

News Release

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Federal grants to support 26 new and expanding charter schools

MADISON – In a highly competitive round of grant applications, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction approved 26 awards totaling more than \$17 million to plan, open, or expand charter schools in the state.

The department received 45 grant applications, requesting \$29.6 million, about \$12 million more than was available for the first year of charter subgrant funding. In October 2017, the state won a

\$95 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support charter activities over the next five years. In this first round of grants for the 2018-19 school year, 10 charter schools received planning and implementation grants totaling

\$7.6 million to support planning activities for public charter schools that will open in the fall of 2019, another 10 schools

received implementation grants totaling \$6 million for schools

that have recently opened or will open this fall, and six schools received grants totaling nearly \$3.8 million to expand existing, high-quality public charter schools. Grant activities will span two to five years depending on the grant award.

Grant priorities focused on the growth of high-quality charter schools, especially those that increase access to alternative public school models and improve academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged secondary (grades six through 12) students. High-quality charter schools:

- show evidence of strong academic results, which may include student academic growth;
- operate in a safe and fiscally appropriate manner that meets statutory and regulatory requirements; and
- demonstrate success in significantly increasing student academic achievement, including graduation rates for all students and for each subgroup of students served by the school.

(more)

| 2018-19 Charter Grants | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Grant activities span 2 to 5 years | | |
| Grant Type | # of Grant Awards | Amount |
| Planning and Implementation | 10 | \$7,578,500 |
| Implementation | 10 | \$6,026,477 |
| Expansion | 6 | \$3,780,135 |
| TOTAL | 26 | \$17,385,112 |

Additionally, grant evaluators considered applications that would work to promote best practices and collaboration between charter schools and other schools in the state. The structure of the state's subgrant awards differs from past years in its focus on providing expanded charter opportunities to educationally disadvantaged students in an effort to close gaps.

Part of Wisconsin's federal grant will support the [Wisconsin Resource Center for Charter Schools](#), developed to offer statewide technical assistance and support to both charter and traditional public schools, charter governing boards, and authorizers. Housed within Cooperative Educational Service Agency 9, the center serves as the point of contact for individuals or organizations around charter school development.

During the 2017-18 school year, Wisconsin had 234 charter schools, serving more than 42,000 students, placing the state near the top of the nation in terms of charter schools opportunities per capita. Wisconsin's 2017-18 charter schools received their charters from 98 of the state's 422 school districts and three independent authorizers. Grant awards for 2018-19 are going to 26 charter schools authorized by 21 authorizers, seven of which are new authorizers that do not currently have any operating charter schools.

All public school districts in the state can authorize charter schools. In addition, the most recent biennial budget expanded the number of independent authorizers to include any technical college district board and any chancellor in the University of Wisconsin System, bringing the total number of entities in the state that can authorize charter schools to over 450. Applications for the second round of competitive charter school grants for the 2019-20 school year, totaling approximately \$17 million, will open in late fall or early winter.

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NOTES: A list of grant recipients follows. More information about charter schools can be found on the department's [Charter Schools in Wisconsin website](https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools), <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools>. This news release is available electronically at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2018-61.pdf>.

Charter School Grants

2018-19 School Year

Planning & Implementation Grants (10) \$7,578,500

Gilman School District

WIN Virtual Academy, \$800,000

Green Bay Area Public School District

Northeast Wisconsin School of Innovation, \$900,000

Necedah Area School District

N-Able Academy, \$800,000

N-Vision Learning Center, \$700,000

North Fond du Lac School District

Treffert Way School for the Exceptional Mind, \$700,000

Northern Ozaukee School District

Riveredge Outdoor Science Elementary School, \$700,000

Ripon Area School District

Ripon Virtual School, \$900,000

Solon Springs School District

Eagles' Wings Public Montessori, \$678,500

Tomorrow River School District

Tomorrow River Community Middle School, \$700,000

University of Wisconsin System-Office of
Educational Opportunity

Arbor Community School, Location TBD, \$700,000

Implementation Grants (10) \$6,026,477

Cambridge School District

Koshkonong Trails, \$486,492

Milwaukee Public Schools

Milwaukee Excellence Charter School, \$750,000

Northland Pines School District

*Northland Pines Montessori Learning
Center, \$307,036*

Stevens Point Area Public School District

Point of Discovery School, \$550,000

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Pathways High Charter School, \$750,000

Penfield Montessori Academy, \$550,000

UCC Acosta Middle School, \$731,699

University of Wisconsin System-Office of
Educational Opportunity

Isthmus Montessori Academy Public,

Madison, \$750,625

One City Senior Preschool, Madison, \$500,000

Waupaca School District

Chain Exploration Center, \$650,625

Expansion Grants (6) \$3,780,135

City of Milwaukee

Central City Cyberschool of Milwaukee, \$750,000

Fond du Lac School District

Fond du Lac STEM Institute, \$650,625

Janesville School District

Rock University High School, \$650,000

Mauston School District

iLead Charter School, \$650,000

Monona Grove School District

*Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School for
the 21st Century, \$529,510*

Watertown Unified School District

Endeavor Charter School, \$550,000