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Frank Edelblut
Commissioner



Christine Brennan
Deputy Commissioner

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
TEL (603) 271-3495
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September 22, 2020

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, NH 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, authorize the Department of Education, Bureau of Educational Opportunities to accept and expend NH School Charter School Grant funds in the amount of \$10,114,548 from the United States Department of Education, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2021. The budget for Fiscal Year 2021 is listed below. The balance of the grant, which is in the amount of \$35,885,452, will be incorporated into the next two biennial budgets. 100% Federal Funds.

2. Pursuant to RSA 124:15, authorize the Department of Education, Bureau of Educational Opportunities to establish the following temporary full time positions effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2021. 100% Federal Funds.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Labor Grade</u>	<u>Salary Range</u>
1	Program Specialist III (1.0 FTE)	23	\$46,761.00-65,949.00
2	Administrator I (1.0 FTE)	27	\$55,555.50-\$79,170.00

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Funds to be budgeted as follows:

Charter School Grant
Account: 06-56-56-567010-24500000
Revenue Source Code: 400374

Class/Object Revenue	Description		FY 2021
000/400374	Federal Funds	\$	10,114,548
Expenses			
020/500200	Current Expenses	\$	13,118
026/500251	Organizational Dues	\$	20,000
027/582803	Transfers to DoIT	\$	11,200
028/582814	Transfers to General Services	\$	10,270
029/500290	Intra-Agency Transfers	\$	75,000
030/500301	Equipment	\$	5,100
037/500173	Technology Hardware	\$	5,600
038/500174	Technology Software	\$	2,000
039/500177	Telecommunications	\$	3,602
040/500800	Indirect Costs	\$	23,443
041/500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	\$	10,115
042/500620	Post Retirement Benefits	\$	15,136
050/500109	Part-Time Salaries	\$	2,659
059/500117	Temporary Full-Time	\$	89,304
060/500601	Benefits	\$	56,000
070/500704	In-State Travel	\$	30,000
072/500577	Grants-Federal	\$	9,103,093
080/500710	Out-of-State Travel	\$	30,000
102/500731	Contracts for Program Svcs	\$	608,909
		\$	10,114,548

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Department of Education applied for and received a Charter School Program grant through the Federal Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grants to State Entities. This program expands opportunities for all students, particularly traditionally underserved students, to (1) attend charter schools and meet challenging State academic standards; (2) provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of public charter schools; (3) increase the number of high quality charter schools available to students; (4) evaluate the impact of charter schools on student achievement, families, communities; (5) share best practices between charter schools and other public schools; and (6) support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process.

New Hampshire's national recognition as a state that supports innovative practices of competency-based, personalized teaching and learning, as well as home to a coherent system of innovative assessment and accountability, makes it a true testing ground for new school development, particularly for at-risk students. Currently the state is home to 31 public charter schools. Seven of these schools meet the federal definition for high-quality charter school replication.

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The five primary objectives of NH's CSP grant are: (1) Increase, expand, or replicate the number of high-quality charter schools, especially those aiding at-risk, educationally disadvantaged students in rural and urban settings; (2) use grant funds to improve student growth and achievement among charter school students, increasing student graduation for college and career readiness; (3) broadly disseminate charter school best practices to other NH public schools and LEAs to increase quality educational options statewide; (4) empower current and new public charter schools to become fiscally strong, independent, laboratories of innovation; (5) strengthen and support authorizer quality and promote adoption of best practices for authorizers.

In support of the objectives noted above, the Department commits to: adequately monitoring the eligible applicants receiving sub-grants under the State entity's program; working with the authorized public chartering agencies involved to avoid duplication of work for the charter schools and authorized public chartering agencies; and provide technical assistance and support for eligible applicants receiving sub-grants under the State entity's program as well as quality authorizing efforts in the State.

The CSP program has set reasonable expansion goals of 20 new public charter schools, 7 replications of existing public charter schools, and 5 expansions of high quality charter schools over the 5 year grant period. These expansion goals enable the State to target sub-grantee awards to existing charter schools that have demonstrated success and to expand or replicate the work they are doing, in addition to setting a foundation for success for new public charter schools. To assist in these efforts, the CSP program includes two staff positions; a program administrator and a program specialist.

The majority of the federal grant funds (90%) will be awarded to sub-recipients in the state of New Hampshire to accomplish the program priorities of creating, expanding, and replicating high quality charter schools. Specifically, sub-recipients have the ability to utilize the grant funds in the following ways:

- Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including through paying the costs associated with
 - Providing professional development, and
 - Hiring and compensating, during eligible planning periods, teachers, school leaders, and instructional support personnel
- Acquiring supplies, training, equipment (including technology), and educational materials (including developing and acquiring instructional materials)
- Carrying out necessary renovations to ensure that a new school building complies with applicable statutes and regulations, and minor facilities repairs (excluding construction)
- Providing one-time, startup costs associated with providing transportation to students to and from the charter school
- Carrying out community engagement activities, which may include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment
- Providing for other appropriate, non-sustainable costs related to the program objectives when such costs cannot be met from other sources.

The Department currently has five charter schools that are approved by the State Board of Education and may be eligible for startup funding grants of up to \$1,500,000 each, four of which are open with students enrolled and one of which is planning to open in the fall of 2021. Grant allocations to those schools in FY 2021 are estimated to be \$7,500,000. Those schools are as follows:

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- Heartwood Public Charter School, K-8, Lancaster, NH
- Kreiva Academy Public Charter School, K-8, Manchester, NH
- Northeast Woodlands Public Charter School, K-8, Conway, NH
- Spark Charter Academy of Advanced Technologies, 9-12, Manchester, NH
- Windham Academy Public Charter School, K-8, Windham, NH

The Department currently has one charter school that is seeking approval by the State Board of Education and may be eligible for startup funding grants of up to \$1,500,000. The school may be approved by the State Board of Education in January of 2021 and plans to open with students enrolled in the fall of 2021. Grant allocations for this school in FY 2021 are estimated to be \$1,500,000. The school is:

