

Charter
Schools



**CHARTER SCHOOL BLACK HOLE:
CMD Special Investigation Reveals
Huge Info Gap on Charter Spending**

**The CENTER for MEDIA and DEMOCRACY
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CHARTER SCHOOL BLACK HOLE: SPECIAL INVESTIGATION REVEALS HUGE GAPS IN PUBLIC INFO ON TAXPAYER MONEY SPENT A REPORTERS' GUIDE by the Center for Media and Democracy⁺

Madison, WI (CMD)—Today the Center for Media and Democracy is releasing a special report on its year-long investigation into charter school spending in the U.S.

CMD—a national media group that conducts in-depth investigations into the influence of corporations, trade groups, and PR firms on media and democracy—found that the public does not have ready access to key information about how their federal and state taxes are being spent to fuel the charter school industry since the 1990s.

Indeed, no one even knew how much the federal government had spent on its Charter Schools Program (CSP) for states. So CMD reviewed more than two decades of federal appropriations to calculate the sum, more than \$3.7 billion including the latest spending. CMD also found that states have not provided the public with sufficient information about amounts diverted from traditional public schools to each charter getting funds.

What is even more troubling is how little is known about how charters are spending federal and state tax dollars, even as governments continue to increase funding for them while slashing funds for traditional public schools. Unlike truly public schools, which have to account for prospective and past spending in public budgets provided to democratically elected school boards, charter spending is largely a black hole.

This is due in part to the way laws governing charters have been built by proponents, favoring “flexibility” over rules. **That flexibility has allowed an epidemic of fraud, waste, and mismanagement that would not be tolerated in public schools.** Charters are policed—if they are policed much at all—mainly by charter proponents, within government agencies and private entities with too limited oversight over “authorizers.”

In this investigation, CMD pursued numerous open records requests under federal and state law about how much federal CSP money was given to state agencies for charters and details of how that money was spent in 12 states. As a result, CMD found public information about funds received and spent by charters is severely lacking. This work shows how little is known about spending by closed charters, and identifies dozens of “ghost” schools, where CSP grants were awarded to charters that never even opened.

The bottom-line is neither the federal government nor the states have created a place taxpayers can go to see how much in taxes are going to each charter and how the charters are spending the money (especially private or for-profit charters), including what happens to real estate purchased with the public’s money or the role of for-profit firms under contracts. Basic questions about how taxes intended to teach kids are really being spent by charters each year remain unanswered, even aside from serious questions raised about academic results.

⁺ This summary report was prepared with writing, research, and analysis contributed by CMD’s Executive Director, Lisa Graves; General Counsel, Brendan Fischer; Education Staffer, Jonas Persson; and freelancer, Beau Hodai.

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INTRODUCTION. The Center for Media and Democracy has conducted a year-long investigation of charter school spending in the U.S., and the results are very troubling.

Over the past year, CMD submitted nearly four dozen open records requests to the U.S. Department of Education's "Office of Innovation and Improvement" and its counterparts in a dozen states to determine how much money was spent on charters, how agencies were monitoring the spending of American tax dollars, and how charters spent monies.

Our in-depth investigation reveals that the public is being denied crucial information about how their money is being spent on charters by federal and state governments, even though at least \$200 million in fraud and waste by charters has been documented.

Investigating Federal Charter Spending: Feds Slow to Reveal Key Facts

The first question we asked was, with all of the news reports across the country documenting fraud by charter school operators, how much tax money had been given to these experimental alternatives to traditional public schools? And, why was there so little oversight to protect school children from being stranded in failed or fraudulent schools and to protect taxpayers from the squandering of precious dollars that could otherwise go to strengthen America's public schools?

We asked the most basic question:

How much money had the federal government spent on its program designed to create new charter schools?

No one knew.

So, we added it all up and the total is over **\$3.7 billion.**

CMD analyzed all major charter grants and spending and found that the sum taken out of traditional public school funding for charters is more than \$3.7 billion since 1995.¹ *That's large, but it does not include the cumulative state amounts spent to date, which have never been fully tallied since charter schools began in 1991.*

Where did that money go, which charters received it?

No one could say.

Was there a list of charter schools that got CSP money?

No.

There was no public list or listing of what each received.

So, CMD began asking the U.S. Department of Education for a list of charter schools that had received funding under a charter schools program designed to increase the number of charter schools in the U.S. or expand the number of “high-quality charter schools.”

We specifically asked the agency which charters received “Charter Schools Program State Educational Agencies” (CSP SEA) grants because it accounts for more than \$3 billion of the more than \$3.7 billion spent by the feds since 1995, based on CMD’s budget analysis. We also asked the agency for a list of all “charter school authorizers,” the public and/or private entities states have allowed to approve charters making them eligible to get tax monies.

The federal government said it could not immediately provide a list of charter schools that received federal funds; it did not maintain a list of charter authorizers, and it referred CMD to a private entity, the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA).

How could that be?

What has happened is that the federal government has passed off the primary responsibility of determining which charters are eligible to receive funds to the states. And states have pawned off that responsibility to authorizers, some of which are public entities, like school districts, while others are purely private. Basically, when CSP funds are awarded by the federal agency, money goes to the states, which then pass it to charter school sub-grantees approved by authorizers.

This system insulates each element from accountability for what actually happens in charters.

Meanwhile, state laws authorizing charters—many of which echo “model” bills from the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) where lobbyists vote as equals with state legislators on the bills behind closed doors—include provisions exempting charters from many of the key rules governing public schools, in the name of “flexibility” for charter experimentation.²

Theoretically, the charters are held “accountable” to charter authorizers. However, enforcement of standards by charter authorizers appears lax in many instances, and states have said they lack legal authority under statutes that created the charter option to demand compliance. So, in reality, there is very little accountability to the public at all.

As a consequence, the public does not know how much federal seed money each charter has received and does not know how it has really been spent—this contrasts with public schools whose spending is governed by school boards accountable for public budgets and records.

What this means is that, for years, no reporters or citizens could readily examine where their federal tax dollars had been spent on charters, which have a higher failure rate³ than public schools and have been plagued by numerous fraud indictments of charter school operators.⁴

CMD had asked the U.S. Department of Education to provide the public with a list of all of the charter schools that have received federal money under CSP funding, since that information was not published. Although the agency told CMD it would do so, it did not provide it over many months, even as Congress began debating *additional* funding sought for charters.

So CMD formally asked again for a list of charters receiving federal funding. Finally, in late summer, the agency gave CMD a list of charter schools that had received CSP SEA money in recent years. But, due to the poor quality of the format, CMD had to manually transcribe the list.

Today, CMD is publishing the first-ever public list of charter schools with the federal CSP SEA funding granted 2010-‘15.

In another victory, the federal government also promised to publish information online about each charter school that has ever received CSP funding, although it has not yet.

This promise came along with an announcement by the U.S. Department of Education that it was awarding \$125 million to states to spend on charter schools, after the agency *refused* to tell CMD which states had applied so the public could weigh in as the grant requests were pending.

CMD had sought information about the state education agency applications for funding—before funding was approved—but the agency refused to reveal even applicants. Had it done so, the public could have let the government know their views on the proposed spending.

Without calling for broader public input, federal charter school bureaucrats accepted the word of state charter proponents that their charter programs had adequate controls for performance and against fraud and waste. The biggest grant winner was Ohio despite a huge and recent scandal showing that key state charter officials had manipulated the record of charter school “success” by omitting the terrible testing results of so-called “virtual schools,” charters that get money for providing “online” education in students’ homes. (*For more on Ohio, see state section below.*)

Yet, Ohio education officials had secured positive endorsements from pro-charter cheerleaders to tell the federal decision-makers to support its proposal. Critics were not invited to weigh in.

How many more stories of negatives glossed over like this exist?

It’s foolish to think Ohio is alone, given the charter track record.

That’s because what has evolved as a result of the more than \$3.7 billion in the feds have spent fueling charters—plus other sums from states—is a classic example of “industry capture” of the agencies charged with oversight by the industry they are tasked with overseeing. With such capture comes agency devotion to protecting funding, insulated by a lack of transparency about funding oversight and distorted through agency relationships with charter industry cheerleaders.

There is no defensible reason for the federal government to refuse to let the public know which states are seeking charter grants so that concerned citizens can share their views.

In the current structure, the U.S. Department of Education hears only from proponents of the charter school grant application and in this closed loop—unsurprisingly—it approves money to a state like Ohio based on formal submissions that praise it, in spite of numerous failures.

More public oversight is needed. The agency claimed that providing a list of state applicants for charter grants would intrude on its “deliberative process” privileges under the Freedom of Information Act. However, public policy strongly favors agencies having *more* public input *before* decisions are made that involves millions of dollars. (CMD is considering litigation over this.)

The public should not have to slog through such denials and piecemeal information about where money is going in such a costly program and how their tax dollars are being spent. [**CMD recommends the federal government provide all this data in one site and that it condition CSP grants on public financial disclosures by charters, as noted at the end of this report.**](#)

Investigating State Charter Practices: More Charter Failures and Weak Oversight

CMD also examined states as part of this investigation of how the federal Charter School Program grants were being spent. The CSP is a key way that the federal government seeds or promotes charters in the states. To date, more than 40 states plus DC have authorized charter schools, and more than 2.5 million American school children are enrolled in charters.

CMD focused on 12 states, selected from across the country, including the top five with the most students (California, Texas, Florida, Arizona, and Michigan), three in the next tier (Ohio, Colorado, and New York), and three with smaller charter student populations (Utah, Wisconsin, and Indiana), plus the District of Columbia. States include both populous and less densely populated places, urban and rural charters, plus “red states” and “blue states.”

CMD sought to understand what information was available to citizens in those states about spending on charter schools and also what rules were applied in those states to hold charters accountable for federal or state tax dollars gifted to them. To secure this information, CMD filed open records requests for information from the state education agencies and governors’ offices about how grants were provided for charters and how much money each charter received. CMD also sought information about communications from for-profit charter school chains and other pro-charter entities seeking to create, expand, or promote charters.

Overall, state responsiveness to requests for public records about how federal and state money was being spent or overseen was poor and very guarded. For example, Arizona and Florida *never* provided a list of the charter schools created through CSP funding. The remaining states and DC did ultimately provide a list of state sub-grantees or other information. Michigan refused to provide a list but said a person could instead search an online database by entering the name of each school. However, that database *does not* include information about how much federal CSP money each charter received, and doesn’t include charters that never opened. The New York list of charters—along with details of all money received—was made available by providing CMD with a list it provided to an auditor, which had not been previously published.

This information from the states is included in the charter list CMD is publishing today.

Six states or jurisdictions stalled or delayed in various ways in response to requests for information about communications with outside groups seeking to influence the charter school process (Arizona, California, DC, Florida, Ohio, and Texas). Two requests remain outstanding after charging or receiving fees for materials (Wisconsin and Michigan), and one provided only a partial response (Indiana). Only Florida, New York, and Utah provided full responses. Similarly, officials stalled or delayed responding to requests for information from the governors of six of the states (Colorado, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Utah, and Wisconsin), while California has demanded a large fee for such records. Only Arizona, Florida, Indiana, and Texas provided full responses. CMD is considering litigation over a number of these and is still pursuing them.

In sum, securing information from the states about how charter spending and how they have handled charter oversight has proven to be a difficult process filled with substantial obstruction of efforts to get key facts. Perhaps the reluctance to provide information is understandable—although not acceptable—given what the evidence shows about widespread failure of critical oversight over how Americans’ tax dollars are being spent by charter schools.

CALIFORNIA

The state of California is by far the biggest state using charters in the country. It has more than 1,100 charters, which have more than half a million students enrolled. Fully one-fifth of the nation's charter school students are located in California.

It is also the largest recipient of funding to expand charters under the U.S. Department of Education's CSP grants. It was awarded up to \$254 million between 2010-'15, including \$42 million that year. With that level of funding the state education agency has created bureaucracy that is invested in and advocates for charters rather than engaging in robust oversight of them.

Nearly 200 charters have closed in California, nearly one of every five that have opened. Their failures have included stunning tales of financial fraud, skimming of retirement funds, and financial mismanagement, material violations of the law, massive debt, unsafe school conditions, lack of teacher credentials, failure to conduct background checks, terrible academic performance and test results, and insufficient enrollment.

Looking specifically at whether any tax money for CSP grants went to charters that closed within a few years, records show that more than \$4.7 million was given to such charters. Some were "voluntarily" closed while others had their charters expressly revoked by authorizers. However, in some cases, the term "voluntary" occludes not-so-benign reasons. Several of the failed charters that received federal were clustered in San Diego and most were located in Southern California. As noted in the chart below, some of these charters received half a million dollars or more in federal seed money, plus an unspecified sum in state funding before they failed.

CSP MONEY GRANTED TO CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS THAT SUBSEQUENTLY CLOSED

Charter School Name	City/County	CSP grant	Reason given
Abernathy Collegiate Charter School	Kern	\$375,000	Voluntary
Endeavour Academy	San Diego	\$375,000	Voluntary
Los Angeles Big Picture High	Los Angeles	\$150,000	Non-renewal
The Academy of the Inland Empire	San Bernardino	\$375,000	Voluntary
Celerity Exa	Los Angeles	\$575,000	Voluntary
Fresno Academy for Civic and Entrepreneurial Leadership	Fresno	\$75,000	Voluntary
Iftin University Prep High School	San Diego	\$412,500	Voluntary
Mountain Peak Charter School	San Diego	\$150,000	Voluntary
Pacific American Academy	San Diego	\$350,000	Voluntary
Renew Virtual Academy #1	San Joaquin	\$375,000	Voluntary
Rowland Heights Charter	Los Angeles	\$375,000	Revoked by authorizer
Urban Village Middle	Los Angeles	\$575,000	Revoked by authorizer
YouthBuild Charter of California Central	Inyo	\$546,489	Voluntary
Total		\$4,708,989	

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education, California Department of Education's charter school closure lists)

The problems identified with these closed charters underscore all-too-common failures of charters and demonstrate how federal money has been wasted on sub-par educational enterprises that fail even the most basic standards. The two specific “revocations” in the list were of charters connected to a public school district, the Los Angeles Unified School District.

For example, in September 2015, the Los Angeles education board upheld a decision to revoke a charter based on **“substantial evidence demonstrated that the Rowland Heights Charter Academy committed material violations of its Charter; violated provisions of law; failed to meet generally accepted accounting principles; engaged in fiscal mismanagement, and failed to remedy such violation.”**⁵ That charter had been granted \$375,000 in CSP funds, and there is no public accounting available online of how that money was spent. (Rowland was also cited, by Public Advocates, of what it called “illegal requirements for unpaid labor by parents” at charters⁶ because it required parents to provide three free hours of “volunteer” work per month.⁷)

The other charter in the California CSP list had other serious failures. The **“Urban Village” charter** was created by \$575,000 in federal monies designated to expand charter schools. The reasons for revocation in 2014 are very troubling. **This California charter school failed to:**

- **“Conduct criminal background clearances for all employees and vendors.**
- **Ensure all teachers are fully credentialed** and appropriately assigned.
- Adequately identify and serve English learners and re-designate/re-classify fluent English proficient students.
- Administer state testing, including the Smarter Balanced field testing.
- Implement the educational program described in its own charter.
- **Follow conflict of interest laws – the school paid a sitting board member for providing after-school services.”**⁸

A review of the charters that “voluntarily” closed includes information about some similar types of failures, but **there appears to be no public requirement that there be any published accounting of monies spent, what happens to assets purchased with tax money, or any required public documentation of why a charter school closed.** Such information is not kept online by the state. Rather, information about why charters closed must be gleaned from incomplete news accounts that simply cannot provide any actual accounting for the funds spent.

Despite what the government is not publishing, what *is* known is extremely troubling.

For example, the **“Celerity Exa Charter School”** voluntarily surrendered its charter to the Pasadena School District after **it was actually shut down by the fire marshal a year ago for being “dangerous and unsafe.”**⁹ A routine fire inspection revealed that the elementary school had “no automatic sprinkler or fire alarm systems, [and] inadequate egress and kindergarten through second grade classrooms were located in the basement, which is illegal.”¹⁰ Celerity had received a CSP grant of \$575,000, but there is no public accounting of how that was spent.

Across the valley in San Joaquin, the **“Renew Virtual Academy #1” dissolved earlier in 2015, “voluntarily,” amid charges of “nepotism, fiscal mismanagement, and enrollment fraud.”**¹¹ Allegations included that “CEO Ellen Ringer hired her son, Deputy Executive Director of Business Services Christopher Walenta, at an annual salary of nearly \$100,000 and paid other relatives without disclosing the relationships....” The local school district also “realized that they were over-reporting the amount of students they had in order to make their budget

work [and] **reported enrollment to determine state Average Daily Attendance funding ‘roughly double’ the actual number** of about 80 students.”¹²

As Elizabeth Roberts of RecordNet.com noted, that charter took in huge sums: “In addition to state funding of \$926,435 . . . Renew Virtual Academy was awarded a \$375,000 Public Charter Schools Grant Program Planning and Implementation Grant in September 2013, the California Department of Education reported, and an additional \$250,000 loan from the Charter School Revolving Loan Fund Program in 2013-14. Coming in at more than \$1.5 million, that’s nearly \$20,000 per student, roughly twice what the school should have received for 80 students.”

She also noted that the charter director’s son had been given “annual compensation of \$96,000 plus executive-level benefits as well as permission to telecommute for two weeks of each month from his Lone Tree, Colorado, home. **Chase Bank statements listed under the Renew Virtual Academy name, the same account where grant funds were deposited, show charges for airplane tickets, hotels, restaurants and other expenses** that Ringer declined to explain when contacted.” The leader of the charter and her family have denied any wrongdoing.

These recent examples underscore the *continued* inadequacies of rules for charters.

CMD had requested information about CSP sub-grantees from the state of California, but it stalled in providing a full set of public records about its communications with charter school advocates. The office of Governor Jerry Brown (D-CA) has also not provided emails, insisting on significant fees for copies of its communications with charter school advocates.

So CMD conducted a full review of materials obtained an audit of charters by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of the Inspector General, along with any public records we could obtain.¹³

Here are some of the details from the audit materials that CMD found particularly compelling:

- **California’s state education agency, as of 2013, had captured “very little information about the status, progress, or fiscal responsibilities of the monitored schools.”**
- Additionally, **the charter schools it was reviewing were chosen not based on whether the schools had problems or potential problems but “based on staff preference for geographic location.”**
- “California did not monitor authorizing agencies because they had no authority to do so.”
- **More than half of the staff** that California assigned to review charters **“were unqualified to conduct onsite monitoring of charter schools”** (e.g., no fiscal monitoring experience).

In the case of closed charters the lack of financial controls for federal dollars was absurd:

- ⇒ **“In some cases, the closed schools received SEA grant funds without ever opening to students.”**
- ⇒ **“The school files had no follow-up documentation for any of the 12 closed schools reviewed.”**

- ⇒ **“No indication of what happened to any of the assets purchased with SEA grant funds.”**
- ⇒ **“California was able to provide the status for only 5 of the 12 closed schools’ assets.”**

Ghost schools in California, too. As with other states, some California charters “received SEA grant funds without ever opening to students,” as noted above. There was no way of determining, the OIG concluded, the whereabouts or ownership of assets bought by twelve schools that were paid more than \$4 million during the 2007-‘10 cycles but that closed within a few years. The California Department of Education was asked to submit a document outlining how it would deal with school closures in the future. It did so, and also promised to provide more training to officials administering the grants. In response, federal agency officials stated that the California “had addressed most of the concerns the OIG outlined in their report.”

