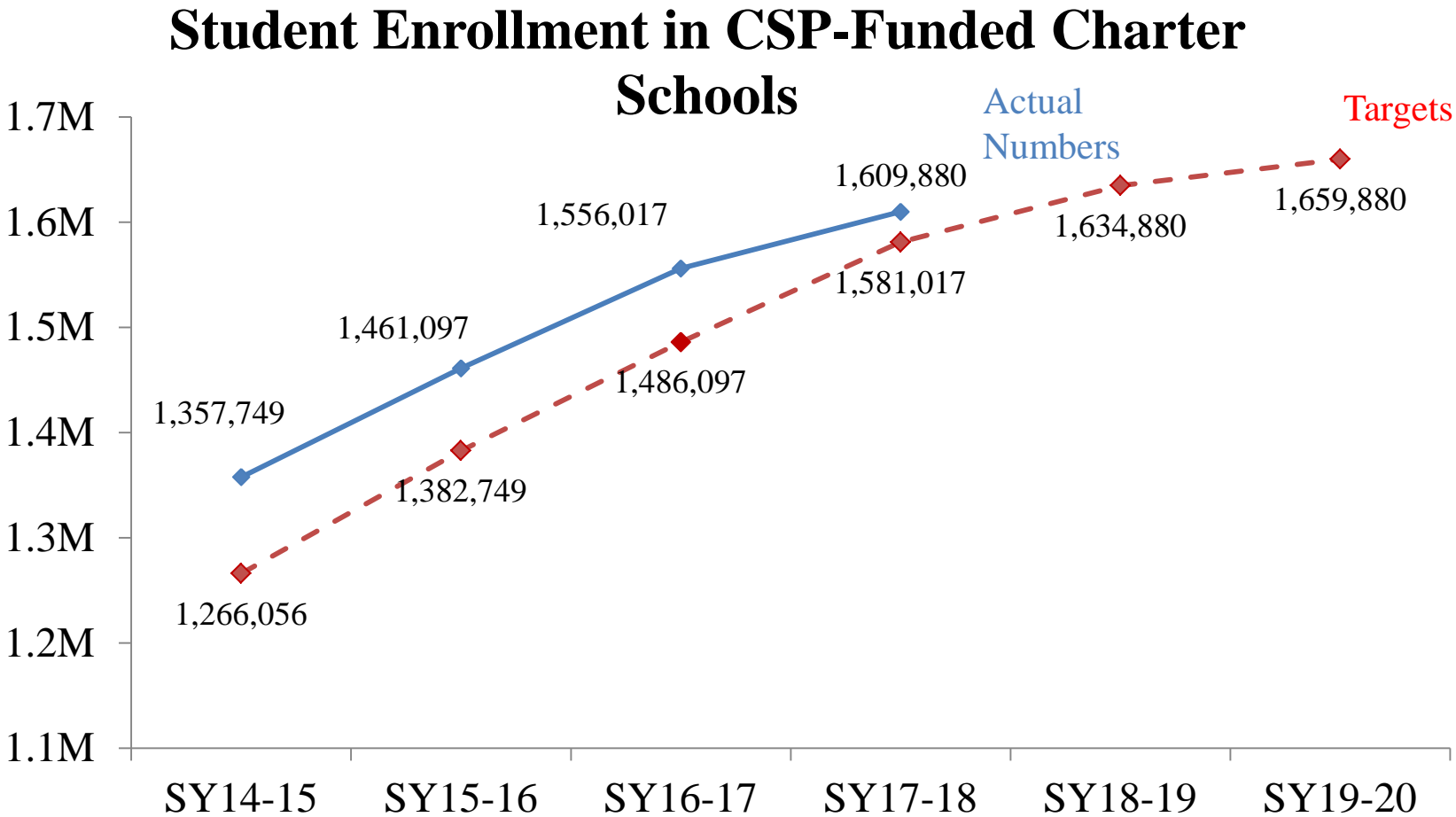
## Aggregate # of Open and Operating CSP-Funded Charter Schools



<sup>‡</sup> In SY 2017-18: 134 new, CSP-supported charter schools opened; 138 CSP-supported charter schools closed; and 101 charter schools expanded under a CSP grant.



# Key Indicators



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) 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 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 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.