- Gathering Waters Chartered Public School, K-12, Keene, NH

Additionally, the Department currently has twenty chartered public schools that are approved by the State Board of Education that are looking to expand and may be eligible to receive expansion grants of up to \$600,000 each. Grant allocations to those schools in FY 2021 are estimated to be \$12,000,000, well over the actual grant amount, which would necessitate a competitive process for selection. Those schools are as follows:

- Strong Foundations Public Chartered School, K-8, Merrimack, NH
- Next Chartered Public School, 9-12, Derry, NH
- Ledyard Chartered Public School, 9-12, Lebanon, NH
- Virtual Learning Academy Chartered Public School (VLACS), K-12, Exeter, NH
- MicroSociety Chartered Public School, K-8, Nashua, NH
- Mill Falls Chartered Public School, K-6, Manchester, NH
- Northeast Woodlands Chartered Public School, K-7, Conway, NH
- The Birches Chartered Public School, K-8, Salem, NH
- Surry Village Chartered Public School, K-8, Surry, NH
- The Founders Academy Chartered Public School, 6-12, Manchester, NH
- Windham Chartered Public School, K-8, Windham, NH
- Robert Frost Chartered Public School, K-8, Conway, NH
- Seacoast Chartered Public School, K-8, Dover, NH
- Great Bay Chartered Public School, 6-12, Exeter, NH
- Granite State Arts Academy Chartered Public School, 9-12, Salem, NH
- Compass Classical Academy Chartered Public School, K-8, Franklin, NH
- Kreiva Academy Chartered Public School, 6-12, Manchester, NH
- Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies Chartered Public School, 9, Manchester, NH
- CSI Chartered Public School, 9-12, Penacook, NH
- PACE Career Academy Chartered Public School, 9-12, Pembroke, NH

Lastly, the North Country Charter Academy in Lancaster and Littleton, grades 7-12 would like to replicate a new school in the Lakes Region and may be eligible to receive a replication grant of \$1,200,000 in FY 2021. Likewise, Academy for Science and Design in Nashua grades 6-12, one of the highest performing schools in the state, is interested in replicating their model and would be eligible to receive a replication grant of \$1,200,000 in FY 2021. Grant allocations for these two schools would be \$2,400,000 in FY 2021.

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In addition to the completion of the program objectives and local uses of funds by sub-recipients, stated above, the CSP grant includes two state set-aside funding amounts, one that supports state-wide technical assistance and the other that supports the administrative functions of operating the grant. These two set-asides represent 10% of the total grant funding, with 7% reserved for state-level activities and 3% reserved for administrative capacity. In general, both set-asides will be used for ensuring that technical assistance is provided to eligible applicants and authorized public chartering bodies (LEAs and Department of Education) in carrying out the program objectives, improving the authorization process for charter schools within the state, and developing capacity for, and conducting, fiscal oversight and auditing of charter schools statewide.

In total, the Department estimates that the current approved and operating charter school sector in New Hampshire and State set-aside of the grant will utilize \$25,740,000 of the \$46,000,000 grant.

Virtual Learning Academy Chartered Public School (VLACS)

The response to the novel Covid-19 virus, VLACS was able to expand their grade levels to offer additional remote instruction services across the state. However, the increased expansion has not been enough to meet the demand for VLACS services, and the school is continuing to explore new ways to ensure that remote instruction services can be offered as supplemental to school districts across the state who are running hybrid and full remote-instruction models currently. The grant funds in this request would help to significantly expand VLACS in response to the needs of the state as NH continues to respond to the pandemic.

Education Innovation

The department continues to receive interest in the charter school grant by both local school districts and non-profit organizations pursuing education innovation. Some of these opportunities have already been shared with members of the fiscal committee while additional areas of interest are described below:

NH Career Academy: Typifying the educational innovation that is a hallmark of New Hampshire's charter schools, students in New Hampshire who are entering their senior year can participate in the Career Academy, which allows a student to dually enroll in a charter school and the state community college system. The program takes place over two years, and provides the participating students with the opportunity to finish their high school diploma while simultaneously earning an Associates degree or completing a college certificate program at no cost to the student.

Recovery High School: Working directly with a public school district, the department received an inquiry from an emerging group having expressed an interest in starting a recovery based high school. This also would be the first of its kind in New Hampshire, although 20 other states have already set up such 49 recovery based high school options for students, including Massachusetts which has 4 recovery based high schools. Given New Hampshire's high rates of substance misuse, including misuse among students, a recovery high school may meet an important need in the state.

Language Immersion Programs: Working directly with the Superintendent of the Manchester School District, the department coordinated a visit to two successful language immersion programs in Brockton and Milton Massachusetts. These programs, which include both American and immigrant students include instruction in two languages using different models. In Brockton, the instruction is split 50% in one language and 50% in English. In Milton, the instruction is conducted 90% in a foreign language up through 5th grade. Both models provide learning opportunities to students that are research based and, in longitudinal studies, result in stronger student outcomes.

Remote Instruction Programs: In response to the novel Covid-19 virus and related pandemic, several schools across the state have expressed interest in operating a remote instruction program via charter school model. This would

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allow schools to operate simultaneous programs for both remote instruction and traditional in-person instruction, ensuring that the educational needs of students are met across a variety of health and safety circumstances. The grant funds provided through the CSP grant program would allow public schools to expand their remote instruction responses within their local school community.