However, there is no indication that California has *actually* investigated what happened to assets of “ghost” schools before the audit or since then, let alone the full set of closed schools.

Amid concerns that the states receiving CSP funds cannot account for where the money goes when schools close down, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Inspector General launched a “Nationwide Audit of Closed Charter Schools” in 2015, which is not yet completed.¹⁴

Also troubling is the persistent conflict between federal claims that states can hold charter authorizers and charter schools accountable and state claims that the law either bars them from doing so or does not give them power to do so, alongside state assurances of robust oversight.

As auditors noted about California previously: **“The grantee does not monitor or hold accountable authorized public charter school agencies.”** Instead it defers to those agencies.

This lack of controls by the state is by design. The following snapshot from public comments reveals how the charter school industry—aided and abetted by both governmental and private charter advocates—resisted a proposal last year by the U.S. Department of Education to focus *more* on authorizer accountability as a formal part of each state’s CSP SEA grant applications:

- ✓ **The California Department of Education:** **“We strongly recommend that Selection Criteria (g) [i.e. “Oversight of Authorized Public Chartering Agencies”] be removed from the requirements or given a very low value in the scoring process.** This criterion assumes that authorized public chartering agencies are providing inadequate or ineffective oversight and that SEAs have the statutory authority to monitor, evaluate, and hold accountable the public chartering agencies.”¹⁵
- ✓ **Charter Schools Development Center:** “First, the proposed priorities favor a very strong [state] role in driving both (1) statewide charter school strategy and (2) authorizer quality and oversight. This approach does not align to many states’ laws or context, including California’s, where the **state charter statutes were purposefully drafted to minimize the [state]’s role in the charter school sector.**” “[W]e suggest deleting this third priority in its entirety.”

In sum, California’s record on charters is marked by continued failures of charters, including continued squandering of taxpayer money, along with deference to authorizers and resistance to federal efforts to mandate better state oversight of charter authorizers.

INDIANA

Even though Indiana received the least amount of funding under the federal CSP grants for expanding the number of “high quality” charters—among the 12 states in CMD’s investigation—its handling of the charter school experiment is deeply troubling.

Indiana did provide CMD with a list of state charters that received federal CSP grants for recent years and Governor Pence’s office provided information about its role in the grants, but the state provided only a partial response for information about communications with charter school advocates. CMD’s review of publicly available information reveals that Indiana’s charter overseers have close ties to the industry they are tasked with overseeing and tax money that could go to strengthen traditional public schools has been squandered on charter experiments.

Indiana began allowing charters in 2002, starting with 11 such schools. As of the 2013 school year, Indiana had 75 authorized charter schools with more than 34,000 school children enrolled.

In 2010, Indiana landed a \$31 million grant out of \$250 million in federal CSP funding for expanding charters. Indiana’s grant was premised in part on how “flexible” state law is.

With Tony Bennett as state school superintendent from 2008-2011, one of the federal reviewers enthused that “[c]harter schools are accountable solely to authorizers under Indiana law” and scored the state application 30/30 under the criterion for “Flexibility Afforded by State Law.”

Another peer-reviewer was impressed by the fact that charters are “exempt from statutes [sic], regulations and rules” but deducted points since the application was “unclear about charter’s [sic] control over hiring/firing and collective bargaining.”¹⁶

Some of these charters have failed and badly. The federal injection of money—in accord with the program objective of incentivizing states where charter schools are exempt from most statutes and regulations—has wasted monies on charters that failed in not unforeseeable ways.

- **Andrew Academy** in Indianapolis received \$700,000 in planning and implementation grants. The charter was forced to close in 2015 because of poor student performance.¹⁷
- **Padua Academy** in Indianapolis lost its charter in 2014 and converted to a private religious school,¹⁸ but not before receiving \$702,000 in federal seed money.
- The **Indiana Cyber Charter School** opened in 2012 with a \$420,000 CSP implementation grant. Dogged by financial scandals and terrible student results the charter was revoked and it closed in 2015, leaving 1,100 students in the lurch.¹⁹
- **Via Charter School** was awarded a \$193,000 planning grant, but never opened.
- **Early Career Academy** landed a \$193,000 planning grant and was due to open last year. This has been postponed due to “governance issues,” according to the school. (This charter is sponsored by a for-profit college—**ITT Tech**—being sued by the federal government for urging students to get loans for college credits that do not transfer.²⁰)

It seems \$2.2 out of the \$19.8 million in CSP funds paid so far was squandered in Indiana.

But, that's not all. **Indiana charter schools are heavily segregated:** "7.2 percent of IPS' Black students attend a school that's 90 percent or more Black. But over a quarter, 27.8 percent of Black charter school students attend a severely segregated charter school."²¹

Charters in Indiana are also largely exempt from local democratic control, by school boards. And, they test no better—and often much worse—than traditional schools.²²

Indiana Governor Mike Pence recently announced his intention to expand the number of charters by 34 percent within the next three years, despite the squandering of millions in federal and state tax monies by charters. (Pence has been touted by ALEC as a model governor.)

Is Pence's agenda really about opening "doors of opportunity to more Hoosier families," as the governor put it in his State of the State Address²³ earlier this year?

A CASE STUDY ON PRIVATE SECTOR INFLUENCE: Emails obtained by CMD through a public records request to Pence's office do indeed paint a picture of a state focused on opening doors of opportunity—to for-profit schools, like Charter Schools USA.

A few days before Pence's address, there was a flurry of emails between Paula Jackson, chief lobbyist with "Charter Schools USA" and Pence's Legislative Director Sean Keefe, plus at least one meeting between Keefe and Jon Hage, CEO of that for-profit charter school chain. "I will be fully engaged with Chad [Timmerman, the ed. policy director] on this," Keefer assured Jackson.

Charter Schools USA first gained a foothold there in 2011 when then-State Superintendent Tony Bennett was given far-reaching powers to takeover public schools deemed to be failing. **Bennett promptly transferred the management of three public schools to a Florida-based chain, Charter Schools USA.** (Bennett had close ties to the charter industry²⁴ and was fined for ethics violations in office. After he left Indiana, his wife also went to work for Charter Schools USA.²⁵ And, now Bennett is back as an advisor for a new proposed Indianapolis charter.²⁶)

The transfer was possible based on a law initially sponsored by Rep. Robert Behning (R-91), the "**Turnaround Academies Act.**" A legislator in the ALEC corporate bill mill, Behning brought his legislation to ALEC's meeting where corporate lobbyists for for-profit schools, like K12 Inc., vote with legislators on "model" bills. Together with state charter and voucher legislation, the bill was ratified as a national model, dubbed the omnibus "Indiana Education Reform Package."²⁷

In Indianapolis, the three schools handed over to Charter School USA received the lowest grade possible—an F—by the Indiana Department of Education in 2013-14.

After Bennett lost his election in 2012, Democratic State School Superintendent Glenda Ritz received a terse letter from a Florida law firm representing Charter Schools USA asking for "additional [state] funding."²⁸ Charter Schools USA's PAC did not support her election, but it did give \$5,000 to Governor Pence,²⁹ who asked the legislatures for a \$1,500 boost per student and got an extra \$500 each for charters overall. That amount may seem small but it adds up. With more than 1,500 charter students, Charter Schools USA stands to gain an annual revenue increase of \$750,000. And, as has been documented in its home state,³⁰ Charter Schools USA spends significantly less than most public schools on the actual instruction of students.

Accordingly, Indiana's track record on CSP charter school expansion and of close ties between key decision-makers and for-profit charter firms are deeply troubling.

MICHIGAN

Michigan provided the least information to CMD of any of the 12 states/jurisdictions within our investigation. However, information from CMD's federal FOIAs and other sources sheds light on Michigan and reveals significant problems with oversight of charter schools.

In many ways, state officials appear to be still reeling from a critical blockbuster series published last year by the *Detroit Free Press* about the serious failures in charter schools in Michigan. As part of that series, the leading state paper documented that Michigan spends about \$1 billion in state taxpayer money on charter schools that are accountable to no one.³¹ (Overall, Michigan has approximately 1.5 million public school students, and nearly 10% are in charters.³²)

According to information CMD has obtained about federal funding for charters, charter schools in Michigan received \$34,997,658 between 2010-'15 under the CSP umbrella, after the state was awarded \$43.9 million under the CSP expansion in 2010.³³ (This discrepancy is based on appropriations amounts and cycles and other differentials.)

Almost half (139) of the charters in Michigan were subsidized in part by federal tax dollars, in the past five years. (Michigan itself calls charter schools "public school academies" (PSAs).)

As of 2014, Michigan had 297 charter schools operating in the state, and 141,204 students were enrolled in charters, in the most recent school year with complete data.³⁴

Since the inception of charters in the state, more than 100 charters have closed (108).³⁵ Many of them have closed due to lack of "academic viability" (poor results) while other have closed due to lack of "financial viability" (such as inadequate enrollment) and some for both or other failings. The total amount these schools have received is not known, but they certainly consumed well over \$1 million in federal CSP grants before shuttering.

Other charter operators in the state have been accused, and convicted, of crimes:

These crimes include felony fraud and tax evasion. For example, the "**Bay City Academy**," landed a \$200,000 CSP grant. Its founder, Steven Ingersoll, had obtained a construction line of credit to convert a church into the Bay City Academy, but instead funneled \$934,000 to his private account. Union members with LIUNA Local 1098 "blew the whistle" on Ingersoll for improper asbestos removal, and eventually prosecutors discovered Ingersoll's financial fraud, even though the "neither the school's board nor Lake Superior State University, the authorizer of the charter school, nor the Michigan Department of Education found anything illegal in the school's audits."³⁶ In 2015, Ingersoll, pleaded guilty of two felony counts for tax evasion and "conspiracy to defraud the United States."³⁷ *Bridge Magazine* called this "the most significant federal criminal case in the history of Michigan's 20-year-old charter school industry."³⁸

"If this happened in public schools, the public would be up in arms," state Rep. Charles Brunner, who is a former teacher, was quoted saying.

That's far from the only irregularity in Michigan charters. For example, the **Benjamin E. Mays Male Academy**—a private and religious school that charges tuition—was granted \$110,000 even though charter schools are supposed to be "non-sectarian, must follow all federal and State regulations and laws, and may not charge tuition or be part of a voucher system." [This special report does not examine the separate problems with school vouchers.]

Another area of concern is that four out of every five Michigan charter schools are really being run by for-profit management companies, according to one study.³⁹

In fact, the situation is so worrisome that when the Michigan Department of Education applied for federal CSP money in 2010 its pitch for federal funding raised concerns about the prevalence of “deep-pocketed corporations” in the pool of applicants for charter schools, stating:

“The nature of the allowable grant activities—funding for early exploratory development work—opens up the charter school development process to many first-time applicants of all genders, races, ages and ability levels. Without this early funding, more applicants would be **deep-pocketed corporations**....”⁴⁰

The prevalence of for-profit motives of key players in the charter school industry is often glossed over by charter advocates who persist in calling charters “public” even as so many of them are operated directly or indirectly (through contracting out key functions) by for-profit enterprises. The full amount of federal and state tax dollars that have been siphoned away from students and publicly owned infrastructure to for-profit firms has never been calculated.

Perhaps one of the most surprising takeaways from the federal information available about how taxpayer money is being spent or wasted is the existence of “ghost” schools that *never* opened.

Out of the charters that were approved for CSP funds by the Michigan Department of Education in 2011 and 2012, twenty-five *never* opened. CMD learned this through its FOIA.

The organizations behind these proposed charter schools were approved for a total of nearly \$3.7 million in federal tax funds in “pre-planning” and “planning” grants, and they were received nearly \$1.7 million, according to state expenditure reports CMD reviewed.

CMD also obtained a corrective action plan that shows that the U.S. Department of Education was made aware of the problem of schools not opening after WestEd flagged it in a monitoring report. WestEd is a private company that works for the federal agency to audit how states administer federal grants and comply with federal regulations.

Michigan was *asked* to “consider stronger measures to determine sub-grantee quality to ensure that planning sub-grant recipients will be of sufficiently high quality to be authorized to open following the grant period.” In a follow-up phone call, officials with the Michigan Department of Education assured federal regulators that they had amended the application. “Only those who have been told they are receiving a charter ... would be eligible.”

This assurance was enough to satisfy federal overseers in the pro-charter agency. The corrective action materials indicate that because “this is only a recommendation, there will not be any additional follow-up,” which underscores the toothless-ness of the federal approach.

Notably, if citizens relied on Michigan’s online database, they would not be alerted to tax money that’s been spent on charter schools that never opened. These “ghost” schools exist only on paper—on grant notification forms and in money spent that is basically unaccounted for.

In sum, Michigan’s record of charter school oversight reveals continuing and substantial problems that have failed to identify even serious financial fraud by charter operators.

FEDERAL MONEY GRANTED AND PAID TO MICHIGAN “GHOST” SCHOOLS UNDER CSP

“School” and Non-Profit	CSP Grant	Amount Paid
Alliance Academy Kids 1st an Educational Journey	\$100,000	\$30,833
Barry Early College and Career High School Barry County Student Foundation	\$100,000	\$86,989
Bertha B. Williams Academy Friends of Bertha B. Williams Corporation	\$110,000	\$110,029
Brightspire Center for Education and Leadership Make It Count	\$110,000	\$109,500
Cultivating Growth Academy/Project Team	\$100,000	\$96,748
Discover Academy Early Childhood Initiatives	\$100,000	\$35,000
Explorers' School of Science and Technology/Project Team	\$110,000	\$100,000
Glenhurst Academy Detroit Coalition for Educational Excellence	\$110,000	\$74,062
Harris Academy The Potter's House Prevention Center	\$110,000	\$21,463
International Academy of Detroit	\$210,000	\$66,000
Larry Mitchell Trice Sr. Academy Larry Mitchell Trice, Sr. Community Outreach Services, Inc.	\$110,000	\$108,330
Magna Charter Magna Charter Planning Group	\$100,000	\$99,950
Mid-Michigan University School High Place Community Outreach & Nonprofit Housing Corp.	\$110,000	\$109,052
Oakland Macomb Montessori/Project Team	\$175,000	\$179,677
Pioneer Academy Academic Futures	\$100,000	\$34,600
Premier Math and Science Academy The Al-Nafi Foundation	\$0	\$73,494
Pride and Promise Academy/Project Team	\$250,000	\$0
READ School Rainbow Education Academy Development, Inc.	\$110,000	\$0
Robert F. Shannon Education Center Keep it Moving, Inc.	\$0	\$110,000
Shining Star Foreign Language Academy Shining Star Consulting	\$410,000	\$110,000
Superior Academy Superior Programs of Michigan	\$465,000	\$0
Taylor Academy for Aviation and Aerospace Americare Services, Inc.	\$110,000	\$109,550
Teacherchools	\$460,000	\$46,500
Warren Classical Academy/Coalition	\$100,000	
Metro YouthBuild Academy Metro Community Development, Inc.	\$110,000	\$14,916
Total	\$3,770,000	\$1,726,693

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education, Michigan Grant Approval forms, Michigan vendor lists for FY 2010-'14)

OHIO

With its lax charter school oversight laws and its large number of unaccountable authorizers,⁴¹ Ohio has been an embarrassment to charter school proponents.

Ohio stalled in responding to most of CMD's public records requests, providing only a list of charters in the state that received federal CSP grants. Requests are still pending with **Governor John Kasich** (R-OH), who is running for the GOP presidential nominations, and Ohio's education agency for communications with charter school advocates about the state's efforts to expand charters. Ohio has about 400 charters with more than 119,000 kids enrolled in them.

Between 2007 to 2012, \$32.6 million in CSP funds were paid out to Ohio charter sub-grantees,⁴² and more than \$4.6 million went to schools that later closed or never opened. Out of the 88 schools funded with the CSP grant money, at least 15 closed within a few years and four of them *never* opened, although more than \$150k was approved for them.

CSP SUB-GRANTS TO SCHOOLS THAT CLOSED OR NEVER OPENED IN OHIO

Charter School Name	City	CSP Grant	Status/Reason Given
Academy for Urban Solutions	Columbus	\$26,800	Closed
Academy of New Media Middle	Columbus	\$244,985.29	Closed (by governing authority)
Central Ohio East College Academy	Powell	\$50,000	Never opened
College Hill Leadership Academy	Cincinnati	\$444,921.51	Closed
Columbus Academy of Literacy and Mathematics	Columbus	\$225,000	Closed (ordered)
Constellation Schools: Mansfield Community Middle	Mansfield	\$550,000	Closed (ceased operations)
Cuyahoga Valley Academy	Brecksville	\$31,680	Never opened
Dixon Early Learning Center Conversion Community School	Columbiana	\$450,000	Closed (no longer met funding need)
Gahanna Community School	Gahanna	\$410,818	Closed (by sponsor)
Knight Academy	Toledo	\$650,000	Closed
L.E.A.D. Academy	Norton	\$192,052	Closed
L.E.A.R.N. Academy	Norton	\$151,557	Closed
Notten Sch. for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	Columbus	\$207,000	Closed (contract terminated—ordered)
T C Leadership Academy	Ashland	\$39,274	Never opened
Theodore Roosevelt Public Community School	Cincinnati	\$450,000	Closed (financial viability—ordered)
Upper Scioto Wind/Energy Academy	McGuffey	\$258,500	Closed (financial viability)
Western Reserve Kindergarten Learning Academy	Ellsworth	\$450,000	Closed (lack of enrollment)
Wickliffe Progressive Community Sch.	Upper Arl.	\$203,686.58	Closed
WinWin Academy	Columbus	\$50,000	Never opened
Total		\$4,637,602.51	

(Source: CMD Open Records request to the Ohio Department of Education for CSP sub-grantees, Ohio Closed School Directory published by the Ohio Department of Education)

As with other states, charters have closed in Ohio for a variety of reasons including financial mismanagement, insufficient enrollment, poor academic results, and more.

Setting aside the issue of failed charters, a majority of the CSP-funded charters that remain open—51%—scored in the bottom 16% (letter grades D-F) on the 2014 Ohio Performance Index, as measured by student performance on state assessments. This is not unusual. Ohio charters also spend more than twice as much on administration as public schools on average. To offset this—which includes advertising buys and bonuses for the CEOs—charters allocate \$1,000 less per student each year on classroom instruction than traditional public schools.

In all, Ohio has been awarded a substantial amount in federal CSP SEA grants: more than \$195 million between 2004 and 2015, including the new funds approved in September 2015.⁴³

As CMD and other outlets reported, late last month, the U.S. Department of Education announced the winners of the latest round of SEA grants under the Charter Schools Program.⁴⁴

Eight states share a \$125-million pot for 2015, but the biggest recipient by far was Ohio. It landed a \$32.6 million one-year grant that, contingent on congressional appropriations, might turn into a \$70 million in funds in the coming years.

