Replacing bad schools with high quality schools is a theme you will see throughout the proposal,

Another idea, a thin one at this point:

Don’t need more schools as much as we need better schools in the place of, literally, bad schools. Part of the $45mm for restarts/turnarounds of communities lowest performing charters and district schools.
David,

Because I can't meet with you before I leave work at 4, feel free to call my cell around 5 to discuss the project. I will have my laptop at home and can review the reports with you over the phone.

Sherry Panizo
Policy Staff
Policy and Research

ODE_Signature_image
25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183
(614) 387-0546 | (877) 644-6338
sherry.panizo@education.ohio.gov
education.ohio.gov
U.S. Department of Education
Charter School Program Grants to State Educational Agencies

(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, (NAME OF 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. With the support of the CSP grant (NAME OF SEA) will work with NACSA to develop offerings that meet the needs of authorizers and may include trainings on (SEA TO SELECT):

- Application decision making
- How to orient applicants and evaluators to the process
- Renewal decision making
- Non-renewal and closure processes
- Performance frameworks
- Monitoring processes and practices
- Due diligence
- Capacity interviews
- Expansion and replication
- Orientation to Principles and Standards

The trainings will be conducted in person and/or virtually and training materials will be made available to authorizers. Each session will consist of a topical presentation by NACSA followed by a working session where authorizers will be able to get feedback from NACSA and the (SEA NAME) on the authorizer practice.

NACSA will provide our authorizers with access to related models and/or exemplars. Examples of model documents and exemplars include:

- Charter school application
- Application evaluation criteria and rubric
- Renewal process
- Performance framework
- Charter school contract
- Replication application
- Closure procedures

The final scope of work will be determined based on an assessment of needs of the authorizers in our state and may be differentiated based on authorizer type. At a minimum NACSA will provide two in-person sessions, training materials that will be made available to all authorizers, and follow-up access to selected tools and resources.

The SEA will conduct follow up surveys with authorizers to assess the effectiveness of the training and resources provided.

**Deliverables:** Needs assessment; two in-person trainings; two or more webinars; accompanying training materials, models, and exemplars.

**Fee:** $30,000

**Length of Project:** 12 to 18 months.
U.S. Department of Education
Charter School Program Grants to State Educational Agencies

About NACSA

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers is a not-for-profit, membership association committed to advancing excellence and accountability in the charter school sector and to increasing the number of high-quality charter schools across the nation. NACSA’s work includes evaluation, training, and development of authorizing tools and processes, all informed by the best practices of the nation’s leading authorizers. NACSA provides professional development, practical resources, consulting, and policy guidance to authorizers. It is devoted exclusively to improving public education by improving the policies and practices of the organizations responsible for authorizing charter schools.
Hi David,

I have four sections of our application updated with more direct references to NACSA.

I have them excerpted (with referenced pg. number and application section) in the attached document. Do you want an updated application with these new sections included? I wasn't sure if you were sending William our entire application or just the excerpts that reference NACSA.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need or if you would like me to beef up the responses even more.

Best,
Jason

Jason Fullen
Summer Fellow/Contractor
Office of Quality School Choice

25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614)-752-1221 | 877.644.6338
Jason.Fullen@education.ohio.gov
Pg. 4 – Absolute Priority 1

In keeping with statute, the Department has developed an **Authorizer Quality Performance Review**, closely aligned to NACSA’s *Principles & Standards of Quality Charter School Authorizing*, to measure an authorizer’s overall quality performance. Categories of the quality review include: oversight and evaluation; commitment and capacity; application process and decision-making; performance contracting; school termination and renewal decision-making; and technical assistance and authorizer requirements in rule and law.

Pg. 11 – Competitive Priority 1 (B)

Ohio authorizers are evaluated on the quality of their performance and on the monitoring of their portfolio of schools’ compliance with rule and law using ODE’s **Authorizer Quality Performance Review**. This review, strongly based on NACSA’s *Principles & Standards of Quality Charter School Authorizing*, provides possible quality review ratings of exemplary, effective, ineffective, or poor/underdeveloped, and compliance review ratings of exemplary, effective and ineffective.

Pg. 34 – Criteria f(1)

**State Authorizer Training**: In partnership with NACSA, ODE will develop a series of tools and trainings that will be made available to authorizers across the state. These materials and trainings will provide best practices and professional development throughout Ohio to ensure high-quality sponsorship across the state, yielding high-performing charter schools.