APPROPRIATION EXPLANATION

<u>Class</u>	<u>Class Description</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
020	Current Expenses	Appropriation to cover materials and supplies that will be used by staff.
026	Organizational Dues	Appropriation to cover state and/or national organizational dues for staff.
027	Transfers to DoIT	Appropriation to cover required IT support.
028	Transfers to General Services	Appropriation for staff work areas.
029	Intra-Agency Transfers	Appropriation to internal program support.
030	Equipment	Appropriation to provide new equipment to staff hired under the grant.
037	Technology Hardware	Appropriation to provide new computer hardware to staff under the grant.
038	Technology Software	Appropriation to provide new computer software to staff under the grant.
039	Telecommunications	Appropriation to provide VOIP and other telecommunications services.
040	Indirect Costs	Appropriation to meet the State of NH Statewide Cost Allocation Plan obligations.
041	Audit Fund Set Aside	Appropriation is based on .01 percent of the grant.
042	Post-Retirement Benefits	Appropriation to cover post retirement costs at the current rate of 10.43 percent.
050	Part Time Salaries	Appropriation to cover cost allocation of salary.
059	Personal Service Temp	Appropriation to fund requested positions in support of the grant activities.
060	Benefits	Appropriation to cover Health, Dental, Life, Medicare, FICA and Retirement Contributions for full time and cost allocated positions.
070	In-State Travel	Appropriation to cover travel for in state meetings, presentations and technical assistance.
072	Grants - Federal	Appropriation for the distribution of funds to grant sub-recipients.
080	Out of State Travel	Appropriation to cover staff travel to attend out of state meetings and presentations.
102	Contracts for Program Services	Appropriation to contract with providers of evaluation services, Technical Assistance and Trainings.

The following information is provided in accordance with the Comptroller's instructional memorandum dated September 21, 1981:

1. List All Personnel involved:

New Positions:

- Program Specialist III
- Administrator I

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The Department is requesting authorization to use a portion of additional grant funds to support an existing position. This existing position will provide leadership and support for the grant:

- Business Administrator

2. Nature, Need, and Duration:

As stated above, the primary goals of the Charter School Program grant are to support new public charter schools, expand existing public charter schools, and replicate existing high-quality charter schools. The Bureau of Educational Opportunities will provide program oversight, training, and technical assistance to sub-grantees. The positions in this request will provide leadership and support for the grant. The CSP grant is a five-year program ending September 29, 2024 with the potential for extensions beyond the final year.

3. Relationship to Existing Agency Programs:

This grant will increase and expand upon the existing work of the Bureau of Educational Opportunities. The work afforded by this grant will be conducted in conjunction with current initiatives within the Office of Charter Schools as well as other initiatives in the Bureau of Instructional Support that provide support through current Federal Title programs to existing charter schools.

4. Has a Similar Program been Requested of the Legislature and Denied?

Yes.

5. Why wasn't this Funding Included in the Agency's Budget Request?

At the time that the State's Biennial Budget was being prepared, the Grant Award Letter had not been received. The Department was not awarded the funds until August 22, 2019.

6. Can any Portion of the Grant Funds Be Utilized?

No. The positions requested are necessary to fulfill the intent of the grant that was accepted by the Granting Authority.

7. Estimate the Funds Required to Continue the Position:

Salary and benefits for the two full-time temporary positions are expected to be \$236,119 for FY22.

In the event Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program. Attached are copies of the grant awards.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education



State Of New Hampshire

DIVISION OF PERSONNEL
Department of Administrative Services
State House Annex – 28 School Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

CHARLES M. ARLINGHAUS
Commissioner
(603) 271-3201

LORRIE A. RUDIS
Director of Personnel
(603) 271-3261

October 9, 2019

Tammy Vaillancourt
Executive Project Manager, Office of the Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301-3860

Regarding: Request to establish a full-time temporary Administrator I, labor grade 27 and full-time temporary Program Specialist III, LG 23

Dear Ms. Vaillancourt:

The Division of Personnel approves The New Hampshire Department of Education's request received on 9/30/19 to establish a full-time temporary Administrator I, labor grade 27, and full-time temporary Program Specialist III, LG 23. These positions are being established in response to the Department's receipt of a Federal Charter School Grant and Funding.

The full-time temporary positions have been assigned the following temporary position numbers:

- 9T2979 Administrator I, labor grade 27
- 9T2980 Program Specialist III, LG 23

These position numbers will remain inactive until your Department receives funding approval from the Fiscal Committee per RSA 124:15, and the Position Profile Form (PPF) is subsequently approved by the Department of Administrative Services Budget Office for funding.

It will be your Department's responsibility to bring the request for funding before the Fiscal Committee. You may use this letter as confirmation of our decision. Once you have obtained Fiscal Committee approval, please notify Heidi Acevedo at Heidi.Acevedo@das.nh.gov in the Classification Section Office with all relevant approval documentation so that we may proceed with the Work Unit approval and processing in NH First.

Sincerely,

Marianne R. Rechy
Classification & Compensation Administrator

Cc: Lorrie A. Rudis, Director of Personnel



**US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202**

U282A190001

GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

<p>1 RECIPIENT NAME</p> <p>The New Hampshire Department of Education Ed., Analytics & Resources 101 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 - 3860</p>	<p>2 AWARD INFORMATION</p> <p>PR/AWARD NUMBER U282A190001 ACTION NUMBER 1 ACTION TYPE New AWARD TYPE Discretionary</p>												
<p>3 PROJECT STAFF</p> <p>RECIPIENT PROJECT DIRECTOR Frank Edelblut (603) 271-3144 Frank.Edelblut@doe.nh.gov EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT Ashley D Gardner (202) 453-6787 ashley.gardner@ed.gov EDUCATION PAYMENT HOTLINE G5 PAYEE HELPDESK 888-336-8930 edcaps.user@ed.gov</p>	<p>4 PROJECT TITLE</p> <p>84.282A NH 2019 Charter Schools Program Grant Application</p>												
<p>5 KEY PERSONNEL</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>NAME</u></th> <th><u>TITLE</u></th> <th><u>LEVEL OF EFFORT</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Frank Edelblut</td> <td>Project Director</td> <td>0 %</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LEVEL OF EFFORT</u>	Frank Edelblut	Project Director	0 %						
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<p>6 AWARD PERIODS</p> <p>BUDGET PERIOD 10/01/2019 - 09/30/2021 PERFORMANCE PERIOD 10/01/2019 - 09/30/2024</p> <p>FUTURE BUDGET PERIODS</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>BUDGET PERIOD</u></th> <th><u>DATE</u></th> <th><u>AMOUNT</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>10/01/2021 - 09/30/2022</td> <td>\$10,322,450.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>10/01/2022 - 09/30/2023</td> <td>\$10,348,914.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024</td> <td>\$15,214,088.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>BUDGET PERIOD</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	2	10/01/2021 - 09/30/2022	\$10,322,450.00	3	10/01/2022 - 09/30/2023	\$10,348,914.00	4	10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024	\$15,214,088.00
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<p>7 AUTHORIZED FUNDING</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>THIS ACTION</td> <td>\$10,114,548.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BUDGET PERIOD</td> <td>\$10,114,548.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PERFORMANCE PERIOD</td> <td>\$10,114,548.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		THIS ACTION	\$10,114,548.00	BUDGET PERIOD	\$10,114,548.00	PERFORMANCE PERIOD	\$10,114,548.00						
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<p>8 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION</p> <p>DUNS/SSN 808590277 REGULATIONS EDGAR AS APPLICABLE 2 CFR AS APPLICABLE ATTACHMENTS 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, E-3, E1, E2, E4, E5</p>													
<p>9 LEGISLATIVE AND FISCAL DATA</p> <p>AUTHORITY: PL P.L. 114-95 V ESEA SECTION 4301 OR {20 U.S.C. 7221} PROGRAM TITLE: CHARTER SCHOOLS CFDA/SUBPROGRAM NO: 84.282A</p>													