This award was a shock because, as *The Plain Dealer* discovered, the Ohio Office of the Quality School Choice was “giving overseers [i.e. authorizers] of many of the many lowest-performing schools a pass from taking the heat for some of their worst problems” by scrubbing data from low performing online schools in their performance reviews.⁴⁵

“We found that the state isn’t counting the performance of online schools—one of the most-controversial and lowest-performing charter sectors—in the calculations ... This means that many F-rated charter schools that serve thousands of students won’t be included when their oversight agencies are rated this year,” the paper wrote in its exposé.

In the wake of the scandal, the director of Ohio’s Office of Quality School Choice (the husband of Gov. Kasich’s Chief of Staff, who is now on leave to help with the presidential campaign) announced his resignation on July 18. Two days *earlier*, the Ohio Department of Education had submitted its application for CSP funds with the director at the helm of state charter oversight:

“Ensuring that appropriate staff are in place and engaged in project responsibilities will be the responsibility of the Office of Quality School Choice’s Executive Director, David Hansen, who has worked at the national level with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and elsewhere to identify and promote best practices for high-quality charter schools.”⁴⁶

The “Ohio Official [Hansen] who manipulated charter-school data helped win federal grant to take over public schools,” observed the *Akron Beacon*, which broke the story.⁴⁷

In the meantime, CMD had sought public records from the U.S. Department of Education about which states had applied for the grants and what they told the agency in their applications. But, the federal government denied CMD’s request, claiming it needed to protect its deliberations.

After the award for expanding charter schools was announced by the federal agency with Ohio as the biggest winner, the *Washington Post*’s Lyndsey Layton asked Nadya Dabby, Education Secretary Arne Duncan’s Assistant Deputy Secretary, about Ohio’s poor track record.

Despite the recent evidence of the top state charter official tampering with test results to present a sunnier picture of charters, Dabby asserted that Ohio had improved its oversight of charters, “[a]lthough,” noted the *Post*, “she could not provide details.”

CMD is continuing to review the thousands of emails released, and has found more information about the role of Hansen’s office in touting authorizer accountability in its CSP application.

Even though Ohio’s charter process was “more broken than the Wild West”—as a spokesperson for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) told *The Plain Dealer* last year—⁴⁸ NACSA offered to help Ohio get more charters authorized and deploy what it calls more “thoughtful charter authorizing practices,” for a fee.

Part of the Ohio emails released included a note from NACSA offering cookie cutter language for state departments of education (SEAs) to work into their applications for federal CSP money:

“(NAME OF SEA) believes that high quality authorizing is a critical step in ensuring the expansion of successful charter schools in (STATE). To that end, (...SEA) intends to partner with NACSA to develop a series of tools and trainings to be made available for authorizers across the state with the goal of improving the quality of authorizer practices statewide.”

The Ohio Department of Education filled in the blanks:

“The Department will partner with NACSA to develop a series of tools and trainings to be made available for authorizers across the state with the goal of improving authorizer practices statewide at a cost of \$40,000 per year.”

The emails released to CMD also show last-minute scrambling to boost the accountability sections of Ohio’s CSP SEA grant application with NACSA references: “Hi David [Hansen], I have four sections of our application updated with more direct references to NACSA ... Please let me know if there is anything else you need or if you would like me to beef up the response even more,” an intern with the Office of Quality School Choice wrote in a July 14 email.

That same day, NACSA—as part and parcel of the deal—wrote a letter in support of Ohio’s application for CSP funds to the U.S. Department of Education.

NACSA, however, was not the only one claiming Ohio had great procedures for oversight, despite a NACSA rep admitting the state’s oversight of charter authorizers was weak last year.

The pro-charter reviewers contracted by the federal agency to score the state CSP applications revealed high praise for Ohio, according to CMD’s review of the application file released *after* the award was announced.⁴⁹ One reviewer gave Ohio a perfect score on its standards claiming “Ohio has established high and exacting accountability expectations of authorizers (including evaluation against standards) and, inferentially, schools.” Another gave it a perfect score and praised it for putting “strong and clear language for the expectations and evaluation of charters AND authorizers” on its website. Another praised Ohio’s NACSA-based procedures and asserted “it is highly likely that this method of oversight of authorizers is highly effective.”

Despite these sunny predictions and other claims the federal agency relied on in its recent multi-million dollar award, Ohio’s track record on CSP charter school expansion and of monitoring charter performance is filled with failure and appalling ethics by its top charter official in deliberately attempting to the manifold failures to help students learn.

NEW YORK

New York has nearly 100,000 students enrolled in more than 230 charters.

According to materials provided to the WestEd auditors and reviewed by CMD, New York approved at least \$67 million in CSP sub-grants to more than 100 charters. New York, like other states, has had charters close due to fraud, mismanagement, poor performance, or other failings. Government oversight has been criticized. And, an audit showed federal site visits to charters were not based on problems, but were “logistically friendly from a travel perspective.”⁵⁰

New York’s education department fully responded to CMD’s requests for public records about charter schools, but the office of Governor Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) has not provided requested documents. However, the materials secured reveal that for-profit firms are making substantial sums at taxpayer expense through charters in New York and elsewhere.

Charter school proponents, like outgoing Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, have frequently sung the praises of public-private partnerships, despite powerful critiques from “In the Public Interest” and others.⁵¹ In New York and elsewhere, the federal CSP money seems designed to facilitate for-profit firms taking a growing piece of funding for public education in this country.

Wherever there is seed money (which is precisely what the CSP’s planning and implementation grants provide) there are startup consultants eager to be hired, and eager to receive a portion of the taxpayer money available to facilitate charters schools.

ANOTHER CASE STUDY ON PRIVATE SECTOR INFLUENCE: The majority of New York grant applications for 2014-’15 CSP sub-grants was submitted by the same person: Gretchen Liga, a Senior Development Consultant at **Charter School Business Management** (CSBM), according to a review of emails obtained by CMD from the New York education agency.

That company, which attracts clients with the slogan “Educating Your Students and Managing Your Multi-Million Dollar Business... A Fine Balance,”⁵² posted \$4.7 million in revenues in 2014. It also offers charters a complete “managing” package: from accounting and human resources administration to “Turnaround Services,” that is, helping charter schools “getting back on track” after “financial mismanagement” has jeopardized their charters.

In addition, CSBM provides help with grant-writing to secure federal funding:

“Our team has experience applying for and securing government and private grants, including Title I and II, CSP, and State Stimulus Fund, and will complete the entire grant cycle, from program conceptualization to reporting, on your behalf.”⁵³

Emails exchanged between Gretchen Liga and officials with the Charter School Office offer a window into this. “CSP funding will cover \$30,000 of CSBM’s total fee for service,” Liga wrote in a 2014 project narrative for Compass Charter School. Another fledgling charter, Brilla College Prep, budgeted \$21,270 of CSP funds for CSBM.

Out of 92 schools listed as clients on the CSBM website,⁵⁴ at least 39 were awarded grants under the Charter Schools Program. If each of these paid CSBM at least \$20,000 for grant-writing and other services rendered, that calculation would project that more than \$750,000 of

federal taxpayer money—out of a total of \$15 millions awarded these charters—went to a for-profit firm and not to classrooms or to pay teachers or directly help New York students learn. More money spent on consultancy services, such as grant-writing, appear to mean that these prospective charters gain a competitive edge. CSBM touts its success in providing that.

The competitive nature of the sub-grants has, in other words, opened up a new market for CSBM and the like, and kicked into gear a free-market dynamics that will likely lead to a further redistribution of public money to for-profit firms under the federal CSP grant program.

“I’d love to talk directly with President Obama or Secretary of Education Arne Duncan directly about the different ideas I have,” founder and CEO Raj Thakkar said in a 2009 interview with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.⁵⁵ “There’s a ton of ideas I have that can specifically support education reform.” (CSBM has done nothing wrong; it has profited handsomely from charters.)

In addition to the federal funds spent on CSBM and other consultants via the New York charter process, CMD found worrying discrepancies between the figures in the state Grant Finance database and what was reported to the U.S. Department of Education. The difference, which amounts to hundreds of thousands between school years 2011-12 and 2012-13, is partly due to the fact that two charter school grantees were, apparently, not reported at all:

DISCREPANCY BETWEEN CSP FUNDS REPORTED TO NEW YORK STATE DATABASE AND TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Charter School Name	2011-12 Variance	2012-13 Variance	Comments
Beginning with Children Charter II	\$383,810	\$202,204	School not found on US ED sheet
Central Queens Academy Charter	\$322,506	\$0	School not found on US ED sheet
Children’s and College Prep Charter	(\$173)	\$0	
Democracy Prep Endurance Charter	(\$310,500)	\$126,998	
ICAHN Charter Schools	(\$2,254)	\$0	
Mott Hall Charter School	(\$23,087)	\$0	
Neighborhood Charter School of Harlem	(\$4,256)	\$0	
New Dawn Charter High School	(\$6,301)	\$0	
New Visions Charter HS—Humanities II	(\$11,352)	\$0	
New Visions CHTR HS—Adv MA/SCI II	(\$61,246)	\$0	
Roads Charter School I	(\$90,000)		
Net total	\$197,147	\$329,202	

(Source: Transcribed from screenshot of Excel spreadsheet entitled “13-14 CSP Contract List w grant pds 0600613.xlsx” compiled by the NYS Charter School Office. Other columns have been omitted for brevity but will be uploaded by CMD.)

The fact that it apparently took two years before officials realized the books were not balanced provides insight into the tracking of CSP sub-grantees of federal funds, though these discrepancies do not establish any evidence of fraud or waste. The CSP involves lots of cash.

In sum, New York allows significant charter sums to go to for-profit firms, like other states, converting public tax monies intended to help students learn into big revenues.

TEXAS

Texas has 280 charters operating 689 campuses with more than 250,000 primary and secondary students enrolled.

Numerous Texas charters have closed for many reasons, including fraud, mismanagement, poor results, and poor enrollment, in addition to other failings.

With its poor oversight of charters, independent auditing in Texas has shown that federal monies have even gone to religious schools, and there is no indication that the state has the statutory authority or budget to conduct meaningful oversight of charters.

Nevertheless, Texas was awarded up to \$41 million under a CSP grant in 2010.

Yet Texas lacks strong statutory authority to hold failing charter schools receiving federal or state tax money accountable, as a 2013 WestEd audit obtained by CMD shows:

- “Area of concern: Authorizer accountability. [Texas] has limited statutory or operational authority to monitor and hold accountable other authorized public chartering agencies to improve the capacity of those agencies to authorize, monitor, and hold accountable charter schools.”⁵⁶

An unknown number of schools seeded by federal CSP grants are, in fact, housed in churches; some of these are sponsored by, or closely tied to, religious groups.

For example, “**UME Preparatory Academy**” in Grand Prairie, Texas, received \$600,000 under CSP during the previous grant cycle. Created by the founder of the Christian schools group the “National Association of University-Model Schools,” the academy added a disclaimer to the bottom of every school webpage: “UME Preparatory Academy is not a member of the National Association of University-Model Schools (NAUMS) since charter schools are required to be non-sectarian in nature and NAUMS is a private Christian organization.”⁵⁷

Similarly, as noted in the audit, without physical site visits, tax funds end up at religious schools:

- “The subgrant application requires that schools certify that they are non-sectarian, but at least one of the schools visited by the monitoring team was located on a church campus and had religious artifacts in the school’s entrance and library.”

Texas did provide CMD with information about charters that received federal CSP grants and about the role of the governor’s office in charters. However, Texas stalled in providing information about communications with charter school advocates about expanding charters in the state. CMD is continuing to review the emails provided along with other materials provided.

With this report, CMD is publishing the full set of WestEd audits and other documents obtained.

In sum, there is no indication that there is any political will in Texas to create new statutes to ensure that charters are accountable for how they spend federal or state funds or to authorize more site visits to protect against fraud or use of funds for religion.

UTAH

Since 1999, Utah has grown to 95 authorized charters with more than 54,000 students enrolled. Utah has *not* received CSP expansion or replication money in the past six years according to U.S. Department of Education data, but it has spent millions in state taxes funding charters.

Utah's education agency provided full responses to CMD's public records requests, although Governor Gary Herbert (R-UT) did not. Utah released thousands of emails in response to CMD's request for a copy of all records in the possession of the Utah State Office of Education mentioning specific charter school chains, such as **K12 Inc.** and **Connections Academy** and others. Utah should be commended for adhering to its commitment to government transparency in releasing information. However, Utah is not immune from the problems endemic to charters.

One of the concerns raised about adding a profit motive to educating kids is the potential for charters to manipulate enrollment and attendance data “to maximize tax-subsidized per-pupil funding,”⁵⁸ as claimed by former employees of the “virtual school” company K12 Inc.

Some of the emails released by the state suggest volatility in enrollment numbers that are worrisome in terms of the strength of oversight of charter operators. For example:

- A state assessment data specialist with the Utah State Office of Education contacted Utah's **Connections Academy**—part of a for-profit virtual-school franchise now owned by textbook publisher **Pearson PLC** of the UK—in January 2015. Todd Vawdrey noted: “I was digging through a report today and found that your LEA hit our freeze threshold. This happens when the number of course enrollments one night has less than 90% of the number of course enrollments the previous night.” However, Connections Academy assured him that “our data should be good,” and that was apparently the end of that.
- Four other charters—including the “**Utah Virtual Academy**” operated by **K12 Inc.**—also had significant drops in enrollment in that period. This prompted Vawdrey to ask Jared Browne, to “Please reset the threshold for the following LEAs.” Vawdrey did so without inquiring further by email about the reason the charters hit the internal control threshold—only to switch back later. The next day, Browne sent an email to Vawdrey: “Ummm. Well, yeah.. umm... woops.. I thought you said yesterday to have me reset everyone on the list.. which is what I did last night.. so everyone on that list was reset.. eek?”

Other worrisome information also emerges from the public record. For example, a flurry of email exchanged between officials with the State Office of Education in December 2014 suggests that Utah held Title IIA funds designed to “improve teacher and principal quality,” waiting at least six months before distributing them. “I am sure if the feds get wind that we have not allocated [Title IIA] funding 6 months after allocated they will not be very happy or forgiving in their findings,” one official worried. Also disturbing: when the state tightened its regulations by prohibiting schools from outsourcing their student's private educational records to third parties, Bryce Adams, the national Senior Director of Connections Academy, sent a line-by-line rewrite of the law and threatened that if it could not outsource “student achievement” would purportedly suffer.

In sum, Utah has set standards for charter schools, but like other states its standards may not be fully enforced. Charters appear to have too much influence over regulators.

ARIZONA

Arizona is one of the largest proponents of charters in the country, first launching them in 1994. The state now has more than 600 charter schools, with more than 180,000 students enrolled.

It is also one of the main recipients of federal CSP funding to replicate and seed more charters. In 2009, it was chosen for a five-year grant award worth almost \$46 million under the CSP, and last month it was chosen for another CSP grant worth more than \$23 million.

More than 100 charters closed in Arizona from mid-2010 to mid-2014—more than some states have opened. **Closures have involved mismanagement, fiscal concerns, inflated enrollment figures, terrible academic results, and/or failure to comply with the charters.**⁵⁹

Like other states, auditors have found that the state education agency in Arizona was not adequately monitoring the charter school authorizing agencies or the progress of the charter school sub-grantees. Arizona has told auditors it has little authority to monitor the state charter school authorizers and largely relies on the authorizers' evaluations of progress.

In its 2015 application for a CSP grant, Arizona's state education agency stated that it had new and improved standards for evaluating charter authorizers, and federal reviewers praised those assertions. But, Arizona is one the states that has routinely emphasized how little actual power the law gives regulators to monitor how charters spend funds once approved by an authorizer.

One reviewer contracted by the U.S. Department of Education to score the application for CSP raised this concern: "There is little evidence that charter schools comply with the [sic] all listed federal laws. Special Education oversight is limited." For these shortcomings, which were more than made up for by the "high degree of autonomy" over "personnel policies and qualifications" that charter schools enjoy in Arizona, the reviewer deducted one point, giving it 4 out of 5 points.

There may be even more charter "autonomy" coming Arizona's way. The state's newly elected governor Doug Ducey (R-AZ), who previously served on the Arizona State Charter School Board, "stacked his transitional team with people aligned with charters and school-choice groups," according to the *Arizona Republic*,⁶⁰ and the industry routinely pushes "flexibility."

Shortly after taking office, Ducey issued an executive order to create a task force to overhaul the school finance system, called the "Classrooms First Initiative Council." The members, who were announced in May, are fairly evenly divided between charter and public school representatives; the council "relies heavily on its advisors, most of whom lean strongly towards school choice options," as the *Arizona Republic* put it. These include the Goldwater Institute (which is often presents at ALEC and which is part of the State Policy Network) and the Reason Foundation (which includes David Koch as a Trustee) as well as the "Foundation for Excellence in Education," another pro-charter group previously headed by former governor Jeb Bush.

The first policy recommendations issued by the Council last month would allow charters that receive an "A" on a state "accountability" rating to be exempt from certain financial audits and procurement rules, but they would also require "school-level" reporting of some financial data.

Arizona is spending millions on charters and is about to receive millions more, but it has not insisted that *all* charters follow auditing and procurement rules that are designed to protect taxpayers from financial waste and mismanagement of precious taxpayer dollars.

COLORADO

Colorado has nearly 200 authorized charters with nearly 100,000 students enrolled. More than a dozen charters have closed. Reasons have included sexual misconduct, financial mismanagement, illegal hiring practices, inflated enrollment, and poor academic results.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Colorado up to \$45 million in CSP grants to expand charters, and last month it was approved to receive up to \$36 million in new funding.

The Schools of Choice Office at the Colorado Department of Education responded to CMD's public records requests. Governor John Hickenlooper (D-CO) has not yet provided requested documents regarding communications of his staff with charter advocates.

That state agency is responsible for managing the federal CSP grants by vetting the charter schools applying, and by making sure that those awarded money comply with federal guidelines during the whole grant cycle. It is also tasked with developing guidelines for charter school applications, and with collecting and compiling data on school performance.

CMD's review of emails obtained through its open records request shows that some state officials were solicitous of charters: when schools submitted poor applications they were sometimes given second chances: the issue is not "the quality of their schools but the quality of the application," Gina Schlieman wrote in a November 2013 email.⁶¹

When lobbyists from the Colorado League of Charter Schools (CLCS) in a "confidential" December 2014 meeting discussed draft legislation that would require charter authorizers to submit annual applications in order to advance oversight and accountability, SOC Executive Director Gretchen Morgan would have none of it. "I think that is politically ridiculous, and also creates a giant bureaucratic process... I would go for a more robust process on 5 year cycles."⁶²

As CMD has noted, in 2013, Children's **Kiva Montessori** in Cortez was awarded a \$189,000 start-up grant under the federal CSP program. In October 2014, a former business manager at the school sounded the alarm in a message to the state: **"Does anyone directing the school actually have some knowledge about federal and state employment laws?"**⁶³ He noted:

- "They had no means to actually process and pay a payroll. The CCSP Grant that had been approved is a reimbursement grant and they only had \$1,000 +/- in the bank.
- They had not applied for a Colorado Tax ID.
- They had not applied-for a Colorado Unemployment Insurance Account.
- They did not have a PERA Account.
- They did not have an Employers Liability (Workers Comp) Insurance Policy."