Pg. 37 – Criteria g(5)

Guided by NACSA’s best principles and standards, ODE’s **Authorizer Quality Performance Review** details the criteria used by Ohio’s exemplary and effective authorizers as the basis for making renewal decisions of charter contracts. Authorizers base renewal decisions
on objective evidence as defined by the performance framework in the charter contract. Evidence includes all of the following: multiple years and measures of student achievement; financial audits; site visits and compliance reports; and status reports on corrective action plans, if necessary. The authorizer only grants renewals to schools that are fiscally and organizationally viable based on criteria in the school’s performance contract, which includes rigorous and specific achievement goals.
From: Jantausch, Sarah  
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:40 AM  
To: Cooper, Deneice  
Cc: Pan, Jia; Hansen, David J. (david.hansen@education.ohio.gov); Faith.Behringer@education.ohio.gov; Fullen, Jason; Taylor, William; Tate, Steven  
Subject: Letters of Support

All,

Please see attached for the grant application.

Sarah Jantausch  
Administrative Professional 4/  
Assistant to the Executive Director  
Office of Quality School Choice

25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614)-387-0587 | 877.644.6338  
Sarah.jantausch@education.ohio.gov
July 14th, 2015


On behalf of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), I write in support of the Ohio Department of Education’s (ODE) Grant Proposal to the 2015 Charter School Program for State Educational Agencies. We believe that receiving this grant will greatly strengthen Ohio’s ability to establish and expand high-quality charter schools throughout the state.

Ohio’s new Authorizer Quality Performance Review is an exemplar for a state-focused authorizer evaluation. This review process was developed in close partnership with NACSA and is based on our Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing. The Performance Review is providing badly needed oversight of state authorizing and putting the development of Ohio’s charter sector on the road toward quality.

Additionally, with grant support, NACSA will partner with ODE and its new Authorizer Development staff in delivering a series of tools and trainings intended to strengthen the quality of authorizer practices statewide. Through an annual training of all Ohio authorizers, continual dissemination of best practices, and ongoing professional development, ODE, with NACSA guidance, will tackle the challenge of developing current poor and ineffective authorizers into effective and even exemplary charter authorizing entities.

The strides that Ohio has already made in improving its authorizer review process and strengthening its charter school sector are very encouraging. Receiving the Charter School Program SEA grant would allow the state to continue its momentum in creating, expanding and supporting high-quality authorizers and charter schools across Ohio.

Sincerely,

William Haft
VP, Authorizer Development
NACSA
Direct: 312.376.2323
Mobile: 303.817.6797
July 6, 2015

Stephan Huh, Director
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh,

On behalf of the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, I am writing to express our full support for the Ohio Department of Education’s application for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Public Charter School Program for State Education Agencies.

This grant program presents an important opportunity for Ohio. Support for the planning and creation of new high-quality charter schools is needed across the state, and fits well into the work the Alliance is doing to implement Cleveland’s Plan for Transforming Schools. The Cleveland Plan is our citywide strategy to overhaul education, and it relies in part on creating new high-performing schools. While we are focused on Cleveland, we know that families and students statewide would benefit from a PCSP award to Ohio.

Evaluation of the effects of charter schools is also an important aspect as the Alliance, and other stakeholders across Ohio, work to monitor the growth and quality of the charter sector.

In recent years, the Ohio Department of Education has made great progress with its work to improve the quality of the state’s charter sector. The Alliance views ODE as a strong partner in our work to ensure that all children can attend quality schools.

Sincerely,

Megan O'Bryan
Executive Director
KIPP
COLUMBUS

June 29, 2015

U.S. Department of Education Building
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

The Federal Charter Schools Program Grant for State Educational Agencies represents a significant opportunity to support high-quality charter schools that improve educational outcomes for our country’s most underserved students. On behalf of KIPP Columbus, it is my pleasure to express our strongest support for the Office of Quality School Choice at the Ohio Department of Education’s application for this grant.

KIPP Columbus has experienced exceptional success in implementing its mission to prove the possible by supporting Columbus’ most in need students on their journey to and through college. The students of KIPP Columbus benefit from KIPP’s presence in our community. KIPP operates with a vision of elevating and accelerating the academic and character achievement of its students, their families, and sharing this impact with the community it serves.

This grant would enable high performing Ohio charter schools, like KIPP Columbus to understand exactly what has been crucial in allowing us to meet our goals as we seek to replicate and share this success with more students. At KIPP Columbus, we recognize the immense importance of not just gaining desirable outcomes, but investigating the why and how of these goals to go deeper before we go wider.