**US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202**

U282A190001

GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

FUND CODE	FUNDING YEAR	AWARD YEAR	ORG. CODE	CATEGORY	LIMITATION	ACTIVITY	CFDA	OBJECT CLASS	AMOUNT	
0204A	2019	2019	ES000000	B	U30	000	282	4101C	\$10,114,548.00	
10	PR/AWARD NUMBER:		U282A190001							
	RECIPIENT NAME:		The New Hampshire Department of Education Ed., Analytics & Resources							
	GRANTEE NAME: -		EDUCATION, NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF 101 PLEASANT ST, CONCORD, NH 03301 - 3852							
	PROGRAM INDIRECT COST TYPE:		Unrestricted							
	PROJECT INDIRECT COST RATE:		6 3%							
	TERMS AND CONDITIONS									
	(I) THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE INCORPORATED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT.									
	1) THE RECIPIENT'S APPLICATION (BLOCK 2);									
	2) THE APPLICABLE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS: 2 CFR PART 180, NONPROCUREMENT DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION AS ADOPTED AT 2 CFR PART 3485; 2 CFR PART 200 AS ADOPTED AT 2 CFR 3474 (BLOCK 8), AND 34 CFR PARTS 75, 77, 79, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, 99; AND THE PROGRAM REGULATIONS SPECIFIED IN BLOCK 8; AND									
	3) THE SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS SHOWN AS ATTACHMENTS IN BLOCK 8 ON THE INITIAL AWARD APPLY UNTIL CHANGED.									
THIS AWARD SUPPORTS ONLY THE BUDGET PERIOD SHOWN IN BLOCK 6. IN ACCORDANCE WITH 34 CFR 75.253, THE SECRETARY CONSIDERS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTINUED FUNDING IF:										
1) CONGRESS HAS APPROPRIATED SUFFICIENT FUNDS UNDER THE PROGRAM,										
2) THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT CONTINUING THE PROJECT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT,										
3) THE GRANTEE HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT,										
4) THE SECRETARY ESTABLISHED PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRANT IN THE APPLICATION NOTICE, THE PERFORMANCE TARGETS IN THE GRANTEE'S APPROVED APPLICATION,										
5) THE RECIPIENT HAS SUBMITTED REPORTS OF PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET EXPENDITURES THAT MEET THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOUND AT 34 CFR 75.118, 2 CFR 200.327 AND 200.328, AND ANY OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY,										
6) THE GRANTEE HAS MAINTAINED FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS IN 2 CFR 200.302, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, AND 2 CFR 200.303, INTERNAL CONTROLS.										
IN ACCORDANCE WITH 2 CFR 200.308(c)(2) CHANGES TO KEY PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED IN BLOCK 5 MUST RECEIVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT.										
THE SECRETARY ANTICIPATES FUTURE FUNDING FOR THIS AWARD ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE IDENTIFIED IN BLOCK 6. THESE FIGURES ARE ESTIMATES ONLY AND DO NOT BIND THE SECRETARY TO FUNDING THE AWARD FOR THESE PERIODS OR FOR THE SPECIFIC AMOUNTS SHOWN. THE RECIPIENT WILL BE NOTIFIED OF SPECIFIC FUTURE FUNDING ACTIONS THAT THE SECRETARY TAKES FOR THIS AWARD.										



US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

U282A190001

GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

- (2) The Office of Management and Budget requires all Federal agencies to assign a Federal Award Identifying Number (FAIN) to each of their financial assistance awards. The PR/AWARD NUMBER identified in Block 2 is your FAIN.

If subawards are permitted under this grant, and you choose to make subawards, you must document the assigned PR/AWARD NUMBER (FAIN) identified in Block 2 of this Grant Award Notification on each subaward made under this grant. The term subaward means:

1. A legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.
 2. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (The payments received for goods or services provided as a contractor are not Federal awards, see 2 CFR 200.501(f) of the OMB Uniform Guidance: "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards").
 3. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a subrecipient considers a contract.
- (3) You are authorized, in carrying out this grant, to utilize the higher threshold set for micro-purchase and simplified acquisition thresholds for federal assistance under this grant or under a contract you award under this grant established by recent statutory changes. These statutory changes raise the threshold for micro-purchases under Federal financial assistance awards to \$10,000 and raise the threshold for simplified acquisitions to \$250,000 for recipients. These higher thresholds are not effective until implemented in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) at 48 CFR Subpart 2.1 (Definitions), which has not yet occurred. See 2 CFR 200.67 and 200.88. For FY 2018, OMB is granting an exception allowing recipients to use the higher thresholds in advance of changes to the FAR. Please refer to Office of Management and Budget's Memorandum 18-18 regarding the statutory changes. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact the program officer identified in Block 3 of this GAN.
- (4) Unless this grant solely funds research, you must comply with new regulations regarding awards to faith-based organizations (FBOs) that provide beneficiary services under this grant or under a contract you award to provide beneficiary services under this grant. These new regulations clarify the rights of FBOs and impose certain duties on FBOs regarding the referral of beneficiaries they serve. See 34 CFR 75.52, 75.712-75.714, appendix A to part 75, and 2 CFR 3474.15. The Department has established a web page that provides guidance on the new regulations, including FAQs and other implementation tools, which is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/fund/reg/fbci-reg.html>. If you have any questions about these regulations, please contact the Education Program Contact identified in Block 3 of this GAN.
- (5) Reimbursement of indirect costs is subject to the availability of funds and statutory and regulatory restrictions. The negotiated indirect cost rate agreement authorizes a non-Federal entity to draw down indirect costs from the grant awards. The following conditions apply to the below entities.