Gina Schlieman said this "is not typical or appropriate" and sent an email to the CLCS as "potential feedback ... to consider for your quality criteria document." CLCS demanded that she rescind the statement "not typical or appropriate." After this industry push back, **Schlieman later responded: "some of this may not be out of the ordinary,** especially depending on the exact wording that covers these areas contractually. Charters are always so interesting!"⁶⁴ (Colorado now notes in its guidelines that charters need to have payroll systems in place.)

The close ties between Colorado regulators and charter advocates remain very troubling.

FLORIDA

Florida landed a CSP grant in 2011 worth up to \$104 million in federal taxpayer money. The state has nearly 650 charters with nearly 250,000 schoolchildren enrolled.

It has one of the worst records in the country in terms of oversight of charters and fraud.

More than 120 charters have closed in the state since it began allowing charters over a decade ago. The reasons have included fraud, severe financial mismanagement, lack of physical safety at the charters, inadequate water, poor academic performance, and more.

Despite this track record, reviewers of the proposed CSP grant chosen by the U.S. Department of Education, waxed lyrical about how Florida charters and authorizers are held to the highest standards of accountability, claiming: the state "provides ample examples to illustrate its commitment to continuously improve upon its already strong processes and procedures to hold accountable their authorizing LEAs ... No weaknesses noted [Score] 20/20." Another federally selected pro-charter reviewer joined in the chorus by asserting how the Florida Department of Education "has taken smart steps to oversee the authorizers in the state."⁶⁵

Strikingly, a 2012 audit by the ED Office of the Inspector General exposed a lack of meaningful oversight and accountability in Florida:

- "None of the three SEAs we examined [Florida, Arizona and California] monitored the authorizing agencies responsible for granting charter school licenses and monitoring charter school progress ... without proper monitoring of authorizing agencies, SEAs have limited ability to ensure authorizers were approving and granting charters to quality charter schools and providing adequate monitoring to them after they opened."⁶⁶

Florida could not "provide a reliable universe of charter schools that received SEA grants nor an accurate list of charter schools that received onsite monitoring, desk audits, or closed during the grant cycle." Florida did not even "track the amount of SEA grant funds charter schools drew down and spent during the grant cycle 2008-2011 ... We could not determine how much SEA grant funding each charter school received and spent because we could not establish a reliable universe."

Although Florida could not determine how much CSP money had been granted to charters (including \$1.9 million awarded to 13 Florida charters that shuttered), federal regulators took no punitive action other than to give Florida officials a homework assignment.

CMD cannot ascertain whether Florida is actually providing sufficient oversight, despite its assurances to the federal government, but it is clear the public is not being given enough information about which charters are getting federal or state money, how much, or how they are spending those funds. CMD's requests for a full list of charter schools that have even received funds in the current CSP grant cycle went unanswered by the state education agency.

Despite the claims of charter proponents that Florida has "strong" processes to hold charter authorizers accountable, independent audits and news reports show it has continued to fail to actually monitor how tax dollars were spent by charters. And the state could not provide critical information about how funds are used by closed charters.

WISCONSIN

In 2009, Wisconsin was awarded up to \$69.7 million in a CSP grant that ran through 2015. As with other states, Wisconsin was praised for the “flexibility” given to charter schools by state law.

Wisconsin was in the first wave of states to approve charter schools, in 1993, through a bill modeled on the “Charter Schools Act” pushed by the American Legislative Exchange Council, which took credit for it being introduced and becoming law. (Governor Tommy Thompson (R-WI) was an early ALEC legislative member, and as governor he became known for numerous “reforms” that later were spawned by ALEC, which Thompson essentially conceded in a public speech years later.)

Initially, Wisconsin capped the number of charters but today it has over 240 charters with nearly 50,000 students enrolled. Earlier this year, Wisconsin expanded who can authorize charters.

More than 90 charters have failed and closed in Wisconsin, including more than two dozen just in Milwaukee alone. The reasons cited for closures include allegations of financial improprieties and fraud, financial mismanagement, poor academic performance, low enrollment, failure to hire enough qualified teachers, and more. Among those failed charters are nearly a dozen, at least, that were federal CSP sub-grantees, as noted in the list below.

CSP SUB-GRANTEES IN WISCONSIN THAT SUBSEQUENTLY CLOSED

Charter School	City/District	CSP grant	Reason Given
Audubon Technology and Communication Center High School	Milwaukee	\$250,000	Contract not renewed (currently a public school)
Banner School of Milwaukee	Milwaukee	\$500,000	Voluntary
Crossroads Academy	Ripon	\$175,000	Contract not renewed
Green Lake Global and Environmental Academy	Green Lake	\$175,000	Low enrollment
Milwaukee Excel High School	Milwaukee	\$200,000	
Montessori High School, an IB World School	Milwaukee	\$125,000	
Shiocton International Leadership Academy	Shiocton	\$350,000	Financial reasons
Tosa School of the Trades	Wauwatosa	\$350,000	Low enrollment
Vesper Community Academy	Vesper	\$200,000	Contract not renewed (financial reasons)
WORK (Where Opportunities Require Knowledge)	Milwaukee	\$250,000	
Total		\$2,575,000	

(Source: ORR to Wisconsin’s Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction charter school lists, newspaper reports)

This chart of closed Wisconsin charters that received CSP SEA grants is incomplete based on the incomplete data provided by the state. It does, however, provide a snapshot of some of the failed charters, which were awarded up to \$2.5 million in federal tax dollars. It is not clear if the schools received all of the funds granted. For example, **“Banner School of Milwaukee closed in its second year of what was a planned five-year contract with the Milwaukee School District.”**

Some of these Wisconsin charters closed due to low attendance, but for others the reasons were not reported or were vague. This points to a continuing weakness in public accountability for charter school spending. There is no mandatory set of requirements for disclosure of reasons why a charter closes or any final accounting to the public about how tax funds were spent. In a state like Wisconsin, with large rural areas with little coverage by state print or TV media, there is little reporting about why some charters have closed.

Reporting does occasionally break through when a state reporter gets a tip about a particular scandal, as with the reports about a Wisconsin voucher (not charter) school whose founders received more than \$2 million in state funds, abruptly closed their school, and were located living in a gated community in Florida.⁶⁷ Similarly, only through news can one see that a charter chain⁶⁸ operating the **Milwaukee Math and Science Academy** (not a CSP grantee) was raided by the FBI for alleged financial crimes and irregularities.⁶⁹ **The public should not have to rely on sporadic news accounts to find out how charters are spending taxpayer funds.**

In Wisconsin, as other states, the poor oversight of charters continues to cause problems.

Yet, in a review of Wisconsin’s CSP application, a pro-charter reviewer chosen by the U.S. Department of Education noted with enthusiasm how state law allowed both non-profit and for-profit organizations to manage charter schools “without needing approval from the state.” The reviewer then praised how this “adds the autonomy of charter schools.”

The office of Governor Walker is continuing to stall in providing public records sought by CMD regarding its communications with charter school advocates and the state education agency has not yet provided records that were approved. (CMD is in a lawsuit with the Governor over his refusal to provide other documents relating to state education and budget policies.)

An audit obtained by CMD sheds some light, however, finding that chunks of the federal charter money had been sub-granted to religious educators in the state. Or rather, some tax monies had been funneled to one-time religious schools, but they have since “converted” to charter status so as to be eligible for the funding. There has been no in-depth investigation of whether such conversions affect the content of the instruction of students or not.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction raised concerns with the authorizer—the **Common Council of Milwaukee**—and received assurances that “the newly created charter [schools] would be non-sectarian,” in the words of the federal audit, but there is no evidence that the state has taken steps to conduct inspections to make sure that instruction is non-sectarian.

Wisconsin has also opened the doors to “virtual schools,” like K12, Inc., which advertises heavily in the state. Yet more than 90% of K12’s nearly a billion in annual revenue are from tax dollars, so in effect taxes are being used to subsidize K12’s marketing. For-profit firms have a primary duty is to Wall Street shareholders, not to students.

Wisconsin’s record on charters, as with the other states, shows continuing failures in strong oversight by the state along with some agency capture by pro-charter advocates.

DC

Charter schools in the nation's capital have fared no better than charters nationwide in terms of their performance and inadequate controls, despite operating down the street from the U.S. Department of Education.

In 2010, the office of the DC schools superintendent landed a CSP grant worth up to \$17 million. In 2015, Washington, DC, landed another \$20.2 million grant under CSP. (The charter school authorizer in the district is the "Public Charter School Board.")

As of the end of the 2013 school year, DC had 57 charters on 106 campuses. Yet, the capital had also had more than half as many (30) charters close. DC charters have closed for the usual reasons: poor learning conditions, financial mismanagement, health and safety concerns, inadequate enrollment, and poor academic performance.

Despite these problems, money that would otherwise go to public schools has continued to be re-directed to charters. And, proponents continue to tout the "flexibility" of DC's charter school law, which exempts charters from most statutes and policies that are in place to protect students and teachers at public schools. Despite DC's track record, pro-charter reviewers chosen by the U.S. Department of Education to review applications for CSP funding to expand charters have claimed that DC is held to the highest standards of accountability:

"[The law] shows a commitment to allow Charter Schools maximum flexibility to create and deliver a program that is not hampered by laws and regulations." Another reviewer stated: "The applicant has demonstrated a high degree of flexibility afforded to its charter school under the State's charter school law. This is evidenced by charter school exemption from 'States, policies, rules and regulations' ... established for public schools." In another part, one reviewer claimed that DC's charter program shows that it "has a high probability of meeting its ambitious vision."

The reality, based on audit materials and other public records, tells a different story:

- In 2013, the DC Attorney General sued three former managers at **Options Charter School** for diverting \$3 million in taxpayer money to for-profit companies they were in charge of. The school was forced to shutter in 2015, but the case is still pending.
- In 2014, the Attorney General sued the founder of **Dorothy Height I. Community Academy**, Kent Amos, arguing that he had created a shell management company that billed the school \$13 millions for work carried out by school employees.
- In May 2015, Amos agreed to settle the lawsuit for \$3 million. In 2013, the *Washington Post* reports, both schools had passed with flying colors after their authorizer, the "Public Charter School Board" looked at their books asserting that there were "no patterns of financial mismanagement," the official oversight report stated. (Before this, back in 2010, Arne Duncan praised Amos for his success and thanked him for his "leadership."⁷⁰)

DC's record on charters, as with the other states, shows continuing failures in oversight by the District and how the ongoing affinity for "flexibility" that have allowed fraud, waste, and financial mismanagement to continue to plague charters, whose academic performance also fails to justify continued and increased charter expenditures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of CMD's investigation more is known about spending on charters by the U.S. Department of Education, which has also promised to provide more information about charters that are sub-grantees of its grants to expand charters.

However, this investigation reveals huge and continuing gaps in information provided to the public about federal and state tax dollars received by charters and how American taxpayer money is being spent. In response to these severe gaps, CMD makes the following recommendations:

1. The U.S. Department of Education should publish a list of all charter schools that were awarded federal CSP SEA or other program grant money, each year with the amount allotted.
2. The U.S. Department of Education should condition approval of CSP SEA grants on requirements that each state annually publishing key spending information about each charter:
 - A. Required information should be included on a website—including annual budgets, the compensation of key charter staff, the value of any real assets acquired, and information about their top five contractors (whether the charter is public, quasi-public, private, or for-profit).
 - B. Disbursements, after the first, should be contingent on full compliance with such annual public disclosures.
3. The U.S. Department of Education should require that it be notified of any CSP grant awardee that never opens or that closes voluntarily or closes for any other reason, and the public should be provided with a full and final accounting of how all taxpayer funds received were spent by the charter.
4. The U.S. Department of Education should diversify the qualifications of grant reviewers to include educators or administrators from traditional public schools and school boards in the pool of evaluators of CSP SEA proposals.
5. The U.S. Department of Education should provide the public with notice that a state education agency has applied for a CSP grant and allow sufficient time for the public to comment.

ADDENDIX I: TIMELINE OF CMD FOIA REQUESTS

On December 2, 2014, CMD submitted 33 Freedom of Information Act requests for all records generated between 2007 and 2014 pertaining to applications for funding and disbursement of grants under the Charter School Program umbrella. In a conference call with officials with ED's FOIA Center and the Office of Innovation and Improvement, CMD was told that these records would be forthcoming: ED would provide CMD with "all attendant materials that goes with the decision-making process," including email communication between ED and state education departments. CMD would also receive a complete list of all charter schools that received state (SEA) grants.

"We will honor your request," James Hyler with the Office of Management told CMD.

In the months that followed, as Congress began debating an Obama administration request to increase funding for charter schools, the promised list did not materialize.

The agency also refused to provide CMD with public records regarding communications between federal and state officials about charter school grants and oversight, claiming it was doing so to keep secret "information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy," citing 5. U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6). This kind of blanket refusal to release correspondence about matters plainly of public concern—and not focused at all on any personal, non-work related communications of officials—is overbroad and underscores the continuing lack of meaningful transparency surrounding charters. (CMD is considering litigation to obtain compliance with its FOIA requests.)

In July 2015, CMD submitted two new requests for a list of charter school sub-grantees under the CSP 2010-2015 CSP SEA grant cycle and all state applications for 2015 CSP grant funding.

This time, ED did disclose a list of individual sub-grantees in the ten states that were awarded CSP grants between 2010 and 2015. That is, the federal agency released a list of all of the charter schools in those states that received federal monies; they are sub-grantees by way of the state and they have been "authorized" to be charters by entities approved by the state.

That PDF was partly illegible and needed to be transcribed by hand. However, it was—as far as CMD can tell—the only complete public list of the charter schools receiving federal funds in recent years. It also includes the amount of money these have received.

However, ED's FOIA Public Liaison officer glossed over the request for applications in his "final response" letter. The Ohio data-rigging scandal had erupted, and the state's highest charter school official, David Hansen, had been forced to resign. CMD believed that it was in the public interest to know whether Hansen was behind the application, and whether the application contained the "scrubbed" performance data that did not give a true picture of Ohio's charter school industry, and might lead to tens of millions in tax money being granted improvidently.

CMD noted "the enclosed files do not contain any documents responsive to the first part of the request (viz. All state applications for 2015 CSP SEA grant funding). Will these be forthcoming?" ED deemed that the public did not have a stake in all of this while the industry insiders were deliberating: "The competition for the SEA just closed and the program office is currently deliberating on which applications will receive awards. I believe we are not in a position to release the applications at this time. After we announce the awards, we will post all successful applications on our website." (CMD also filed numerous state open records requests.)

APPENDIX II: SELECT CMD ARTICLES ABOUT CHARTERS

[Special Report: Feds Spent \\$3.3 Billion Fueling Charter Schools but No One Knows What It's Really Bought](#)

[CMD Publishes Full List of 2,500 Closed Charter Schools \(with Interactive Map\)](#)

[Nearly 2,500 Bridges to Nowhere: Congress Considers Expanding Charter Program Despite Millions Wasted on Closed Schools](#)

[Feds Spent \\$3.3 Billion on Charter Schools, with Few Controls \(Part 1\)](#)

[Lack of Oversight of Charter Schools Designed as a Plus; \\$3.3+ Billion Spent \(Part 2\)](#)

[Charter School "Flexibility" Linked to Major Failures; \\$3.3+ Billion in Taxes Spent \(Part 3\)](#)

[Accountability? How Overseers Let Charters off the Hook; \\$3.3 Billion Spent \(Part 4\)](#)

[Charter Industry Strong-Arms Public Officials; \\$3.3 Billion Spent \(Part 5\)](#)

[With Federal Millions, "Wild West" of Charters Is about to Get Even Wilder](#)

[Exclusive: Bankruptcy Is a "Huge Opportunity" to Privatize Schools Says EdBuild](#)

[Unprecedented School Voucher Expansion Planned](#)

[Secrecy Surrounds Half Billion Handout to Charters](#)

[Back to ALEC, Back to \(Private\) School](#)

[Good Money after Bad, WI GOP Demands More For-Profit Schools](#)

[Four Ways ALEC Tried to Ruin Your State This Year](#)

[Feds Awarded Colorado Charter Schools \\$46 Million because of "Hiring and Firing" Rules](#)

[ALEC Admits School Vouchers Are for Kids in Suburbia](#)

[Charter Program Expansion Looms Despite Probes into Mismanagement and Closed Schools](#)

[Devastating Walker Budget to Be Finalized](#)

[ALEC Wants to Educate High Schoolers on Balanced Budgets and Austerity](#)

[Walker Budget Sneaks Major Policy Changes Past Education Agency](#)

[Vouchers on the Move: Return to School Segregation?](#)

[Billionaires Push ALEC Agenda in Minneapolis School Board Election](#)

[An Embattled ALEC, Buoyed by Election Results, Lays Blueprint for 2015](#)

[ALEC Agenda: Gutting Medicaid, Privatizing Schools, LNG Exports](#)

In addition to these recent articles by the Center for Media and Democracy published on its PRWatch.org site, CMD maintains profiles on select charter school chains like K12 and Connections Academy as well as other ALEC corporations, trade groups, and politicians on its wiki platforms, its SourceWatch.org and ALECexposed.org websites, respectively.

See also: CMD's SourceWatch entries on K12 and Connections Academy via http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/Portal:Outsourcing_America_Exposed

And, CMD's ALECexposed.org resources on public schools via http://www.alecexposed.org/wiki/Privatizing_Public_Education,_Higher_Ed_Policy,_and_Teachers

APPENDIX III: CMD's CALCULATION OF FEDERAL TAXES SPENT TO CREATE OR EXPAND CHARTER SCHOOLS

Year	CSP SEA Grants (New and Continuation)	CSP non-SEA	CSP non-SEA dissemination	CSP grants for replications and expansions	National Leadership Activities Grants	Charter School Exemplary Collaboration Awards	Credit Enhancement for Charter Schools Facilities Program	State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants
2015	\$153,970,269	\$6,133,851		\$32,408,517	\$4,123,072		\$13,000,000	\$9,000,000
2014	\$144,653,280	\$7,496,862		\$26,500,000			\$11,930,392	\$11,000,000
2013	\$208,581,863	\$5,271,863	\$253,361				\$13,000,000	\$10,000,000
2012	\$183,833,559	\$6,098,584	\$318,941	\$14,415,612	\$1,914,881	\$618,243	\$11,035,836	\$12,000,000
2011	\$189,857,470	\$6,613,837	\$502,181	\$25,000,000	\$3,816,619		\$9,983,395	\$13,000,000
2010	\$166,112,995	\$6,380,417	\$374,727	\$50,000,000	\$3,577,233		\$8,300,000	\$14,782,000
2009	\$184,836,034	\$4,140,054					\$8,262,977	\$14,782,000
2008	\$175,346,562	\$6,505,401			\$5,305,972		\$8,300,000	\$12,731,000
2007	\$184,710,219	\$6,043,685	\$151,078		\$5,741,890		\$36,531,246	\$14,782,480
2006	\$186,083,634	\$8,525,680	\$295,190		\$7,244,000		\$36,611,190	\$14,782,480
2005	\$166,306,559	\$4,368,138	\$282,810		\$4,909,001		\$36,658,128	\$16,952,384
2004	\$183,718,121	\$3,186,956	\$129,820		\$5,027,492		\$37,278,750	\$18,702,000
2003	\$202,217,654	\$5,747,185	\$865,383		\$4,725,611		\$24,776,492	
2002	\$175,650,317	\$9,458,685	\$452,600				\$24,962,499	
2001	\$152,929,271							
2000	\$122,355,649							
1999	\$100,645,049							
1998	\$73,114,511							
1997	\$43,145,921							
1996	\$21,150,221							
1995	4,539,548							
1994								
1993								
1992								
1991								
Total	\$3,023,758,706	\$85,971,198	\$3,626,091	\$148,324,129	\$46,385,771	\$618,243	\$267,630,905	\$153,514,344
Total CSP	\$3,729,829,387							

Explanation:

The Federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) was created in 1994, as an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Federal funding began in 1995 with the CSP SEA grants.

