



## Expanding Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Program

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), passed in December 2015 and which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), made changes to the Charter Schools Program (CSP). Title IV-C, Expanding Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools, updated and expanded grant opportunities while ensuring critical accountability measures are in place to improve academic achievement.

### The CSP Authorizes 5 Grant Types:

1. Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter
2. Grants to State Entities
3. Grants for Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities
4. Grants for National Dissemination Activities
5. Grants to Charter Management Organizations for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools

### The Updated CSP:

- Dedicates funding to replicate and expand high-quality charter schools;
- Supports high-quality authorizers through technical assistance;
- Expands who may administer state grant programs, including governors and charter support organizations in addition to state education agencies;
- Includes funding priorities to ensure equitable resources to charter schools and address facility needs;
- Ensures charter school representatives have a seat at the table during critical ESSA decisions, such as Title I negotiated rulemaking;
- Allows for the use of a weighted lottery to preference disadvantaged students;
- Increases focus on quality through definition changes to ensure expansion only takes place with proven, accountable models;
- Focuses on improving how charters meet the educational needs of students including supporting charters in reducing exclusionary discipline and improving services for English Learners and students with disabilities;
- And allows for the termination or reduction of awards if a state entity is not demonstrating it can meet the goals of the program.