A. All entities (other than institutions of higher education (IHE))

The GAN for this grant award shows the indirect cost rate that applies on the date of the initial grant for this project. However, after the initial grant date, when a new indirect cost rate agreement is negotiated, the newly approved indirect cost rate supersedes the indirect cost rate shown on the GAN for the initial grant. This new indirect cost rate should be applied according to the period specified in the indirect cost rate agreement, unless expressly limited under EDGAR or program regulations. Any grant award with an approved budget can amend the budget to account for a change in the indirect cost rate. However, for a discretionary grant award any material changes to the budget which may impact the scope or objectives of the grant must be discussed with the program officer at the Department. See 34 CFR 75.560 (d)(3) (ii) (part 75 of EDGAR).

B. Institutions of higher education (IHE)

Under 2 CFR part 200, Appendix III, Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), the Department must apply the negotiated indirect cost rate in effect on



US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

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GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

the date of the initial grant award to every budget period of the project, including all continuation grants made for this project. See 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix III, paragraph C.7. Therefore, the GAN for each continuation grant will show the original indirect cost rate and it applies to the entire period of performance of this project. If the indirect cost rate agreement that is applicable to this grant does not extend to the end of the grant's project period, the indirect cost rate set at the start of the project period must still be applied to the end of project period regardless of the fact that the rate has otherwise expired.

- (6) 1. As outlined in the Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards, each grantee must submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) to ED by the due date established by CSP staff for each project year. In the absence of prior written approval from ED, the grantee may not draw down funds for project year 2, as outlined in the final Budget Summary form approved by ED, until after the grantee has (1) completed all project year 1 activities; (2) submitted its APR demonstrating that all project year 1 activities have been completed; and (3) obtained written approval by ED to begin project year 2 activities.
2. Year 3 continuation funding is contingent upon the grantee providing information and documentation in each Annual Performance Report demonstrating that, among other things, 1) the grantee is using the grant funds for the agreed upon uses of funds; 2) the full amount of the grant will be needed for the remainder of the grant period; and 3) the grantee is making substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project and the performance targets in the approved application. In accordance with Section 4303(d)(3)(A)(ii)(II) of the ESEA, ED will review the information and documentation to determine whether termination or reduction of the amount of the grant is appropriate.
3. The total recommended award amount is based on the estimated number of subgrants the grantee expects to award, as stated in the approved application. In accordance with 34 CFR 75.253, continuation awards are contingent upon a number of factors, including the availability of funds, whether the grantee is making substantial progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the project as well as the performance targets in the approved application, and actual need for additional funding. The grantee should consider the possibility of a reduction in continuation funding when incurring administrative and technical assistance costs under the grant to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements that no more than three percent of grant funds are used for administrative costs and at least seven percent of grant funds are used for technical assistance costs and that combined, those costs can be no more than 10 percent of grant funds.
4. By October 15, 2019, the grantee must submit a revised budget narrative and new completed ED 524 form that reflect the budget approved by ED and discussed during the post-award call. The revised budget narrative must: (1) clearly demonstrate that not less than 90 percent of the grant funds will be used to award subgrants, not less than seven percent of the grant funds will be used to provide technical assistance, and not more than three percent of the grant funds will be used for administrative costs; (2) provide breakdowns of subgrant costs for planning versus implementation; and new, replication and expansion subgrants; and (3) demonstrate that all subgrants awarded to eligible applicants will comply with the maximum funding limit of \$1,500,000 per school over the lifetime of the subgrant.
- The grantee shall be placed on route payment so that all payment requests are routed to ED's CSP office for approval prior to any funds being released, until the revised budget narrative is approved by ED and the CSP program officer determines route payment is no longer necessary. When a payment request is submitted in the G5 system, the grantee must provide to ED documentation of expenditures and supporting evidence to justify the allowability of all costs included in the payment request. All requests shall be submitted to ED in a timely manner and will allow for, at minimum, 48 hours turnaround time for ED's CSP office review.
- (7) 5. Prior to the grantee running its first local subgrant competition under this award, the grantee must submit to ED for review a copy of the Request for Application that addresses all requirements of Section 4303(f)(1)(C)(i) of the ESEA.
6. The grantee may not conduct activities under this grant until after the grantee has participated in a post-award conference call with its CSP program officer and submitted all required clarifying information regarding the grant project, as outlined by the CSP program officer during the post-award conference call, and the CSP program officer has provided written authorization for grant activities to begin.



US Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

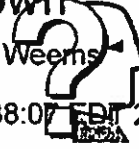
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GRANT AWARD NOTIFICATION

Validity unknown

Digitally signed by Kia Weems

Date: Thu Aug 22 11:38:07 EDT 2019



AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL

DATE



*Chris Smith
Dean of School
419 South Broadway
Salem, NH 03079
603-458-6399
Fax 603-458-7071*

Date: 1/17/2020

Dear Chairman Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee:

My name is Chris Smith and I represent the Birches Academy of Academics and Art Charter School. Our community has been watching your Committee with great interest concerning the federal charter school grant. I am writing to you today on behalf of our community in order to explain the impact that your vote will have on our school.