CSP SEA grants (84.282A): "This program provides funds to plan and art new charter schools and disseminate information about existing charters in states with charter school laws. The U.S. Department of Education makes grants directly to a state's department of education (or comparable state department), which then sub-grants the funds to charter schools within its state. This program receives the largest portion of any CSP grant competition."

1995-2013: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/funding.html>

CSP non-SEA grants (84.282B): "This program allows individual charter schools to apply directly to the Department for start-up funds. Applicants must be from charter schools in states in which the SEA does not have an approved application from CSP under 84.282A (or will not have an approved application under 84.282A) as of the start date for the grant." 2002-2012:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea/funding.html>

CSP non-SEA dissemination grants (84.282C): "This program provides funds for established charter schools to disseminate information about their best practices. As with 84.282 B, applicants must be from charter schools in states in which the SEA does not have an approved application from CSP under 84.282A (or will not have an approved application under 84.282A) as of the start date for the grant."

2013: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea-dissemination/2013awards.html>

2012: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea-dissemination/2012awards.html>

2011: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea-dissemination/2011awards.html>

2010: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea-dissemination/2010awards.html>

2002-2007: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charternonsea-dissemination/2002-2007awards.html>

CSP grants for replications and expansion of high-quality charter (84.282M): “This program provides funds to non-profits, including charter management organizations, to replicate and expand high-quality charter schools.” 2010-2014: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter-rehqcs/funding.html>

National Leadership Activities Grants (84.282N): “This program provides funds for eligible non-profit organizations to run charter school projects of national significance.” 2003-2012: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter-nationalleadership/funding.html>

Charter School Exemplary Collaboration Awards (84.282P): “This program awards high-quality public charter schools that partner with non-chartered public schools and non-chartered Local Education Agencies [LEAs] to share best educational and operational practices, and to disseminate information about these practices. The funds must be used to continue or expand the collaborations, as well as for dissemination.” 2012 only: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter-collaboration/funding.html>

Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities Program (84.354A): “This program awards high-quality public charter schools that partner with non-chartered public schools and non-chartered Local Education Agencies to share best educational and operational practices, and to disseminate information about these practices. The funds must be used to continue or expand the collaborations, as well as for dissemination.” 2001-2013: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charterfacilities/funding.html>

State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants (84.282D): “Grants are available to help states establish or enhance and administer 'per-pupil facilities aid' for charter schools, which allows states to make payments for charter school facilities based on a formula that takes into account the number of pupils enrolled.” 2004-2013: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/statecharter/funding.html>

Non-CSP Federal Funding Sources:

\$80 billion has been allocated to states under the federal Title 1A grant since 2007, an unknown amount of which has gone towards funding charters.

\$122 billion has been allocated to states under federal **The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B** since 2005, an unknown amount of which has gone towards funding charters.

\$8.7 billion has been allocated to states under the federal **Race to the Top** Grant competition since 2009, an unknown amount of which has gone towards funding charters.

\$2 billion has been allocated to states under the federal **Investing in Innovation Fund** since 2010, an unknown amount of which has gone toward funding charters.

Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies (Title I, Part A)

2007-2011: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/funding.html>

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B

Federal special education funds are distributed through three state grant programs and several discretionary grant programs. Part B of the law, the main program, authorizes grants to state and local education agencies to offset part of the costs of the K-12 education needs of children with disabilities. Part B State Allocation Tables 2004-2014: <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/data/award/idea/index.html>

Race to the Top

3 Phases: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/funding.html>

Early Learning Challenge: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/funding.html>

The Investing in Innovation Fund (i3)

Established under section 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides funding to support (1) local educational agencies (LEAs) and (2) nonprofit organizations in partnership with (a) one or more LEAs or (b) a consortium of schools. 2010-2014:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/funding.html>

APPENDIX IV: LIST OF CSP CHARTER SUBGRANTEES BY STATE

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN ARKANSAS 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Blytheville High School: A New Tech School	\$483,000
Brunson New Vision Charter School	\$483,000
Cloverdale Aerospace Technology Conversion	\$50,647
Cross County Elementary	\$600,000
Cross County New Tech High School	\$600,000
Eastside New Vision Charter School	\$600,000
Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock	\$600,000
Fountain Lake Middle School Cobra Digital	\$600,000
KIPP Delta College Preparatory	\$25,000
Lincoln Academic Center of Excellence	\$150,000
Lincoln High School New Tech	\$599,952
Lincoln Middle Academy of Excellence	\$50,355
LISA Academy of North Little Rock	\$25,000
Miner Academy	\$483,000
Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy	\$483,000
Osceola STEM Academy	\$600,000
Pea Ridge Manufacturing and Business Academy	\$600,000
Pine Bluff Lighthouse Charter School	\$600,000
Premier High School of Little Rock	\$483,000
Quest Middle School of Pine Bluff	\$483,000
Rogers New Technology High School	\$483,000
SIA Tech Little Rock	\$410,000
The Academy at Jonesboro High	\$483,000
The Academy at West Memphis	\$600,000
Warren Middle School	\$600,000
Washington Academy	\$483,000
Total	\$11,657,954

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN CALIFORNIA 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Abernathy Collegiate Charter School	\$375,000
Acacia Elementary Charter	\$575,000
Acacia Middle Charter	\$575,000
The Academy of Alameda Elementary School	\$327,400
Academy of Arts and Sciences: Del Mar Elementary (K-5)	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: Del Mar Elementary (6-12)	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: El Cajon Middle and High (6-12)	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: El Cajon (K-5)	\$250,000

Academy of Arts and Sciences: Fresno	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: Los Angeles (9-12)	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: Los Angeles (K-8)	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: Oxnard & Ventura	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: San Joaquin	\$375,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: Sonoma	\$250,000
Academy of Arts and Sciences: Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley	\$250,000
Academy of Science and Engineering	\$575,000
ACE Charter High School	\$575,000
ACE Charter Middle School: Alum Rock (changed name to ACE Alum Rock)	\$575,000
ACE Charter Middle School: Franklin-McKinley	\$575,000
ACE Charter Middle: San Jose Unified	\$575,000
Albert Einstein Academy for Letters Arts and Sciences	\$398,489
Albert Einstein Academy for Letters Arts and Sciences: Agua Dulce	\$575,000
Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts and Sciences: Endeavour Academy (changed name to Endeavour Academy)	\$375,000
Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts and Sciences: San Fernando Valley (aka AEA Odyssey)	\$575,000
Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts and Sciences: Santa Clarita K-5 (aka AEA Elementary)	\$575,000
Albert Einstein Academy for Letters, Arts and Sciences: Ventura County	\$375,000
All Tribes Elementary Charter	\$575,000
Almond Acres Charter Academy	\$575,000
Alpha Middle School 2 (changed name to Alphas: Jose Hernandez Middle)	\$575,000
Alpha Blanca Alvarado Middle	\$575,000
Alta Vista Community Charter	\$575,000
Alta Vista Public Charter	\$321,488
America's Finest Charter School	\$575,000
[] Academy Charter High	\$321,488
Animo Charter Middle No. 1 (changed name to Animo Ellen Ochoa Charter Middle)	\$575,000
Animo Jefferson Charter Middle	\$575,000
Animo Locke ACE	\$150,000
Antecello Preparatory Academy	\$575,000
APEX Academy	\$575,000
Apple Academy Charter Public	\$575,000
Ararat Charter School	\$546,489
Architecture, Construction & Engineering Charter High School	\$350,000
Arts in Action	\$575,000
ASCEND	\$575,000
Aspire Alexander Twilight College Preparatory	\$306,258
Aspire Eres Academy	\$337,500
Aspire Titan Academy	\$306,250
Aspire Vanguard College Preparatory Academy	\$275,000
Assurance Learning Academy	\$375,000
Audeo Charter	\$250,000

B. Roberto Cruz Leadership Academy	\$575,000
Ballington Academy for the Arts and Sciences	\$150,000
Bay View Academy	\$375,000
Bella Mente Montessori	\$575,000
Film and Theatre Arts Charter High School (changed name to Los Angeles Big Picture High)	\$150,000
Birmingham Community Charter High School	\$425,000
Bridges Charter School	\$521,489
CAL STEM: San Joaquin	\$250,000
Caliber Beta Academy	\$575,000
California College, Career, and Technical Education Center	\$266,833
California Heritage YouthBuild Academy	\$575,000
California Montessori Project: Capitol Campus	\$250,000
California Pacific Charter School North- Central California (previously Kaplan)	\$225,000
California Pacific Charter School of Central California (previously Kaplan)	\$225,000
California Pacific Charter School of San Francisco Bay (previously Kaplan)	\$225,000
Camino Nuevo High No. 2	\$575,000
Camino Science and Natural Resources	\$375,000
Capitol Collegiate Academy	\$575,000
Carden Virtual Academy (changed name to The Academy of the Inland Empire)	\$375,000
Celerity Cardinal Charter	\$575,000
Celerity Exa Charter	\$575,000
Celerity Octavia Charter	\$575,000
Celerity Palmati Charter	\$575,000
Celerity Sirius Charter	\$575,000
Center for Learning and Unlimited Educational Success (CLUES)	\$575,000
Chico Green School	\$225,000
Ciela Vista Charter	\$375,000
Citizens of the World 2	\$575,000
Citizens of the World 3	\$575,000
Citizens of the World Charter: Hollywood	\$521,489
City Charter Elementary (changed name to City Language Immersion Charter)	\$575,000
City Charter Middle	\$575,000
City Heights Preparatory	\$575,000
Clayton Valley Charter High	\$375,000
Clear Passage Educational Center	\$575,000
Clemente Charter	\$575,000
Clovis Online Charter School	\$50,000
Colfax Charter Academy	\$75,000
College Bridge Academy	\$575,000
College Preparatory Middle	\$546,489
College Ready Academy High School	\$465,000
College Ready Middle Academy #4	\$250,000
College Ready Middle Academy #5	\$250,000

College Ready Middle Academy #7	\$455,000
Community Charter High	\$375,000
Community Montessori	\$250,000
Community Preparatory Academy	\$575,000
Community Roots Academy	\$375,000
Community School for Creative Education	\$575,000
Connect Community Charter	\$575,000
CORE Place Charter	\$205,000
Cornerstone Academy Preparatory	\$546,489
Coronado Pathways	\$250,000
Cottonwood Creek Charter	\$250,000
County Collaborative Charter	\$250,000
Credo High School	\$375,000
Crescent Valley Public Charter	\$321,489
Crescent View South Charter	\$321,489
Crown Preparatory Academy	\$575,000
Crown Ridge Academy	\$412,506
Da Vinci Charter Academy	\$52,500
Denair Academic Avenues	\$150,000
Desert Trails Preparatory Academy	\$321,489
Design Tech High	\$575,000
Diego Hills Charter	\$375,000
Discovery Charter	\$225,000
Discovery Charter II	\$282,000
Dixon Montessori Charter	\$375,000
Downtown Charter Academy	\$396,489
E3 Civic High (Downtown Charter High)	\$575,000
Downtown College Prep: Alum Rock	\$575,000
Downtown College Preparatory	\$575,000
Downtown College Preparatory Middle	\$250,000
Dr. Lewis Dolphin Stallworth Senior Charter School	\$575,000
East Bay Innovation Academy	\$250,000
EJE Middle Academy	\$575,000
Elevate Elementary	\$150,000
Empire Springs Charter	\$375,000
Empower Charter	\$250,000
Endeavor College Preparatory	\$575,000
Environmental Charter Middle School	\$150,000
Environmental Charter Middle - Inglewood	\$546,488
Environmental Sciences and Technology High School (now Alliance Environmental Science and Technology)	\$150,000
EPIC Charter	\$575,000
Epiphany Prep Charter	\$575,000
Equitas Academy	\$150,000
Equitas Academy #2	\$575,000
eScholar Academy (Tahama eLearning Academy)	\$243,300
Evangeline Roberts Institute of Learning	\$473,871
Everest Public High School	\$125,000

Excel Prep Charter	\$350,000
Excel Prep Charter – IE	\$375,000
Executive Preparatory Academy of Finance	\$575,000
Extera Public School	\$575,000
Extera Public School #2	\$575,000
Family First Charter	\$575,000
Father's Heart Charter School	\$575,000
Fenton Academy for Social and Emotional Learning	\$375,000
Fenton STEM Academy	\$575,000
Fernando Pullum Performing Arts High School	\$575,000
Foothill Leadership Academy	\$575,000
Fortune School	\$575,000
Fresno Academy for Civic and Entrepreneurial Leadership	\$75,000
Futuro College Preparatory	\$350,000
Gateway College and Career Academy	\$375,000
Gateway International	\$575,000
Gateway Middle School	\$575,000
Gilroy Prep School	\$575,000
Global Education Academy 2	\$575,000
Global Education Academy Middle	\$375,000
Goethe International Charter School	\$187,500
Golden Lakes Charter School	\$375,000
Golden Lakes Charter School at LaGrange	\$375,000
Golden Oak Montessori of Hayward	\$150,000
Garden State Virtual Academy (formerly Mount Whitney Virtual Academy)	\$375,000
Golden Valley Virtual Charter School	\$375,000
Gompers Preparatory Academy	\$100,000
Great Valley Academy: Manteca	\$375,000
Green Valley Charter	\$575,000
Grimmway Academy	\$575,000
Harbor Springs Charter	\$250,000
Hardy Brown College Prep	\$400,000
Health Sciences High	\$249,960
Health Sciences Middle	\$575,000
Health Services Academy High School (now Alliance Health Services Academy High)	\$150,000
High Tech Elementary Chula Vista	\$375,000
High Tech Elementary North County	\$375,000
High Tech Middle Chula Vista	\$375,000
High Tech Middle North County	\$162,500
Highland Academy Charter School	\$375,000
Highland Community Charter School	\$575,000
Hollister Prep	\$575,000
Howard Gardner Community Charter School	\$375,000
Humphreys College Academy of Business, Law and Education	\$575,000
ICEF - Inglewood Elementary Charter Academy	\$365,000
ICEF - Inglewood Middle Charter Academy	\$365,000
Iftin University Prep High School	\$412,500

iLEAD Lancaster Charter School	\$575,000
Imagine School at Imperial Valley	\$400,000
Imagine School at Riverside County	\$575,000
Ingenium Charter	\$535,000
Ingenium Charter Middle School	\$575,000
Inspire School of Arts and Sciences	\$497,436
Intellectual Virtues Academy of Long Beach	\$375,000
International High School of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics	\$575,000
Ipakanni Early College Charter School	\$521,489
IvyTech Charter School	\$321,489
John Adams Academy	\$521,489
Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy	\$575,000
Kavod Elementary Charter School	\$375,000
Keegan Academy	\$200,000
Kepler Neighborhood School	\$575,000
King-Chavez Arts Academy	\$248,249
KIPP Comienza Community Prep	\$546,489
KIPP Empower Academy	\$546,489
Knowledge Enlightens You (KEY) Academy	\$575,000
Lakeview Charter High School	\$575,000
Lashon Academy	\$575,000
Laurel Preparatory Academy	\$375,000
Laurel Tree Charter	\$375,000
LaVerne Elementary Preparatory Academy	\$52,506
Lazear Charter Academy	\$575,000
Leadership Public Schools: Hayward	\$239,297
Learning Without Limits	\$575,000
Learning Works Charter School	\$239,193
Leonardo DaVinci Health Sciences Charter School	\$187,500
Life Source International Charter School	\$575,000
Lighthouse Charter	\$575,000
Lighthouse Community Charter High	\$250,000
Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School	\$250,000
Los Angeles Leadership Primary Academy	\$575,000
Latina College Prep III (chnaged name to Luis Valdez Leadership Academy)	\$575,000
MAAC Community Charter	\$250,001
Magnolia Science Academy: 7	\$325,000
Magnolia Science Academy: Santa Clara	\$400,000
Mandarin Language Academy	\$425,000
Math and Science College Prep	\$575,000
Math and Science College Prep East	\$575,000
Meadows Arts and Technology Elementary School	\$425,000
Media Arts and Entertainment High School (now Alliance Media Arts)	\$150,000
Mercury Online Academy of Southern California	\$100,000
Method (changed name to MethodSchools)	\$250,000
Metro Charter School	\$575,000
Millennium Charter High School	\$375,000

Mission Preparatory School	\$575,000
Morris E. Dailey Elementary Charter School	\$546,489
Mountain Peak Charter School	\$150,000
Natomas Pacific Pathways Prep Middle School	\$275,000
NEA Community Learning Center	\$75,000
New Designs Charter School-Watts	\$408,525
New Horizons Charter Academy	\$375,000
New Spirit Charter Academy	\$575,000
New Vision Middle School	\$150,000
New West Charter	\$250,000
NOVA Academy of Coachella Valley	\$546,489
Nueva Esperanza Charter Academy	\$150,000
Oak Park Preparatory Academy	\$575,000
Old Town Academy K-8 Charter	\$575,000
one.Charter	\$546,489
Optimist Charter	\$575,000
Orange County Conservation Corps Charter	\$575,000
Oxford Preparatory Academy	\$250,000
Oxford Preparatory Academy: Chino Valley	\$546,489
Oxford Preparatory Academy: South Orange County	\$375,000
Pacific American Academy	\$350,000
Pacific Technology School: Orangevale	\$52,500
Paragon Collegiate Academy	\$212,500
Paramount Academy (Paramount Bard Academy)	\$581,338
Pathways Community	\$150,000
Peak to Peak Mountain Charter	\$575,000
Pivot Online Charter: North Bay	\$575,000
Prepa Tec Los Angeles	\$196,489
PUC Community Center Elementary School	\$575,000
RAAMP Charter Academy	\$575,000
REACH Charter School	\$150,000
REACH Leadership Academy	\$375,000
REALM Charter High School	\$575,000
REALM Middle School	\$575,000
Redwood Coast Montessori	\$375,000
Redwood Preparatory Charter School	\$375,000
Renew Virtual Academy K12 #1	\$375,000
□ Academy	\$575,000
Richmond Charter Academy	\$575,000
Richmond Charter Elementary School (changed name to Richmond Charter Elementary - Benito Juarez)	\$575,000
Rio Valley Charter	\$375,000
Rise Kohyang Middle School	\$575,000
Rising Sun Montessori School	\$375,000
River Islands Technology Academy	\$375,000
River Montessori Elementary Charter School	\$187,500
River Oaks Academy	\$250,000
Riverside County Education Academy	\$575,000
Rocketship Los Suenos Academy	\$425,000