The need in Ohio for this kind of support is undeniable. Though the education community is making great strides under Superintendent Richard Ross, Ohio’s journey to providing all students the education they need to live lives of choice and meaning is not over. Charter schools play an important role in this journey, and can be a strong influence in the climate that is created for positive change.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

Hannah D. Powell
KIPP Columbus, Executive Director
hpowell@kippcolumbus.org
July 16, 2015

Nadya Chinoy Dabby  
Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Office of Innovation and Improvement  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202  

Dear Mrs. Chinoy Dabby,

I am writing in strong support of the proposal submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for a State Educational Agencies Charter Schools Program grant.

Breakthrough Schools is a network of 11 high-performing public charter schools in Cleveland, Ohio. In 2015-2016, Breakthrough Schools will serve nearly 3,500 students in grades K-8, providing an outstanding college-preparatory education to those without high-quality options in their neighborhoods. Breakthrough’s mission is to develop a growing network of distinctive school options that prepare Cleveland area students for success in life. Our goal is to continue growing by replicating and improving upon our flagship models. Breakthrough’s aspirational goal is to ultimately serve 7,400 students across at least 19 schools, thereby serving, on average, nearly 20% of all K-8 children in public schools in Cleveland, and have a demonstrable impact on a city in need of viable educational options for children.

In 2011, Breakthrough Schools was honored to become one of nine CMOs in the country receiving a charter school start-up and replication grant from the U.S. Department of Education. To date, Breakthrough has replicated seven schools and will open three more with these transformative funds. If awarded, ODE can continue the successful replication and expansion of high-performing schools and effective seats throughout the state.

Breakthrough Schools fully supports ODE’s plan to leverage federal grant dollars to conduct charter school programs in the state, ensuring that all students have high-quality school options. Breakthrough Schools also strongly believes in ODE’s comprehensive system to improve accountability, and its plan to drive both school and authorizer outcomes with federal funds.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Zitzner  
Friends of Breakthrough Schools
July 14, 2015

Stephan Huh
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh,

I am writing on behalf of Accelerate Great Schools, a community education development organization in Cincinnati, Ohio. I would like to express my strong support of the State of Ohio's application for the Charter School Programs Startup Grants for State Education Agencies to the U.S. Department of Education.

Accelerate Great Schools is a city-based education reform nonprofit focused on the creation of thousands of new, high-quality seats for students in Cincinnati. We have currently raised over $15 million in private philanthropy with a plan to raise an additional $10 million, all to invest in new schools, grow talent pipelines, and improve policy conditions for the State of Ohio.

A State Education Agencies grant to the Ohio Department of Education would allow the State of Ohio to partner more deeply with community organizations such as Accelerate Great Schools as we invest in high quality charter school expansion. We have a bold plan to create thousands of new seats of the next five years, and this Federal grant would accelerate that work in Cincinnati and statewide.

I am pleased to offer my full support to the Ohio Department of Education in their grant application. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if I can be of further assistance. I can be reached at 312-590-1318.

Respectfully,

Patrick Herrel
CEO, Accelerate Great Schools
July 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) supports the application of the Ohio Department of Education for a federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant for a State Education Agency.

CMSD is a portfolio school district, committed to ensuring that all of Cleveland’s students have the opportunity to attend a high-quality public school. Charter schools can play a valuable role in providing those opportunities. CMSD supports the development and expansion of high-quality charter schools, as evidenced by our multiple and varied relationships with charters. We authorize 10 charter schools and have partnering relationships with seven others. All 17 of these schools share in proceeds of a local education levy passed by Cleveland voters in 2012. CMSD is the only district in Ohio to share local tax dollars with charter schools. CMSD also is working with charter schools to create a District/Charter grant and has received funding from the Gates Foundation to support these efforts aimed at improving collaboration between the sectors.

The CSP would support our efforts to improve education quality in Cleveland by providing needed funding to help expand the number of seats available at quality charter schools and by contributing to the evaluation of charter schools.

Thank you for considering the Ohio Department of Education’s application for a CSP grant. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Christine Fowler-Mack
Christine Fowler Mack,  
Chief Portfolio Officer
July 2, 2015

Mr. David Hansen
Executive Director, Office of Quality School Choice
25 S. Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear David,

On behalf of the board and staff of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ohio Department of Education’s Public Charter School Program (PCSP) grant application for State Education Agencies.

As you know, there is still a great need in many areas throughout the state for high quality schools. Receipt of PCSP funds would bolster these efforts by facilitating the creation of more high quality charter schools to serve all Ohio students.