The Birches Academy currently enrolls over 220 students and maintains a waiting list of 115 students. Under the terms of the award the Birches Academy is eligible to apply for up to \$600,000 in federal funds for expansion. Having the ability to expand our program allows us to not only welcome children off of the waiting list, but it would also allow us to realize some economies of scale as we duplicate our successful classes.

For example, if we were to expand our middle school program, we would use the money to pay for curriculum, outfit the space for the new classroom and ensure it is ADA compliant. The addition of students in our middle school would enable us to hire another teacher. Traditionally, we have endeavored to hire high quality staff with diverse backgrounds who bring unique perspectives and multiple areas of expertise to further expand the educational choices we can offer to our students.

Physical space is one of the largest hurdles we face as a school. Having access to this expansion grant may enable us to look toward a physical plant that otherwise would have been beyond our reach. We currently pay over \$250,000 a year in rent and by expanding and purchasing our own building we could save over \$100,000 a year- money we can put toward staffing and programming.

Your decision to reject this federal funding directly affects our school, and it will impede our ability to potentially expand leaving disappointed students and families on our waiting list. We urge the committee to reconsider its decision and accept these federal funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Smith
Dean of School
The Birches Academy of Academics and Art

Jim Gorman

CSI Charter School

26 Washington St.

Penacook, NH 03303

1/20/20

Dear Chairman Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee

My name is Jim Gorman and I, along with Christine Barry, am a co-director of CSI Charter School. I have been following the hearings and deliberations on Federal Grant funds for charter schools. It has come to my understanding that some members of your committee believe the grant would not benefit charter schools currently operating. It would, in fact, help CSI greatly.

CSI is a competency based program, we will not enroll anyone under the age of 17, and our average age fluctuates between 18 and 19. As you may imagine, alternatives to regular high schools attract alternative types of students. We run morning and evening sessions and many of our students work 20 to 40 hours a week. CSI graduates, on average, 20 to 25 students every June - 25 students who may not otherwise have a diploma. We are currently in negotiations with a district in the Monadnock region to open a satellite campus, as no alternative programs exist in the southwestern part of the state.

Our Board of Directors and administration were hoping to apply for federal funds for this expansion. These funds will be used to increase the size of our program and offset costs to the home district and CSI Charter School. Of course, this expansion will cost money. We were hoping to absorb in the grant some of the expenses for planning and staff training, and for furnishing and equipping the new facility.

As you can imagine, we were very disappointed when this federal funding was rejected. We urge your committee to reconsider its decision and accept the federal charter school funds.

Most sincerely and with gratitude for your service to New Hampshire.

Jim Gorman

CSI Charter School



www.heartwoodeducation.org | 17 Winter St. Lancaster, NH 03584 | (603) 616-8157

January 17, 2020

Heartwood Public Charter School
% Courtney Vashaw, Acting Head of School
159 Jefferson Road
Whitefield, NH 03598

Dear Chairman Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee:

Heartwood Public Charter School was approved by the New Hampshire Board of Education in November of 2018 after 3 years of working to develop our program. Our school was created by a group of dedicated North Country educators seeking alternative public school options for the youth in our community. We were slated to open in the Fall of 2020, pending the acquisition of start-up funding.

We began working on this project in 2015, and have encountered many challenges along our journey. At the time that we were approved by the NHBOE, the State did not have any monies to help us with start-up costs, but we worked to apply for a federal charter school grant through the U.S. Department of Education in 2019. However, because our state was then awarded this funding through the USDOE, we were no longer directly eligible for these federal funds. Of course, we were thrilled to hear that our beloved state was finally awarded money for the NH charter school program. Since then our hopes have been crushed—we never would have imagined the money to be turned down.

The Heartwood Public Charter School Board and our many prospective families have been monitoring the developments concerning the federal charter school grant and your Committee. We are writing to you today on behalf of our community in order to convey the impact of your vote on our school. As a newly approved charter school that was slated to open in 2020, Heartwood Public Charter School qualifies to receive up to \$1.5 million from this federal award. Federal CSP startup funding is made available to the states by the U.S. Department of Education in order to provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of public charter schools. Examples of the types of expenditures which this grant will fund include but are not limited to: teacher training and professional development, curriculum development, technology and equipment, textbooks and resources materials and classroom supplies. Funds may also be used for minor renovations to meet applicable federal, state and local health and safety requirements.

Heartwood Public Charter School is desperately needed in our rural and underprivileged region—a region where there are few educational school choices. Without these funds, we will simply not be able to open—at least not in the foreseeable future. Your decision to reject this federal funding will harm our ability to carry out our mission and the long-term sustainability of our public school. We would urge the committee to accept these funds not only for the benefit of our school and the children of northern New Hampshire, but for the benefit of public education as a whole in our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

The Heartwood Foundation

Ann Auger, Bethany Bond, Lyn Schmucker, Courtney Vashaw & Stacey Zemla



January 17, 2020

Members of the NH Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee
107 N. Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Re: CSP Grant 2019/202

My name is Tai Bayer and I am the Head of School for the Kreiva Academy Public Charter School in Manchester, NH. We are a "project based learning" school focused on meeting individual student needs. In our 2nd year of operation, we serve approximately 135 students in grades 6-12. Approximately 80% of our students are from Manchester with the remaining coming from surrounding towns as well as Nashua, the Seacoast and as far north as Tilton.

As with most urban public and charter schools, we have a substantial "Free and Reduced" lunch demographic (projected to be 60-70% SY 2019/2020). Additionally, 35-40% of our student body require special education services. Needless to say, we have a student population that requires high levels of support academically, socially and emotionally.

We have been following the proceedings related to the 2019/2020 CSP grant that have been before the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee with great interest. Throughout the process, there has been a consistent sentiment expressed that rather than creating new charter schools under this grant, there is a wish and commitment by the fiscal committee to better support "existing charter schools." It is with that commitment in mind that I am writing to you.