Rocklin Academy Gateway	\$375,000
Rowland Heights Charter Academy	\$375,000
San Diego Cooperative Charter School 2	\$375,000
San Diego Global Vision Academy	\$546,489
San Diego Global Vision Academy Middle School	\$575,000
San Francisco Flex Academy	\$575,000
San Joaquin Building Futures Academy	\$546,489
Santa Rosa Academy	\$193,891
Santa Rosa Charter Academy (PUC)	\$150,000
Science and Technology Academy at Knights Landing	\$521,489
Sherman Thomas Charter School	\$125,000
Sherwood Montessori	\$381,087
Sierra Academy of Expeditionary Learning	\$575,000
Sierra Expeditionary Learning School	\$575,000
Sierra Foothill Charter School	\$375,000
Silicon Valley Flex Academy	\$575,000
Silver Oak High Public Montessori Charter	\$375,000
Spring Creek Matanzas Charter	\$425,000
Squaw Valley Preparatory	\$375,000
St. HOPE Public School 7	\$608,285
Stephen W. Hawking Charter	\$375,000
Stephen W. Hawking Charter II	\$575,000
Stockton Collegiate International Elementary School	\$350,000
Stockton Collegiate International Secondary School	\$350,000
Stockton Unified Early College Academy	\$150,000
STREAM Charter School	\$575,000
Summit Preparatory Charter High School	\$575,000
Summit Public School K2	\$575,000
Summit Public School: Denali	\$575,000
Summit Public School: Rainier	\$575,000
Summit Public School: Shasta	\$575,000
Summit Public School: Tahoma	\$575,000
Sunrise Middle School	\$375,000
Sycamore Academy of Science and Cultural Arts	\$187,500
Sycamore Valley Academy	\$575,000
Synergy	\$575,000
Synergy Charter Academy	\$217,055
Taft T. Newman Leadership Academy	\$575,000
Taylion High Desert Academy/Adelanto	\$375,000
Taylion San Diego Academy	\$250,000
TEACH Academy of Technologies	\$546,488
TEACH Tech High	\$250,000
TEAM Charter School	\$575,000
The Academy	\$575,000
The Education Corps	\$575,000
The Heights Charter	\$250,000
The Palmdale Aerospace Academy	\$575,000
Three Rivers Charter School	\$375,000
Today's First Start Charter School Inglewood	\$234,375

Truman Charter High School	\$575,000
Trivium Charter	\$250,000
University Preparatory High School	\$150,000
Urban Corps of San Diego County Charter	\$589,889
Urban Montessori Charter Schools	\$575,000
Urban Village Middle	\$575,000
USC Hybrid High	\$575,000
Valley Charter Elementary School	\$575,000
Valley Charter Middle	\$575,000
Valley Life Charter	\$375,000
Valley View Charter Prep	\$375,000
Valor Academy Charter School	\$150,000
Valley Academy High	\$575,000
Value Schools K-8 No. 2	\$375,000
Village Charter Academy	\$575,000
Vincent Academy	\$575,000
Visalia Charter Independent Study	\$277,393
Visions Academy Charter	\$375,000
Vista Charter Middle	\$575,000
Walden Academy	\$575,000
Walls Learning Center Charter Middle School	\$472,489
Westchester Secondary Charter	\$375,000
Western Center Academy	\$475,000
Western Sierra Collegiate Academy	\$52,508
Westlake Charter Middle School	\$575,000
Westside Innovative School House	\$386,489
Westside Innovative School House Secondary Charter	\$575,000
Wildflower Open Classroom K-8 Charter School	\$575,000
Willis Elementary Charter School	\$375,000
Woodland Polytechnic Academy	\$575,000
Wright Charter School	\$250,000
Yav Pem Suab Academy	\$546,489
YouthBuild Charter School of California Central	\$546,489
Yu Ming Charter School	\$375,000
Total	\$154,418,561

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN COLORADO 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Academy 360	\$430,000
Addenbrooke Classical Academy	\$393,000
Aspen Ridge Preparatory	\$586,600
Aspen View Academy	\$430,000
Atlas Preparatory School	\$430,000
Ben Franklin Academy	\$586,600

Children's Kiva Montessori	\$189,000
Colorado Early Colleges - Fort Collins	\$585,000
Colorado Early Colleges - Douglas County	\$196,500
Denver Language School	\$586,600
Downtown Denver Expeditionary School	\$430,000
DSST - Byers Middle School	\$196,500
DSST - Cole Middle School	\$585,000
Fort Collins Montessori School	\$196,500
Foundations Academy	\$585,000
Girls Athletic Leadership School	\$196,500
Global Village Academy - Northglenn	\$605,000
Global Village Academy - Colorado Springs	\$430,000
Global Village Academy - Fort Collins	\$393,000
Highline Academy at Green Valley Ranch	\$195,500
James Irwin Charter Academy	\$430,000
Juniper Ridge Community School	\$393,000
Loveland Classical Schools	\$588,200
Monarch Montessori of Denver	\$393,000
Montessori Del Mundo	\$393,000
Mountain Middle School	\$586,600
Mountain Sage Community School	\$430,000
Mountain Song Community School	\$430,000
New Legacy Charter High School	\$160,000
Prospect Ridge Academy	\$585,000
Prospect Ridge Academy High School	\$196,500
Rocky Mountain Preparatory	\$645,000
Sims-Fayola International Academy	\$588,200
SOAR at Oakland	\$586,600
STEM Middle and High School	\$586,600
Strive Prep Green Valley Ranch	\$585,000
Strive Prep Montbello	\$585,000
Strive Prep SW Elementary	\$196,500
Two Rivers Community School	\$196,500
Union Colony Elementary School	\$588,200
University Preparatory School	\$626,600
Vanguard Classical School East	\$215,000
Total	\$18,210,800

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN DC 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Award
AppleTree	\$148,235
BASIS DC	\$715,000
Briya Public Charter	\$59,495
Capital City	\$200,000

Center City	\$184,435
The Children's Guild DC	\$215,000
Creative Minds	\$715,000
DC Scholars	\$715,000
DC Hebrew	\$698,520
Harmony DC	\$215,000
Howard University Middle School	\$194,305
Ingenuity	\$700,000
Inspired Teaching Demonstration	\$700,000
Lee Montessori	\$470,000
Monument Academy	\$215,000
Mundo Verde Bilingual	\$700,000
Rocketship	\$215,000
Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts	\$700,000
Shining Stars Montessori Academy	\$678,650
Somerset Cambridge	\$688,520
Washington Global	\$215,000
Washington Yu Ying	\$200,000
Total	\$9,542,160

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN GEORGIA 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Atlanta Classical Academy	\$650,000
Brighten Academy	\$517,680
Cairo Charter High School	\$375,000
Charles R. Drew Charter School	\$875,000
Chattahoochee Hills Charter School	\$475,000
Coweta Charter Academy	\$500,000
DeKalb Preparatory Academy Charter	\$650,000
Fulton Leadership Academy	\$500,000
Georgia Cyber Academy	\$525,000
Hampton Elementary Charter School	\$275,000
Heritage Preparatory Academy School	\$555,206
Hickory Flat Charter Elementary	\$425,000
Ivy Prep Academy At Kirkwood For Girls	\$201,288
Ivy Preparatory Academy	\$150,000
Ivy Preparatory Young Men's Leadership Academy	\$78,979
Lake Oconee Academy	\$500,000
Pataula Charter Academy	\$500,000
Provost Academy Georgia	\$443,784

Savannah Classical Academy	\$575,000
Tapestry Public Charter School	\$550,000
The Academy for Classical Education	\$625,000
The Globe Academy	\$575,000
The Museum School	\$150,000
Tybee Island Maritime Academy	\$475,000
Utopian Academy for the Arts	\$650,000
Wesley International Academy	\$150,000
Westside Atlanta Charter School	\$550,000
Total	\$12,496,937

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN INDIANA 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
South Bend Career Academy	\$409,000
Damar Charter Academy	\$369,000
Gary Middle College	\$596,974
Neighbors New Vista High School	\$621,000
Hoosier Academy Virtual School	\$270,000
Inspire Academy Muncie	\$571,000
Tindley Preparatory Academy	\$547,000
Carpe Diem - Meridian Campus	\$605,000
Thurgood Marshall Leadership Academy	\$571,000
Anderson Excel Center	\$561,000
Canaan Community Academy	\$581,000
Christel House DORS South	\$563,000
Smith Academy for Excellence	\$503,000
Indiana Cyber School	\$420,000
Via Charter School	\$193,000
Andrew Academy	\$700,000
Padua Academy	\$702,000
Phalen Leadership Academy 1	\$717,000
Excel Center-Kokomo	\$655,000
Excel Center - Lafayette	\$688,000
Nexus Academy	\$582,697
Tindley Collegiate	\$733,000
Tindley Renaissance Academy	\$623,000
Enlace Academy	\$664,000
Excel Lafayette Square	\$647,000
Indiana Math and Science Academy South	\$705,000
Excel Center Richmond	\$597,000
Vision Academy	\$664,000
Christel House Academy West	\$688,000

Tindley Summit	\$647,000
Indianapolis Academy of Excellence	\$647,000
Dugger Union Community School Corporation	\$174,000
Marion Academy	\$165,000
The Excel Center - South Bend	\$183,000
Indianapolis Lighthouse Charter School East	\$183,000
Carpe Diem - Northwest	\$183,000
Carpe Diem - Shadeland	\$183,000
Indiana College Preparatory Academy	\$174,000
Christel House DORS West	\$183,000
Tindley Genesis	\$183,000
Early Career Academy	\$193,000
Total	\$19,844,671

(Source: Open Records request to the Indiana Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN MICHIGAN 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Pioneer Academy	\$100,000
Academy of International Studies	\$410,000
Warren Classical Academy	\$100,000
American International Academy	\$400,000
Taylor Academy of Aviation and Aerospace	\$110,000
Arbor Preparatory High School	\$610,000
Barry Early College and Career High School	\$100,000
Battle Creek Montessori Academy	\$175,000
Bay City Academy	\$200,000
Benjamin E. Mays Male Academy	\$110,000
Back River Public School	\$165,648
Blended Learning Laboratories-CTRL/ALT/GRAD Team Blended Learning Academies Credit Recovery High School	\$110,000
Blended Learning Laboratories-CTRL/ALT/GRAD Team Blended Learning Laboratories Lansing Campus	\$110,000
Blue Water Middle College Academy	\$610,000
The James and Grace Lee Boggs School	\$235,000
Branch Line School	\$235,000
Charlton Heston Academy	\$200,000
Greater Heights Academy	\$360,000
Cornerstone Health Academy	\$455,000
Tipton Academy	\$335,000
New Dimensions Global Academy	\$110,000
New Dimensions Preparatory Academy	\$110,000
Deer Trail Academy	\$285,000
Cultivating Growth Academy	\$100,000
DeTour Arts & Technology Academy	\$610,000
Detroit Achievement Academy	\$150,000

Glenhurst Academy	\$110,000
Detroit College Prepearatory Academy	\$110,000
Detroit Innovation Academy	\$285,000
Detroit Leadership Academy	\$200,000
Detroit Public Safety Academy	\$225,000
Arbor Knolls Academy	\$110,000
Eagles Nest Academy	\$100,000
Discover Academy	\$100,000
East Arbor Charter Academy	\$510,000
Edison Public School Academy	\$100,000
Evergreen Academy	\$310,000
Washtenaw Academy	\$110,000
Experiencia Preparatory Academy	\$470,000
Explorers' School of Science and Technology	\$110,000
FlexTech High School	\$560,000
New Paradigm Glazer Academy	\$335,000
Forest Academy	\$435,000
Four Corners Montessori Academy	\$200,000
Bertha B. Williams Academy	\$110,000
Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy	\$110,000
Gateway Charter Academy	\$110,000
GEE Edmonson Academy	\$435,000
GEE White Academy	\$450,000
Global Heights Academy	\$200,000
Learn Live Lead Academy	\$235,000
Ellington Academy of Art & Technology	\$485,000
Great Lakes Cyber Academy	\$250,000
Great Lakes Anchor Academy	\$110,000
Warren International Academy	\$110,000
Henry Ford Academy: School of Creative Studies	\$270,000
Mid Michigan University School	\$110,000
Hinoki International School	\$400,000
Holly Academy	\$84,525
Hope Academy of West Michigan	\$550,000
iCademy	\$300,000
[Illegible]	\$430,000
International Academy of Detroit	\$210,000
International Academy of Flint	\$182,485
International Preparatory Academy	\$250,000
Jacksom Preparatory & Early College	\$100,000
Jalen Rose Leadership Academy	\$535,000
Robert F. Shannon Education Center	\$110,000
Alliance Academy	\$100,000
Preparatory Learning Community	\$110,000
Laary Mitchell Trice Sr. Academy	\$110,000
East Shore Leadership Academy	\$100,000
W A Y Academy	\$510,000
Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy	\$400,000
Legacy Charter Academy	\$200,000

Genesee STEM academy	\$235,000
Southwest Detroit Lighthouse Charter Academy	\$250,000
Macomb Montessori Academy	\$175,000
Madison Carver Academy	\$375,000
Magna Charter	\$100,000
Brightspire Center for Education and Leadership	\$110,000
Metro YouthBuild Academy	\$110,000
Michigan Charter School Fine Arts Camp	\$250,000
Michigan Connections Academy	\$610,000
Michigan Math and Science Academy	\$200,000
Michigan Montessori Academy of SE Grand Rapids	\$100,000
Michigan Health and Wellness Academy	\$110,000
Michigan Virtual Charter Academy	\$610,000
Detroit Delta Preparatory Academy for Social Justice	\$110,000
Momentum Academy	\$250,000
Escuela Avancemos	\$335,000
Muskegan Heights Public School Academy	\$200,000
Muskegan Montessori Academy of Environmental Change	\$255,000
Nexus Academy of Royal Oak	\$335,000
[Illegible] International Academy	\$200,000
Oakland FlexTech	\$225,000
Oakland Macomb Montessori	\$150,000
Oakside Scholars Charter Academy	\$510,000
Global Leadership Academy of Detroit	\$410,000
Plymouth Scholars Charter Academy	\$100,000
Pride and Promise Academy	\$250,000
READ School (Rainbow Education Academy Development)	\$110,000
Regent Park Scholars Charter Academy	\$410,000
LifeTech Academy	\$110,000
Relevant Academy	\$110,000
Rising Stars Academy	\$510,000
River City Scholars Charter Academy	\$325,000
Caniff Liberty Academy	\$500,000
Schools for the Future Detroit	\$395,000
Shining Star Foreign Language Academy	\$410,000
South Canton Scholars	\$385,000
South Pointe Scholars Charter Academy	\$110,000
Success Mile Charter Academy	\$110,000
Starr Detroit Academy	\$510,000
Superior Academy (Superior Programs of Michigan)	\$465,000
Taylor Preparatory High School	\$250,000
Teacherschools	\$460,000
BOSE Stem Academy	\$110,000
The New Standard	\$350,000
XL Academy	\$110,000
The Greenspire School	\$200,000
Faxon Language Immersion Academy	\$335,000
Alternative Path Academy	\$260,000
Harris Academy	\$110,000

Three Lakes Academy	\$260,000
University Yes Academy	\$270,000
University Yes Academy East	\$110,000
Virtual Learning Academy of St. Clair County	\$270,000
Washington Parks Academy	\$200,000
Waterford Montessori Academy	\$335,000
WAY Academy Flint	\$175,000
WAY Michigan	\$200,000
Sarah J. Webber Media Arts Academy	\$350,000
Wellspring Preparatory High School	\$270,000
West Michigan Aviation Academy	\$270,000
WSC Academy	\$535,000
Total	\$34,997,658

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN MISSOURI 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Academy of Integrated Arts	\$125,000
Better Learning Communities Academy	\$250,000
Carondelet Leadership Academy	\$250,000
Crossroads Academy of Kansas City	\$375,000
DeLaSalle Charter School	\$300,000
Eagle College Prep Endeavour	\$250,000
Ewing Marion Kauffman School	\$375,000
Hogan Preparatory Academy Middle School	\$250,000
Lafayette Preparatory Academy	\$250,000
SLLIS the Chinese School	\$125,000
SLLIS the International School	\$125,000
South City Preparatory Academy	\$375,000
Total	\$3,050,000

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Academy for Science and Design Charter School	\$57,000
Gate City Charter School for the Arts	\$287,500
Granite State Arts Academy	\$300,000
Great Bay eLearning Charter School	\$55,000
Making Community Connections Charter	\$650,000
Mill Falls Charter School	\$650,000

Mountain Village Charter School	\$254,678
Next Charter School	\$385,000
North Country Charter Academy	\$35,840
Pace Career Academy Charter	\$587,385
Polaris Charter School	\$575,000
Robert Frost Charter School	\$650,000
Seacoast Charter School	\$55,000
Strong Foundations Charter School	\$59,250
Surry Village Charter School	\$55,000
Teams Charter School	\$498,000
The Birches Academy of Academics and Art	\$600,000
The Founders Academy	\$350,000
Virtual Learning Academy	\$55,000
Total	\$6,159,653

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN NEW YORK STATE 2011-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Bedford Stuyvesant New Beginnings Charter School	\$200,000
Dr Richard Izquierdo Health And Science Charter School	\$149,808
Inwood Academy For Leadership Charter School	\$329,500
Riverton Street Charter School	\$400,000
Lefferts Gardens Charter School	\$110,000
Teaching Firms Of America Professional Preparatory Charter School	\$300,000
Rochdale Early Advantage Charter School	\$60,442
Renaissance Charter High School For Innovation	\$145,000
Metropolitan Lighthouse Charter School	\$204,968
Amani Public Charter School	\$600,000
Democracy Prep Charter School	\$236,100
Discovery Charter School	\$600,000
Launch Expeditionary Learning Charter School	\$600,000
Mott Hall Charter School	\$600,000
New York City Montessori Charter School	\$600,000
Urban Dove Team Charter School	\$600,000
Bushwick Ascend Charter School	\$300,000
Challenge Preparatory Charter School	\$300,000
Cultural Arts Academy Charter School At Spring Creek	\$248,878
Democracy Prep Harlem Charter School	\$254,392
Hyde Leadership Charter School-Brooklyn	\$270,393
Imagine Me Leadership Charter School	\$300,000
New York French-American Charter School	\$299,834
Staten Island Community Charter School	\$300,000
West Buffalo Charter School	\$599,997
Academy Of The City Charter School	\$600,000
Broome Street Academy Charter High School	\$589,026

