



# Charter Schools Update

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# **2017 Charter Application Cycle**

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# 2017 Charter School Application Cycle

- The Department received 41 letters of intent from potential charter school sponsors for the 2017 cycle.
- 20 charter school applications were submitted:
  - 3 submitted to MNPS
  - 15 submitted to Shelby County Schools
  - 1 submitted to Hamilton County Schools
  - 1 submitted to Robertson County Schools

# Status of Charter School Applications

- One application was approved by the **Hamilton County School Board**
- 2 applications were denied by the **MNPS Board**
  - One of the applicants withdrew
  - 2 of the applicants submitted an amended application
- 15 applications were denied by the **Shelby County School Board**
  - 12 sponsors have submitted an amended application
- One application was denied by the **Robertson County School Board**
  - Applicant submitted an amended application, which was also denied by the board.

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**CSP Grant**

# 2016 CSP Grant Award

- The Department was awarded \$19.5 million in October of 2016.
- 3 year grant award designed to provide financial assistance for charter school start-up, including planning, program design, and initial operation and to provide charter schools with dissemination subgrants.

# Subgrant Eligibility

- Charter schools must be a newly approved charter school in their planning year or first two years of operation.
- Charter schools must have a binding contract/ charter agreement with their authorizer which includes the rights and responsibilities of both parties.
- Charter schools which previously received a CSP subgrant or other federal grant for planning and implementation are not eligible to apply.

# Subgrant Awards

- Award period: July 1, 2017 through July 31, 2019
- Planning period: up to 18 months prior to school opening
- Implementation period: first two years of operation
- Maximum Award Amount: **\$600,000**
- 10 charter schools received a grant on July 1
- Next award period scheduled October 2017 for schools approved during the 2017 application cycle



# 2017 CSP Grant

- TDOE has submitted another CSP grant application for SEAs
- Request: \$17.8 million
- 5 year grant
- Purpose: High-quality charter school expansion
- Technical assistance for operators and authorizers



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# Charter School Facilities

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# Charter Schools Facilities Fund

- The *Tennessee High-Quality Charter Schools Act* established a public charter schools facilities fund of \$18 million for the next three years
- The purpose of the funding is to assist charter schools in acquiring and improving property to support a high quality education for all students
- The FY 18 budget includes \$6 million dollars for charters
- Any funds not expended by the state at the end of the FY can be reinvested for the benefit of the fund

# Year 1 Funding Awards

- **Type of Award:** Non-competitive grants to charter schools who meet the high-quality eligibility requirement
- **Eligibility Requirements:**
  - The charter school must have opened no later than the 2014-15 school year;
  - The school must show evidence of strong student growth, reflected by TVAAS scores from the most recent data available.

# Use of Funds

- Funds may be used for:
  - Any costs associated with the purchase or lease of property
  - General capital improvements to existing and available buildings (provided the capital outlay project meets requirements)
  - Assistance with the repayment of debt incurred for existing capital outlay projects

# Capital Outlay Projects

- An approved capital outlay project must meet the following criteria:
  - The charter school must either own the facility or property upon which they plan to build a facility, be in the process of purchasing the facility via lease-purchase agreement, have a long-term lease of no less than five years, or have an MOU with their authorizer for use of facilities.
- The renovation or construction must be:
  - Necessary to ensure the health and/or safety of students; or
  - Necessary to ensure an environment conducive to learning

# Examples of Allowable Projects

- Examples of construction or renovation projects that meet requirements:
  - HVAC replacement or repair
  - Electrical/plumbing/roof repair or improvements
  - Security renovations or enhancements
  - Asbestos or other hazardous material removal
  - Classroom additions or conversion
  - Addition or renovation of physical activity spaces
  - Cost or fees associated with code compliance and/or inspections

# Oversight and Monitoring of Funds

- Awards will be reimbursement based and recipients will be required to submit proof of work done, or proof of facilities lease or purchase
- The department reserves the right to request any additional documentation deemed necessary to verify the use of funds
- Applicants will be required to sign basic financial assurances regarding any misuse of funds



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**Authorizer Fee**

# Authorizer Fee

- Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, LEAs serving as charter authorizers will receive an authorizing fee.
- The authorizing fee will be the lesser of 3% of the annual per student state and local allocations or \$35,000 per charter school.
- The LEA must use the authorizer fee exclusively for fulfilling authorizing obligations.

# Authorizer Fee – Next Steps

- Develop rules for the use of authorizer fee funds that support districts in meeting their authorizing obligations and providing services to their charter schools.
- Work with NACSA and other stakeholders and partners to identify best practices for authorizer fee use.
- Gather feedback from charter leaders and charter authorizers in September.
- Present proposed rule to SBE at the October board meeting.

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**Questions?**



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