Our school was a recipient of a 2018 CSP grant. Unfortunately, due to limited funding availability at the time, the expected grant award was spread amongst 3 different schools. We received \$223,000 of the roughly \$725,000 expected to prepare our building, create the infrastructure and develop our staff to best serve our student population. While this decreased grant amount did not stop us from opening our school, it has severely hampered our ability to provide the "hands on" educational experience we envisioned for our students. It has also limited our capacity to grow the size of our student body to a point of creating an economy of scale and that ultimately lead to sustainability for our school on the timeline we projected.



Towards creating solutions to this problem, we have worked tirelessly to secure funding and support from other sources. Additionally, we had planned on applying for funds eligible under the 2019/2020 CSP grant. It is our understanding that we would potentially be eligible for this grant due to the shortfall on the 2018 CSP grant we initially received. The award of a 2019/2020 CSP Grant would allow us to improve technology resources, infrastructure, and staff enhancements to create the quality learning environment envisioned in our charter and that our students need and deserve.

In closing, as an existing charter school and potential recipient of the 2019/2020 CSP Grant, I am asking that you reconsider this issue before the committee. To further inform the discussion and dialogue, I am happy to address any questions you might have and/or provide testimony to provide further understanding and context.

Sincerely,

Tal Bayer
Head of School
Kreiva Academy Public Charter School
(603) 232-7974 x 102
tbayer@kreiva.org

Ledyard Charter School
39 Hanover Street, P.O. Box 327
Lebanon, NH 03766
(603) 727-4772
www.ledyardcharterschool.org

January 22, 2020

Dear Chairman, Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee

My name is John Higgins and I represent Ledyard Charter School of Lebanon. My students and I recently attended a Fiscal Committee hearing in Concord where the Charter School Grant was discussed. During the hearing we watched as several members of your committee mistakenly claimed that the federal charter school grant would not benefit any charter schools that are currently open, this is not true it would benefit our school directly.

Ledyard Charter School currently enrolls 37 students. Most of our students struggled in their traditional high school but have found Ledyard's program to be the right fit for them. Roughly 70% of our student population is eligible for free and reduced lunch. Ledyard has built strong relationships with five of the local SAU's in our region. We have students from Grantham, Plainfield, Kearsarge, Mascoma and Lebanon attending Ledyard currently. We are in regular communication with these districts, their leadership, special education and guidance departments. We have established a true educational partnership with all regular public schools/districts serving students in the upper Valley. We do not feel we are a competitor to other schools in our region rather a partner in supporting students through the public-school channel.

We have been extremely lucky in that after many years Ledyard has finally been able to finance a facility of its own giving us a permanent location to grow our program. Our new facility will help to contain our future operating costs and ensure space to grow and enabling us to serve a greater number of students.

The Board of Trustees plans to apply for up to \$1 million dollars in USDA-RD federal funds for expansion. These funds will be used to secure a facility and increase the size of our program, as well as serve a greater number of educationally disadvantaged students in and around our area. We have been in communication with the local districts and they are encouraging Ledyard to expand to a seventh and eighth grade program. This is an immediate need in our community and the federal grant dollars would help us meet the needs of our local school districts.

Your decision to reject this federal funding will prohibit our ability to assist more students in need of opportunities like Ledyard. We would urge the committee to reconsider its decision and accept the federal charter school funds.

Please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions. Thank you.

Executive Board Members

Dr. Mike Harris, Chair • Thea Crawford, Vice Chair • Liz Bailey, Secretary • Jonathan Masland, Treasurer
Frank Gould • Justin Campbell, Edward Hirsh

Page 2

John Higgins
Executive Director
603-727-4772
ihiggins.lcs@gmail.com

JH/lms



260 Cottage Street, Suite A, Littleton, NH 03561
Phone: (603) 444-1535 Fax: (603) 444-9843

January 17, 2020

Representative Mary Jane Wallner
Chair, Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee
24 Samuel Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Wallner,

On behalf of the North Country Charter Academy (NCCA), Board of Trustees, I am sending you this letter to inform you and your committee members of our plans to expand and replicate our charter school model. These are goals that my board members adopted back in 2018.

For the past two years, I have been working with my board members, community, supporting 10 founding school district superintendents and the State Board of Education. Last year, these constituents supported our efforts to lead the expansion of the New Hampshire Career Academy. On December 12, 2019, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to increase our enrollments for this purpose. I am pleased that it is finally becoming a reality.

Over the past 16 years, we have experienced huge success by decreasing the number of students dropping out in the North Country by 84%. We have served highly at-risk students through our endeavors resulting in high school diplomas for over 500 students. We are proud of our school model and want to offer these opportunities to a broader population. For years, we have been approached by colleges and other school districts to expand our reach by creating another site.

However, for us to be successful as we move forward, we need to be able to access the funding from the Federal Charter Grant. We have been anticipating approval of these funds to apply for 1.2 million for creating a new school and 600,000 thousand for the planning process.

Over the past 16 years, I have seen firsthand the importance and impact of alternative education for our at-risk youth population. I would strongly argue that most of our youth today are at-risk not only due to our state's substance misuse crisis but also because of the breakdown of family morals, values and structure. Not everyone fits into the traditional mold. Our youth must have access to educational opportunities that provide alternative pathways to obtaining a high school diploma.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lisa Lavoie,
Principal/Superintendent

Jorge Santana
PACE Career Academy
716 Riverwood Drive
Pembroke, NH 03275

1/21/2020

Dear Chairman Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee,

My name is Jorge Santana and I represent PACE Career Academy Charter School. My students and several staff members recently attended a Fiscal Committee hearing in Concord where the Charter School Grant was discussed. During the hearing we watched as several members of your committee mistakenly claimed that the federal charter school grant would not benefit any charter schools that are currently open. This is not true it would benefit our school directly.

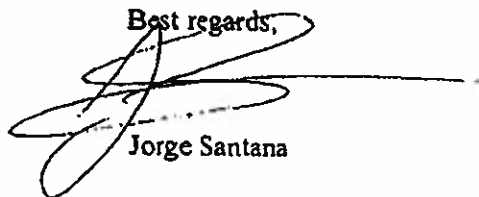
PACE Career Academy currently enrolls 55 students. Most of our students struggled in their district high school but have found PACE to be a much better for them. Approximately 70% of our students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch and approximately one third receive services through special education.