Heketi Community Charter School	\$600,000
Innovate Manhattan Charter School	\$600,000
Invictus Preparatory Charter School	\$600,000
New Visions Charter High School-Advanced Math/Science	\$571,645
New Visions Charter High School-Humanities	\$600,000
Global Community Charter School	\$600,000
Neighborhood Charter School Of Harlem	\$555,044
New Dawn Charter High School	\$592,493
New Visions Charter High School-Advanced Math/Science II	\$534,271
New Visions Charter High School-Humanities II	\$573,212
Rochester Career Mentoring Charter School	\$600,000
Young Women's College Prep Charter School	\$600,000
Central Queens Academy Charter School	\$593,211
Children'S Aid College Preparatory Charter School	\$344,320
Explore Exceed Charter School	\$600,000
Family Life Academy Charter School II	\$600,000
Icahn Charter School 6	\$598,246
Icahn Charter School 7	\$457,159
Manhattan Charter School II	\$600,000
Roads Charter School I	\$600,000
Roads Charter School II	\$600,000
Tech International Charter School	\$599,524
Brooklyn City Preparatory Charter School <i>*\$600,000 listed in column "Projected Grant Commitments."</i>	\$0*
Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School	\$547,589
Canarsie Ascend Charter School	\$329,299
Boys Prep Charter School Of New York	\$311,251
Achievement First Apollo Charter School	\$200,000
Brighter Choice Charter Middle School For Boys	\$198,998
Brighter Choice Charter Middle School For Girls	\$200,000
Brooklyn Dreams Charter School	\$200,000
Brooklyn East Collegiate Charter School	\$221,381
East Harlem Scholars Academy Charter School	\$380,550
Explore Excel Charter School	\$400,000
Leadership Preparatory Ocean Hill Charter School	\$193,350
New Hope Academy Charter School	\$199,953
New World Preparatory Charter School	\$199,157
Ocean Hill Collegiate Charter School	\$215,210
University Preparatory Charter School For Young Men	\$191,431
Brilla College Preparatory Charter School	\$500,000
Citizens Of The World Charter School 1	\$500,000
Citizens Of The World Charter School 2	\$500,000
Harlem Hebrew Language Academy Charter School	\$500,000
Math, Engineering, And Science Academy Charter High School	\$448,474
Middle Village Preparatory Charter School	\$750,000
Great Oaks Charter School	\$539,906
Newburgh Charter School	\$482,310
South Bronx Classical Charter School II	\$343,500
Success Academy Charter School - Fort Greene	\$537,793

Success Academy Charter School - Prospect Heights	\$537,793
Success Academy Charter School - Crown Heights	\$507,795
The New American Academy Charter School	\$410,250
American Dream Charter School	\$262,950
Unity Preparatory Charter School Of Brooklyn	\$466,871
Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School	\$183,288
Utica Academy Of Science Charter School	\$494,932
Charter High School For Law And Social Justice	\$35,250
Collegiate Academy For Mathematics And Personal Awareness	\$518,923
Compass Charter School	\$392,600
Renaissance Academy Charter School Of The Arts	\$166,666
South Bronx Early College Academy Charter School (The)	\$329,791
Family Life Academy Charter School III	\$544,952
Puc Achieve Charter School	\$384,860
Vertus Charter School	\$409,744
Family Life Academy Charter School I	\$240,559
Hellenic Classical Charter School	\$230,048
Williamsburg Collegiate Charter School	\$160,000
New York Center For Autism Charter School	\$107,068
Renaissance Charter School (The)	\$213,076
Bronx Charter School For Excellence	\$240,000
True North Rochester Prep Charter School	\$160,000
Kipp Tech Valley Charter School	\$270,976
Democracy Prep Endurance Charter School	\$600,000
Community Partnership Charter School	\$140,135
Charter School For Educational Excellence	\$223,981
Beginning With Children Charter School II	\$600,000
East Harlem Scholars Academy Charter School II	\$401,405
New Visions Charter High School-Humanities III	\$437,945
New Visions Charter High School-Advanced Math/Science III	\$445,216
Rochester Prep Charter School III	\$175,000
Williamsburg Ascend Charter School	\$91,995
Total	\$41,891,684

(Source: Email from The New York State Education Department's Charter School Office to WestEd obtained through an Open Records request)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN OHIO 2008-'12

Charter School	Total award
Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School	\$653,411.67
Foundation Academy	\$540,799.02
Auglaize County Educational Academy	\$60,193.69
Intergenerational School, The	\$208,587.44
Central Academy of Ohio	\$480,000
Dayton Early College Academy, Inc	\$847,402.85

Horizon Science Academy Elementary School	\$850,000
WinWin Academy	\$50,000
Columbus Collegiate Academy	\$616,606.63
C.M. Grant Leadership Academy	\$416,837.12
Gahanna Community School (Prior name Gahanna Alternative Community School) IRN	\$410,817.90
Constellation Schools: Mansfield Community Middle (prior name Constellation Schools: Mansfield Visual & Performing Arts)	\$550,000
Sullivant Avenue Community School	\$845,480.35
Harrisburg Pike Community School	\$850,000
Madison Avenue School of Arts	\$808,718.77
Klepinger Community School	\$846,848.02
Sciotoville Elementary Academy (\$628,911.22
Dixon Early Learning Center Conversion Community School	\$450,000
Ashland County Community Academy (prior name Tri-County Educational Opportunity Learning Ctr.)	\$447,810.88
Western Reserve Kindergarten Learning Academy	\$450,000
Mahoning County High School	\$444,959.72
Horizon Science Academy Cleveland Elementary School	\$650,000
Knight Academy	\$650,000
Horizon Science Academy Denison Elementary School	\$650,000
KIPP: Journey Academy	\$620,592.74
Performance Academy Eastland	\$650,000
L. Hollingworth School for Talented and Gifted	\$450,000
Village Preparatory School	\$447,298.44
Greater Summit County Early Learning Center	\$449,355.24
Bella Academy of Excellence	\$437,546.47
Renaissance Academy (formerly: Providence Academy for Student Success)	\$388,644.49
Rushmore Academy	\$450,000
Upper Scioto Wind/Energy Academy	\$258,500
North Central Academy	\$443,658.91
L.E.A.D. Academy	\$192,051.75
Wickliffe Progressive Community School	\$203,686.58
Citizens Academy	\$242,110.33
Horizon Science Acad Cleveland	\$327,593.31
Toledo School For The Arts	\$74,830.36
Constellation Schools: Outreach Academy for Students with Disabilities	\$858.88
L.E.A.R.N. Academy	\$151,556.76
School of Tomorrow	\$189,104.41
Academy for Urban Solutions	\$26,800
Columbus Academy of Literacy and Mathematics	\$225,000
Notten School for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics	\$207,000
Citizens Leadership Academy	\$50,000
Near West Intergenerational School	\$50,000
Mansfield Leadership Education & Academic Resource Neighborhood	\$0

Central Ohio Early College Academy	\$50,000
T C Leadership Academy (Prior name Tri-County Junior ROTC Academy)	\$39,274.02
Real Life Academy	\$0
Constellation Schools: Old Brooklyn Community Elementary	\$11,325.71
Pleasant Education Academy	\$500,000
Columbus Bilingual Academy-North	\$494,091.58
LifeLinks Community School (prior name Van Wert City Community School)	\$496,669.54
Falcon Academy of Creative Arts	\$463,028.68
Cleveland Entrepreneurship Preparatory School	\$60,000.01
Dayton Early College Academy, Inc	\$237,384.01
Cesar Chavez College Preparatory School	\$255,000.01
Hardin Community School (Prior name Striving to Engage Potential)	\$446,018.52
Achieve Career Preparatory Academy	\$418,888.93
Horizon Science Academy Lorain	\$450,000
Horizon Science Academy Dayton High School	\$450,000
Imagine Akron Academy (Prior names: Pathway to Success Akron, Leadership Academy of Ohio)	\$445,512.37
Imagine Cleveland Academy (Prior names: Pathway to Success Cleveland, Aspire Academy of Cleveland)	\$450,000
Everest High School (Prior name RCCS)	\$450,000
Richland Academy School of Excellence (Prior name Richland School at Richland Academy)	\$446,256.20
Graham Expeditionary Middle School	\$450,000
Horizon Science Academy Dayton Downtown (Prior name Horizon Science Academy Columbus West)	\$450,000
Theodore Roosevelt Public Community School	\$450,000
Horizon Science Academy Youngstown	\$450,000.01
Horizon Science Academy Toledo Downtown	\$450,000.01
College Hill Leadership Academy	\$444,921.51
Constellation Schools: Stockyard Community Middle (Prior name Constellation Schools: Capital Elementary)	\$450,000
Constellation Schools: Collinwood Community Village Academy (Prior name Constellation Schools: Central Elementary)	\$429,738.87
Foxfire Intermediate School	\$420,000
Imagine on Superior (Prior names Pathway to Success Canton, Pinnacle Academy)	\$450,000.01
North Central Academy-Fremont	\$449,242.95
Akros Middle School	\$450,000.01
Academy of New Media Middle	\$444,985.29
Horizon Science Academy Columbus	\$176,105.01
Academy of Educational Excellence	\$175,000
Cuyahoga Valley Academy	\$40,000
DECA PREP	\$175,000
Imagine Hill Avenue	\$175,000
SunBridge Schools (prev. Kids Unlimited Academy)	\$175,000
Young Scholars Prep School – South	\$40,000
Young Scholars Prep School	\$175,000

Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School	\$653,411.67
Foundation Academy	\$540,799.02
Total	\$33,027,017.20

(Source: Open Records request to the Ohio Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN RHODE ISLAND 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy Elementary	\$142,480
Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy Elementary (2)	\$450,000
Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy Middle School	\$450,000
Engineering Early College Academy	\$120,000
Highland Charter School	\$139,968
Hope Academy	\$384,200
Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College	\$324,915
Sheila "Skip" Nowell Academy	\$420,000
Southside Elementary Charter School	\$400,000
The Learning Community	\$99,445
Village Green Virtual Charter School	\$450,000
Total	\$3,381,008

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN SOUTH CAROLINA 2010-'15

Charter School	Total Award
Academy of Hope	\$487,854
Anderson Five Charter School	\$665,000
Bridges Preparatory School	\$341,000
Case Romain Charter School	\$431,000
Carolina Voyager Charter School	\$53,000
Coastal Leadership Academy	\$250,000
Coastal Montessori	\$430,000
Columbia East Point Academy	\$345,760
Crenshaw Charter School	\$103,000
Cyber Academy SC	\$250,000
D.P. Cooper Charter School	\$75,000
Garden City Preparatory Academy for Boys	\$75,000
Gray Collegiate Academy Charter School	\$53,000
Greenville Renewable Energy Education Charter	\$125,000
High Point Academy Inc.	\$53,000
Hope Academy Charter School	\$63,000
Imagine Columbia Leadership Academy	\$366,500
Intense Charter School Inc	\$63,000

Lake City College Preparatory Academy	\$334,500
LEAD Academy	\$334,500
Low Country Lighthouse Charter School	\$63,000
Lowcountry Leadership Charter School	\$260,000
Lowcountry Montessori School	\$63,000
Midlands Middle College, Inc.	\$125,000
Midlands STEM Institute Inc.	\$63,000
NEXT High School	\$63,000
Orangenburg Consolidated School Distric Five Charter High School for Health Professionals	\$665,000
Palmetta Academy of Learning & Success	\$334,500
Palmetta Advancement of Learning Motorsports	\$459,300
Palmetta Scholar Academy	\$334,500
Palmetta Academy for Comprehensive Education	\$334,500
Pee Dee Math, Science and Technology Academy	\$260,000
Rich ??? Charter High School	\$334,500
Riverview Charter School	\$225,000
Riverwalk Academy Inc.	\$63,000
Royal Live Oaks Academy	\$430,000
SC Calvert Academy	\$225,000
SC Provost Academy	\$225,000
SC Whitmore School	\$459,060
South Carolina Science Academy	\$80,000
Te Bene Academy	\$75,000
The Apple Charter School	\$159,500
Virgin Johnson Academy for Excellence	\$75,000
York Preparatory Academy	\$334,500
Youth Leadership Academy	\$431,000
Total	\$11,040,474

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN TEXAS 2010-'15

Charter School	Total award
Arrow Academy	\$500,000
Austin Achieve Public Schools	\$600,000
Champions Academy	\$600,000
Compass Academy	\$500,000
Eleanor Kolitz Hebrew Language Academy	\$800,000
Fallbrook College Preparatory Academy	\$600,000
Globe Learning Village	\$600,000
Grand Prairie Collegiate Institute	\$800,000
Harmony Schools of Discovery: Houston	\$450,000
Highland Park Elementary	\$500,000
Houston Gateway Academy: Coral Campus	\$589,983
Houston Gateway Academy Inc. Elite Academy	\$589,884

Houston Gateway Academy Inc. Elite College Prep	\$589,884
Imagine International Academy of North Texas	\$457,827
iSchool High of Flower Mound	\$152,506
KIPP Coastal Village MS	\$600,000
KIPP Voyage Academy for Girls	\$450,000
Leadership Prep School	\$500,000
Legacy Preparatory	\$600,000
Meridian World School	\$450,000
Newman International Academy of Arlington	\$500,000
Premier Learning Academy	\$500,000
Prime Prep Academy	\$600,000
Rhodes Middle School	\$500,000
The Founders Classical Academy	\$589,984
The Pro Vision Academy	\$800,000
The REAL Learning Academy	\$600,000
Travis Early College High School	\$500,000
UME Preparatory Academy	\$600,000
Uplift Education: Infinity Preparatory Middle School	\$500,000
Uplift Education: Pinnacle Preparatory	\$500,000
Uplift Education: Uplift Luna Prep Secondary	\$588,433
Uplift Education: Uplift Meridian Preparatory	\$583,815
Uplift Education: Uplift Mighty Preparatory	\$588,433
UT Tyler Innovation Academy	\$589,780
Victory Prep	\$177,775
Village Tech School	\$800,000
WALIPP TSU Preparatory Academy	\$500,000
Total	\$20,948,304

(Source: FOIA to U.S. Department of Education)

CSP SUBGRANTEES IN WISCONSIN 2009-'15

Charter School	Total Amount
Ashland Collaborative Academy	\$225,000
Amani Community School (was TransCenter for Youth)	\$250,000
i4Learning Community School	\$200,000
Mauston Montessori Charter School (was Lyndon Station Montessori)	\$150,000
Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center (NPMLC)	\$150,000
Point of Discovery School (was called SPELS)	\$150,000
Tomah Area Montessori School	\$175,000
Appleton Technical Academy	\$175,000
Oredocker Project School	\$200,000
Rock University High School	\$200,000
High School of Health Sciences, The	\$225,000
Seven Rivers Community Charter High School	\$175,000
Flex Academy	\$175,000

NOVA Tech (Northwest Opportunities Vocational Academy)	\$250,000
Central Wisconsin STEM Academy	\$175,000
Catalyst Academy Charter School	\$175,000
Racine Civil Leaders Academy	\$200,000
Arena Community Elementary School (ACES)	\$200,000
Innovations STEM Academy	\$175,000
Milwaukee College Preparatory School - North Y	\$325,000
Viroqua Area Montessori School	\$150,000
Endeavor Charter School	\$175,000
Albany Community Middle School	\$225,000
Ashland Elementary Charter School	\$200,000
Island City Academy	\$175,000
Fond du Lac STEM Institute	\$225,000
Hartland School of Fine Arts Leadership Academy, The	\$150,000
KM Explore	\$200,000
Banner School of Milwaukee	\$250,000
Carmen Northwest Campus School	\$325,000
Milwaukee Environmental Sciences	\$200,000
Universal Academy for the College Bound	\$250,000
Montello Junior/Senior High School	\$300,000
Next Generation Academy	\$175,000
School of Options and Applied Research (S.O.A.R.)	\$175,000
Bayshore Community Academy	\$175,000
Journey Charter School	\$200,000
Cirrus Charter High School	\$175,000
Tomorrow River Community School	\$200,000
Woodlands School East (WSE)	\$200,000
Exploration Academy	\$175,000
Pathways	\$175,000
Hartland School of Community Learning	\$125,000
Highland Community Middle School	\$120,000
Quest Charter School	\$125,000
Waukesha STEM Academy	\$125,000
Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy	\$125,000
Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School	\$125,000
Discovery Charter School	\$125,000
Hmong American Peace Academy (HAPA)	\$125,000
Appleton Technical Academy	\$175,000
Oredocker Project School	\$250,000
Rock University High School	\$200,000
High School of Health Sciences	\$225,000
Seven Rivers Community Charter High School (was La Crosse Design Institute High)	\$175,000
Flex Academy	\$175,000
NOVA Tech (Northwest Opportunities Vocational Academy)	\$250,000
Central Wisconsin STEM Academy	\$175,000
Catalyst Academy Charter School	\$175,000
Racine Civil Leaders Academy	\$249,650
Arena Community Elementary School (ACES)	\$200,000

Rubicon Personalized Learning Academy	\$150,000
Innovations STEM Academy (was Spartan STEM Charter School)	\$175,000
Viroqua Area Montessori School	\$150,000
Endeavor Charter School	\$175,000
Milwaukee College Prep - TBD Street Site	\$250,000
University Lab School	\$250,000
Albany Community Middle School	\$225,000
Ashland Elementary Charter School	\$200,000
Rocketship Southside Community Prep	\$250,000
Island City Academy	\$175,000
Fond du Lac STEM Institute	\$175,000
Hartland School of Fine Arts Leadership Academy, The	\$150,000
KM Explore	\$200,000
Banner School of Milwaukee	\$250,000
Carmen Northwest Campus School	\$250,000
Milwaukee Environmental Sciences	\$200,000
Universal Academy for the College Bound	\$250,000
Montello Junior/Senior High School	\$300,000
Next Generation Academy	\$175,000
School of Options and Applied Research (S.O.A.R.)	\$175,000
Bayshore Community Academy	\$175,000
Journey Charter School (was Ripon K-2 Elementary Charter School)	\$200,000
Cirrus Charter High School	\$175,000
Tomorrow River Community School	\$150,000
Woodlands School East (WSE)	\$200,000
Exploration Academy	\$175,000
Pathways	\$175,000
Birchwood Public Montessori Charter School	\$150,000
Escuela Verde	\$200,000
North Point Lighthouse Charter	\$250,000
Denmark Community School	\$175,000
Fond du Lac STEM Academy	\$150,000
Northern Waters Environmental School	\$175,000
Highland Community Elementary School	\$200,000
Highland Community High School	\$175,000
Ouisconsin School of Collaboration	\$150,000
Maple Grove Schoolhouse	\$150,000
Clark Street Community School	\$175,000
Milwaukee College Preparatory - Lloyd Street	\$250,000
Creative Minds Charter School	\$150,000
Forest Lane Charter School	\$250,000
Northwood Middle School/High School	\$250,000
Northern Lakes Regional Academy	\$200,000
Catalyst Charter Middle School	\$225,000
LEADS Primary Charter School	\$150,000
School for Agricultural and Environmental Studies, The	\$200,000
Shared Journeys	\$175,000
THINK Academy	\$200,000

Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School	\$125,000
Discovery Charter School	\$125,000
Hmong American Peace Academy (HAPA)	\$125,000
Alliance School, The	\$125,000
Woodlands School	\$125,000
Phantom Knight School of Opportunity	\$125,000
Mead Elementary Charter School	\$125,000
Albany Community Middle School	\$225,000
Ashland Elementary Charter School	\$200,000
Rocketship Southside Community Prep	\$250,000
Island City Academy	\$175,000
Fond du Lac STEM Institute	\$225,000
Hartland School of Fine Arts Leadership Academy, The	\$150,000
KM Explore	\$150,000
Banner School of Milwaukee	\$250,000
Carmen Northwest Campus School	\$250,000
Milwaukee Environmental Sciences	\$250,000
Montello Junior/Senior High School	\$300,000
Next Generation Academy	\$175,000
School of Options and Applied Research (S.O.A.R.)	\$175,000
Bayshore Community Academy	\$175,000
Journey Charter School (was Ripon K-2 Elementary Charter School)	\$200,000
Cirrus Charter High School	\$175,000
Tomorrow River Community School	\$150,000
Woodlands School East (WSE)	\$200,000
Exploration Academy	\$175,000
Pathways	\$225,000
Forest Exploration Center Charter School	\$175,000
Birchwood Public Montessori Charter School	\$149,995
Escuela Verde	\$200,000
North Point Lighthouse Charter	\$200,000
Denmark Community School	\$175,000
Fond du Lac STEM Academy	\$200,000
Northern Waters Environmental School	\$175,000
Highland Community Elementary School	\$200,000
Highland Community High School	\$175,000
Ouisconsin School of Collaboration	\$150,000
Maple Grove Schoolhouse	\$200,000
Clark Street Community School	\$225,000
Milwaukee College Preparatory - Lloyd Street	\$250,000
Creative Minds Charter School	\$150,000
Forest Lane Charter School	\$250,000
Northwood High School	\$225,000
Northern Lakes Regional Academy	\$175,000
Catalyst Charter Middle School	\$225,000
LEADS Primary Charter School	\$150,000
School for Agricultural and Environmental Studies, The	\$200,000
Shared Journeys	\$175,000

THINK Academy	\$200,000
Appleton Bilingual School	\$150,000
Red Cedar Environmental Institute	\$175,000
Milwaukee Collegiate Academy (was CEO Leadership Academy)	\$250,000
Milwaukee Math and Science Academy	\$200,000
Idea Charter School	\$175,000
CRE8 Charter School	\$150,000
Gillett Occupation and Leadership GOAL Charter School	\$175,000
John Dewey Academy of Learning	\$200,000
Fox West Academy	\$175,000
New Directions Learning Community	\$200,000
Park Community Charter School	\$200,000
KM Global Charter School for Leadership and Innovation	\$175,000
KM School for Arts and Performance	\$225,000
Kornerstone Charter School	\$175,000
La Crosse Design Institute	\$175,000
Little Chute Career Pathways Academy	\$175,000
Badger Rock Middle School	\$250,000
Marathon Venture Academy	\$225,000
iLEAD Charter School	\$175,000
Kathryn T. Daniels University Preparatory Academy	\$250,000
Milwaukee College Preparatory - 38th Street	\$250,000
Milwaukee Excel High School	\$200,000
NorthStar Community Charter School	\$175,000
Lumen Charter High School	\$175,000
River Valley Elementary Studio School	\$150,000
Central High School	\$250,000
George D. Warriner Middle School	\$175,000
I.D.E.A.S. Academy	\$225,000
Mosaic School, The	\$225,000
Shiocton International Leadership Academy	\$175,000
Milwaukee Scholars Charter School	\$250,000
Lincoln Inquiry Charter School	\$250,000
Alliance School, The	\$125,000
Woodlands School	\$125,000
Phantom Knight School of Opportunity	\$125,000
Mead Elementary Charter School	\$125,000
Appleton Public Montessori	\$125,000
Kaleidoscope Academy	\$125,000
Class ACT	\$125,000
Island City Research Academy	\$125,000
Kenosha School of Technology Enhanced Curriculum (KTEC)	\$125,000
Birchwood Public Montessori Charter School	\$149,599
Escuela Verde	\$200,000
North Point Lighthouse Charter	\$200,000
Denmark Community School	\$175,000
Fond du Lac STEM Academy	\$200,000
Northern Waters Environmental School	\$175,000
Highland Community Elementary School	\$200,000

Highland Community High School	\$175,000
Ouisconsin School of Collaboration	\$150,000
Maple Grove Schoolhouse	\$200,000
Clark Street Community School	\$225,000
Creative Minds Charter School	\$150,000
Forest Lane Charter School	\$300,000
Northwood High School	\$175,000
Northern Lakes Regional Academy	\$175,000
Catalyst Charter Middle School	\$225,000
LEADS Primary Charter School	\$150,000
School for Agricultural and Environmental Studies, The	\$200,000
Shared Journeys	\$175,000
THINK Academy	\$200,000
Appleton Bilingual School	\$150,000
Red Cedar Environmental Institute	\$175,000
Milwaukee Collegiate Academy (was CEO Leadership Academy)	\$250,000
Milwaukee Math and Science Academy	\$200,000
Idea Charter School	\$175,000
CRE8 Charter School	\$150,000
Gillett Occupation and Leadership GOAL Charter School	\$175,000
John Dewey Academy of Learning	\$200,000
Fox West Academy	\$175,000
New Directions Learning Community	\$150,000
Park Community Charter School	\$200,000
KM Global Charter School for Leadership and Innovation	\$175,000
KM School for Arts and Performance	\$175,000
Kornerstone Charter School	\$175,000
La Crosse Design Institute	\$175,000
Little Chute Career Pathways Academy	\$175,000
Badger Rock Middle School	\$200,000
Marathon Venture Academy	\$225,000
iLEAD Charter School	\$175,000
Kathryn T. Daniels University Preparatory Academy	\$250,000
Milwaukee College Preparatory - 38th Street	\$200,000
Milwaukee Excel High School	\$200,000
NorthStar Community Charter School	\$175,000
Lumen Charter High School	\$175,000
River Valley Elementary Studio School	\$150,000
Central High School	\$250,000
George D. Warriner Middle School	\$175,000
I.D.E.A.S. Academy	\$225,000
Mosaic School, The	\$175,000
Shiocton International Leadership Academy	\$175,000
Milwaukee Scholars Charter School	\$250,000
Lincoln Inquiry Charter School	\$250,000
United Public Montessori (UPM)	\$175,000
Kings Academy	\$250,000
Hartland School of Community Learning	\$200,000
LIFE Charter School	\$175,000

Highland Community Middle School	\$175,000
Hawley Environmental School	\$250,000
Milwaukee Community Cyber (MC2) High School	\$250,000
Woodland Progressive School for 21st Century Citizens	\$175,000
Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School for the 21st Century	\$175,000
High Marq Environmental Charter School	\$175,000
Quest Charter School	\$200,000
Urban Day Charter School, Inc.	\$325,000
Verona Area International School	\$150,000
Waukesha STEM Academy	\$300,000
Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy	\$175,000
Appleton Public Montessori	\$125,000
Kaleidoscope Academy	\$125,000
Class ACT	\$125,000
Island City Research Academy	\$125,000
Kenosha School of Technology Enhanced Curriculum (KTEC)	\$125,000
Appleton Career Academy	\$125,000
Wildlands Science Research Charter School	\$125,000
TAGOS Leadership Academy	\$125,000
Harborside Academy	\$125,000
I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	\$125,000
Jacob Shapiro Brain Based Instruction Laboratory School	\$125,000
Lakeview Montessori School	\$125,000
Appleton Bilingual School	\$150,000
Red Cedar Environmental Institute	\$175,000
CEO Leadership Academy	\$250,000
Milwaukee Math and Science Academy	\$200,000
Everest Charter School	\$175,000
CRE8 Charter School	\$200,000
Gillett Occupation and Leadership GOAL Charter School	\$225,000
John Dewey Academy of Learning	\$200,000
Fox West Academy	\$175,000
New Directions Learning Community	\$200,000
Park Community Charter School	\$200,000
KM Global Charter School for Leadership and Innovation	\$175,000
Kornerstone Charter School	\$175,000
La Crosse Design Institute	\$175,000
Little Chute Career Pathways Academy	\$175,000
Badger Rock Middle School	\$175,000
Marathon Venture Academy	\$225,000
iLEAD Charter School	\$175,000
Milwaukee Excel High School	\$200,000
NorthStar Community Charter School	\$175,000
River Valley Elementary Studio School	\$150,000
Central High School	\$250,000
George D. Warriner Middle School	\$175,000
I.D.E.A.S. Academy	\$225,000
Mosaic School, The	\$225,000
Shiocton International Leadership Academy	\$175,000

Lincoln Inquiry Charter School	\$250,000
ENGAGE Charter School	\$70,675
North Point Lighthouse Charter	\$7,799.93
United Public Montessori (UPM)	\$175,000
Kings Academy	\$250,000
Hartland School of Community Learning	\$150,000
LIFE Charter School	\$175,000
Highland Community Middle School	\$175,000
Hawley Environmental School	\$250,000
Milwaukee Community Cyber (MC2) High School	\$250,000
Woodland Progressive School for 21st Century Citizens	\$175,000
Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter School for the 21st Century	\$175,000
High Marq Environmental Charter School	\$175,000
Quest Charter School	\$199,752.87
Urban Day Charter School, Inc.	\$325,000
Verona Area International School	\$150,000
Waukesha STEM Academy	\$300,000
Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy	\$175,000
Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School	\$174,162
Black River Area Green School (BRAGS)	\$175,000
Tosa School of the Trades	\$175,000
Appleton Career Academy	\$113,984
Wildlands Science Research Charter School	\$125,000
TAGOS Leadership Academy	\$125,000
Harborside Academy	\$125,000
I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	\$125,000
Montessori High School, An IB World School	\$125,000
Jacob Shapiro Brain Based Instruction Laboratory School	\$125,000
Lakeview Montessori School	\$125,000
Fox River Academy	\$125,000
Meeme LEADS Charter School	\$153,448
Milwaukee College Preparatory School - 36th Street	\$125,000
United Public Montessori (UPM)	\$175,000
Hartland School of Community Learning	\$150,000
LIFE Charter School	\$175,000
Highland Community Middle School	\$175,000
Hawley Environmental School	\$250,000
Woodland Progressive School for 21st Century Citizens	\$175,000
High Marq Environmental Charter School	\$175,000
Quest Charter School	\$199,194.51
Waukesha STEM Academy	\$300,000
Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy	\$175,000
Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School	\$171,169
Black River Area Green School (BRAGS)	\$175,000
Tosa School of the Trades	\$175,000
Green Lake Global and Environmental Academy	\$175,000
Audubon Technology and Communication Center High School	\$250,000
International Peace Academy High School	\$200,000
WORK (Where Opportunities Require Knowledge) Institute	\$250,000

Niikuusra Community School	\$99,000
Crossroads Academy	\$175,000
Mead Elementary Charter School	\$250,000
Vesper Community Academy	\$200,000
Fox River Academy	\$125,000
Meeme LEADS Charter School	\$125,000
Milwaukee Learning Laboratory and Institute	\$125,000
Milwaukee College Preparatory School - 36th Street	\$125,000
Valley New School	\$125,000
Roosevelt IDEA School	\$125,000
Total	\$67,458,429.31

(Source: Open Records request to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)

ENDNOTES:

¹ <http://www.prwatch.org/news/2015/04/12799/new-documents-show-how-federal-taxpayer-money-wasted-charter-schools>

² http://www.alecexposed.org/wiki/Privatizing_Public_Education,_Higher_Ed_Policy,_and_Teachers

³ According to one study from 2011, more than 1,000 of the then 6,700 charters had closed since 1991, and nearly a quarter were categorized as failing for “mismanagement,” as distinct from fiscal shortfalls.

⁴ <http://www.reclaimourschools.org/updates/press-release-new-report-finds-over-200-million-fraud-and-abuse-charter-schools>

⁵ http://www.rowlandschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=330446&type=d&pREC_ID=738406

⁶

http://www.publicadvocates.org/sites/default/files/library/charging_for_access_how_california_charter_schools_exclude_vulnerable_students_by_imposing_illegal_family_work_quotas.pdf

⁷ http://www.publicadvocates.org/sites/default/files/library/volunteer_hours_demand_letter.pdf

⁸ <http://laschoolreport.com/la-unified-set-to-revoke-urban-village-middle-school-charter/>

⁹ <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/social-affairs/20140904/celerity-exa-charter-school-surrenders-its-charter-after-being-closed-by-pasadena-fire-marshal>

¹⁰ <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/social-affairs/20140904/celerity-exa-charter-school-surrenders-its-charter-after-being-closed-by-pasadena-fire-marshal>

¹¹ <http://www.recordnet.com/article/20150502/NEWS/150509921>

¹² <http://www.recordnet.com/article/20150502/NEWS/150509921>

¹³ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/auditreports/fy2012/a0210002.pdf>

¹⁴ See the OIG annual plan for FY15: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/misc/wp2015.pdf>

¹⁵ The public comments are from

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;rpp=100;so=DESC;sb=docId;po=0;D=ED-2014-OII-0019>

¹⁶ Given the similarities in terms of phrasing (“hiring/firing”) and concerns (an animus against collective bargaining, teacher licenses and job protection) this might have been the same reviewer who extolled the virtues of at-will employment in Colorado the same year. This raises a question about the power and agenda of the anonymous ED reviewers, who in 2010 were in charge of redistributing more than \$250 million of federal money to the charter sector in CSP SEA grants.

¹⁷ <http://www.wthr.com/story/27320868/2014/11/06/nearly-half-of-indianas-charter-schools-doing-poorly-or-failing>

¹⁸ <http://fox59.com/2014/08/25/parents-move-kids-as-charter-latest-closure-in-checkered-few-years/>

¹⁹ <http://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/virtual-charter-school-shuttered-over-financial-management-issues>

²⁰ <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2014/12/06/itt-techs-new-charter-school-offer-free-aa-degree-catch/20003305/>

²¹ http://www.indianapolisrecorder.com/news/local/article_a3f6e9a8-e742-11e3-8eba-0019bb2963f4.html

²² <http://www.wthr.com/story/27320868/2014/11/06/nearly-half-of-indianas-charter-schools-doing-poorly-or-failing>

²³ <http://www.in.gov/gov/2015stateofstate.htm>
²⁴ [http://beta.followthemoney.org/show-me?f-core=1&c-t-eid=6679860&d-cci=69#\[{1|gro=d-id](http://beta.followthemoney.org/show-me?f-core=1&c-t-eid=6679860&d-cci=69#[{1|gro=d-id)
²⁵ <http://indianaeconomicdigest.com/Main.asp?SectionID=31&SubSectionID=135&ArticleID=70713>
²⁶ <http://indianapublicmedia.org/stateimpact/2015/05/18/indiana-heard-supt-tyon-bennett/>
²⁷ <http://www.alec.org/model-legislation/indiana-education-reform-package/>
²⁸ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/1217416-charter-schools-usa-petition-for-funds-letter-to.html>
²⁹ <http://www.21alive.com/news/local/State-Board-of-Education-unveils-new-charter-school-grantloan-program--320507962.html>
³⁰ A 2014 report by the Florida chapter of the League of Women Voters compared three CSUSA schools in Orange County, FL, with schools in the surrounding district, and found that the former only spend 44 percent of their total revenue on instruction, as opposed to 86 percent for the public schools.
<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103316066537-1070/LWV+Final+Report+Statewide+Study+1-3.pdf>
³¹ <http://archive.freep.com/interactive/article/20140622/NEWS06/140507009/State-charter-schools-How-Michigan-spends-1-billion-fails-hold-schools-accountable>
³² http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d14/tables/dt14_203.20.asp
³³ On the U.S. Department of Education's SEA Grant website, the figure is incorrectly listed as \$6.96 million. The same mistake found its way into a spreadsheet purporting to show a "Complete List of Charter Schools Programs State Education Grant." <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/sea150713.xls>
³⁴ <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/schools/page/overview/year/2014>
³⁵ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Closed_PSA_with_reason_2012.08_396310_7.pdf
³⁶ <http://bridgemi.com/2015/01/upcoming-fraud-trial-for-school-operator-hangs-over-charter-school-industry/>
³⁷ http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2015/03/federal_jury_convicts_bay_city.html
³⁸ http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2015/03/federal_jury_convicts_bay_city.html
³⁹ <http://www.freep.com/article/20140622/NEWS06/306220102/>
⁴⁰ <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/2010/michigan.doc>
⁴¹ The National Association of Charter School Authorizers lists 67; these include a conservative think tank, the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation that currently oversees 11 charter schools.
<https://www.qualitycharters.org/authorizer-comparison/state-by-state-overviews-ohio.html>
⁴² While the federal grant cycle spanned 2007 to 2011, some charters received sub-grants between 2012 and 2013.
⁴³ Ohio has landed the following CSP SEA grants: \$75,938,127 in 2004, \$48,817,500 in 2007 and \$71,058,319 in 2015.
⁴⁴ <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-contributes-improving-charter-schools-sector>
⁴⁵ http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/06/ohio_ignores_online_school_fs_as_it_evaluates_charter_school_overseers.html
⁴⁶ <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/2015/ohioapp.pdf>
⁴⁷ <http://www.ohio.com/news/break-news/ohio-official-who-manipulated-charter-school-data-helped-win-federal-grant-to-take-over-public-schools-1.628194>
⁴⁸ http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/07/ohio_is_the_wild_wild_west_of.html
⁴⁹ <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/2015/ohiotrf.pdf>
⁵⁰ http://www.prwatch.org/files/5-8-15_final_cmd_reporters_guide_on_charter_waste_and_lack_of_accountability.pdf
⁵¹ A speech by Duncan delivered at the Dorothy I. Height Community Academy Public Charter School in D.C. in 2010 provides us with an example of how these much-vaunted public-private partnerships are sometimes fraught with conflicts of interest. "To Mr. [Kent] Amos, your school's founder, we have far too few folks who has experienced success in the corporate world and in the business community who then decide to help out and come back into the community ... thank you for your leadership," extolled Duncan in his eulogy. In 2015, Amos was forced to settle a \$3 million lawsuit when it was discovered that he had diverted millions of taxpayer money to his for-profit management company.
⁵² http://csbm.com/assets/Uploads/_resampled/SkitterSlide-CSBM-home-artwork-3.jpg
⁵³ <http://csbm.com/solutions/fundraising-and-development/#.VhKLgKRRjOr>
⁵⁴ <http://csbm.com/our-impact/our-clients/#.VhKVjqRRjOo>
⁵⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JVeZgar5Bnk>
⁵⁶ http://www.prwatch.org/files/5-8-15_final_cmd_reporters_guide_on_charter_waste_and_lack_of_accountability.pdf
⁵⁷ <http://www.umepprep.org/>
⁵⁸ http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/homepage-feature/item/49878-k12cyber21?Itemid=1&linktype=hp_featured
⁵⁹ https://www.edreform.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/CER_FINALClosedSchools2011-1.pdf
⁶⁰ <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/arizona/politics/2015/01/27/ducey-rally-charters-arizona-school-choice/22419163/>

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- ⁶¹ http://www.sourcewatch.org/images/8/89/Quality_of_the_application.pdf
- ⁶² http://www.sourcewatch.org/images/4/44/CO_Accountability_Pushback.pdf
- ⁶³ http://www.sourcewatch.org/images/c/cd/Colorado_Charter_Employment_Law.pdf
- ⁶⁴ http://www.sourcewatch.org/images/c/cd/Colorado_Charter_Employment_Law.pdf
- ⁶⁵ <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/charter/2011/floridatrff.pdf>
- ⁶⁶ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/auditreports/fy2012/a02l0002.pdf>
- ⁶⁷ <http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/leaders-of-closed-milwaukee-voucher-school-are-now-in-florida-b99185323z1-240384541.html>
- ⁶⁸ <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2014/10/05/charter-school-turns-turkish-teachers/16791669/>
- ⁶⁹ <http://shepherdexpress.com/article-24760-milwaukee%E2%80%99s-charter-schools-don%E2%80%99t-make-the-grade-news-shepherd-express.html>
- ⁷⁰ See n.49 *supra*.