We have been extremely fortunate and proud that after 8 years PACE was finally able to finance a facility of our own, giving us a permanent location to grow our program. Our new facility has helped to contain our future operating costs (no more lease increases) and ensure space to grow enabling us to serve a greater number of students and offer more diverse programming, including Wood Shop and Art classes.

The Board of Trustees plans to apply for up to \$600,000 in federal funds for expansion. These funds will be used to increase the size of our program and serve a greater number of educationally disadvantaged students in and around our area. We are sponsored by our local school district (SAU 53) and maintain a strong partnership, with members of their administration on our school board. We would use this funding to hire more staff that would allow us to reach our enrollment cap while maintaining our low staff to student ratio. The funds would also be used to build more classrooms.

Your decision to reject this federal funding will prohibit our ability to assist more students in need of opportunities that PACE provides and the district schools are not able to. We would urge the committee to reconsider its decision and accept the federal charter school funds.

Best regards,



Jorge Santana

Jessica Pine
Seacoast Charter School
171 Watson Rd
Dover, NH

1/16/2020

Dear Chairman Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee,

My name is Jessica Pine and I represent the Seacoast Charter School. I am writing to you today on behalf of our community in order to correct the record and express how your vote to reject the federal funding will impact our school and students.

Several members of your committee have claimed that the federal money awarded to New Hampshire under the Charter School Program will not benefit any charter schools that are currently open, this is not true. SCS currently enrolls 300 students with a waiting list of 230 students. Under the terms of the award, SCS qualifies for federal funds for expansion.

The U.S. Department of Education has made these Replication and Expansion funds available to the states in order to increase access to high-quality charter schools particularly among educationally disadvantaged students. SCS can use these funds to expand our program and serve students that are currently on our waiting list.

Examples of the types of expenditures this grant will fund include but are not limited to: teacher training and professional development, curriculum development, technology and equipment, textbooks and resources materials and classroom supplies. Funds may also be used for minor renovations to meet applicable federal, state and local health and safety requirements.

Your decision to reject this federal funding directly affects our school and will prohibit our expansion, leaving hundreds of students on our waiting list. We would urge the Committee to reconsider and accept these federal funds meant for our public schools.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessica Pine
Head of School
Seacoast Charter School



SPARK

Academy of Advanced Technologies

Public Charter School Grades 9-12

New Hampshire Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee
Legislative Office Building, 33 North State St.
Concord NH 03301

January 21, 2020

Dear Chairman Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee,

My name is Denis Mailloux and I represent Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies, a public charter high school located on the campus of Manchester Community College. The Spark Academy Board of Trustees, our teachers, staff, parents, and students have all been closely monitoring the developments concerning the federal charter school grant and your Committee. I am writing to you today on behalf of our community in order to correct the record and explain the impact of your vote on our school.

We have heard several committee members claim that the federal funding awarded to New Hampshire would not benefit any charter schools currently in operation. That is not accurate. As a newly opened charter school (September of 2019), Spark Academy qualifies to receive up to \$1.5 million from this federal award. Federal CSP startup funding is made available to the states by the U.S. Department of Education in order to provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and implementation of public charter schools.

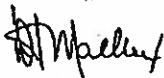
Examples of the types of expenditures which this grant will fund include but are not limited to: teacher training and professional development; curriculum development; technology and equipment; textbooks and resource materials; and classroom supplies. Funds may also be used for minor renovations to meet applicable federal, state and local health and safety requirements.

Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies employs a hands-on, technology-oriented curriculum. Math, science, humanities and technology are investigated in four daily 90-minute blocks and our students engage in group work with problem sets, labs, projects, and presentations. Our students can complete their high school requirements in three years and work on a technical certificate or two-year degree in their 4th year at Spark Academy through our partnership with MCC. Our model addresses the need for qualified middle-skilled technicians in the NH workforce. Our goal is to develop students into lifelong learners and multi-discipline problem solvers.

Your decision to reject this federal funding will harm our ability to carry out our mission and jeopardize the long-term sustainability of our public school. This should not be a partisan issue. We urge the committee to accept these funds not only for the benefit of our school but for the benefit of public education in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration in this manner.

Sincerely,



Denis Mailloux, Director

1066 Front Street, Manchester, New Hampshire 03102 Phone 603.316.1170

www.sparkacademynh.org

January 22nd 2020

Dear Chairman Wallner and Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee,

My name is Jim Fricchione and I'm the Founder and Chairman of Windham Academy Charter School. Our family of educators, parents and children span over eighteen New Hampshire communities. I have been monitoring the developments concerning acceptance of the federal charter school grant and am writing to you today on behalf of our community, in order to make our position clear, and explain the impact of your vote on our children.

We have witnessed several committee members claim that the federal funding awarded to New Hampshire would not benefit any charter schools currently in operation, and that is not accurate. Windham Academy is in its second year of operation. The Windham Academy only received a fraction of its approved multi-year federal award due to the expiration of a previous grant. As such, the Windham Academy needs the remaining funds originally approved. Allocated within this federal award are the essential funds required to serve our children and families.

Windham Academy is currently the only New Hampshire approved STEM based K-8 charter school. Interest and enrollment have been incredible, and in our second year, we have wait lists for every grade level. That represents over fifty families that we'll have to turn away at lottery, due to limited resources and infrastructure. Acceptance of the allocated federal charter school funds would help us as we grow additional classroom space, as well as minor renovations to meet applicable federal, state, and local health and safety requirements. If possible, we'd also look to expand teacher training and professional development, as well as develop and enhance our current curriculum. These funds would allow greater technology and equipment, textbooks, and resources materials essential to a STEM-based education.

Your decision to reject this available federal funding will harm our ability to carry out our mission and the long-term sustainability of our public school. We urge the committee to please accept these funds, for the benefit of the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Jim Fricchione
Founder and Chairman, Board of Trustees
The Windham Academy Public Charter School
www.windhamacademy.org
1 Industrial Drive
Windham, NH 03087