We appreciate the work that your office has done over the past two years to improve the quality of the charter sector in Ohio, including implementing a robust authorizer evaluation system. We fully support your application for funding and believe that receipt of PCSP monies will play a critical role in providing children, especially our most disadvantaged, with more high quality school options.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Petrilli
President
United States Department of Education  
ATTN: Office of Innovation & Improvement  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Sir or Madam:

I was recently informed that the Office of Quality School Choice at the Ohio Department of Education has applied for the Charter School Program Grant for State Educational Agencies through the United States Department of Education. I am pleased to offer my support for their grant application.

It is my understanding that the Office of Quality School Choice at the Ohio Department of Education plans to increase national understanding of the charter school model. By providing financial assistance for planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools, the Ohio Department of Education will be able to evaluate the effects of charter schools on students, staff, and parents.

I believe the Charter School Program Grant is important for furthering the education of our nation's youth. I hope the Office of Innovation and Improvement will give all possible consideration to this application. Please accept this letter as an expression of my interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Tiberi  
Representative to Congress
July 16, 2015

Nadya Chinoy Dabby  
Assistant Deputy Secretary  
Office of Innovation and Improvement  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5970

Dear Assistant Deputy Secretary Dabby,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the Ohio Department of Education for funding in the Charter Schools Program Grants for State Education Agencies.

I understand the purpose of this program is to increase national understanding of the charter school model. Funding from your agency will enhance Ohio’s ability to implement and expand its efforts to ensure that all students have high quality school options.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grant coordinator, Linda Greenwood at (419) 259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rob Portman  
United States Senator
On behalf of StudentsFirst and our 67,000 members in Ohio who passionately care about educational improvement, including quality school choice, I am writing in strong support of the Ohio Department of Education’s application for the US DOE’s Charter School Programs Startup Grants.

Ohio was one of the first states in the nation to embrace the educational alternatives promised by charter schools. For the past 20 years, charters emerged as options for families residing in struggling school districts. Today, approximately 400 charter schools educate 120,000 Ohio school kids. With nearly two decades of hindsight, however, it is clear that the movement has not lived up to its promise.

What we have, at best, is a mixed bag. Some charter schools excel at educating mostly low-income schoolchildren who endure all kinds of barriers to learning. Others do not even outperform the traditional district public schools the kids departed.

Fortunately, the legislature and state leadership have come to focus on rectifying this sobering reality. Indeed, the Ohio Department of Education used its authorizing authority to allow very few new schools to open this year, placing an emphasis on operators set up for success. They also shuttered bad schools. The ODE has implemented a new system to evaluate charter school sponsor that places a heavy emphasis on student outcomes.

Strong bi-partisan legislation (HB 2) is also heading towards passage that complements the culture accountability and results being imbued by the ODE. The efforts of State Department leadership combined with legislative action are creating conditions needed to build on the successes we already see across Ohio’s charter community. For example, a recent report from Stanford University’s Center for Research on Education Outcomes shows that Ohio’s low-income charter school students, especially low-income black students, have significant learning gains in both reading and math compared to their peers who remain at their traditional public school. Overall, low-income students gain 14 days of learning in both reading and math. The learning gains for low-income black students jumps to 29 days in reading and 22 in math. It is imperative that we now bolster these trends and support successful charter schools that can play an important role in helping to close Ohio’s achievement gap.

As a result of the state momentum on several fronts in creating a culture of accountability and transparency, combined with new initiatives to support high quality charter schools in our cities, there is no better time for an infusion of start up grants that can help the state and our urban centers replicate existing strong schools, while also attracting new high quality charter schools to our cities.

As the state and its cities create conditions of readiness to seed strong new school, your federal support will help expedite Ohio’s effort to create tens of thousands of new, high quality charter school seats across the state. As seen over the past twenty years, Ohio families embrace better options for their kids when empowered by choice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Harris, PhD
State Director
StudentsFirst Ohio
July 15, 2015

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan,

KidsOhio.org, a 13-year-old nonpartisan education research and policy organization, supports the Ohio Department of Education’s application for the federal Charter School Startup Grant. Public charter schools have become an important part of the Ohio education landscape with more than 120,000 Ohio students enrolled. In the Columbus City Schools district, which has the state’s largest student body, 25% (17,000 students) of students attending a publicly funded school are enrolled in a public charter school.

While charter schools are a popular choice for large numbers of urban parents, a recent analysis of student academic performance by the well-respected CREDO Institute at Stanford University found that the academic performance of Ohio charter school students lagged behind that of students in traditional school districts. In response, Governor John Kasich and legislative leaders in both parties have proposed fundamental changes to Ohio charter school law to improve academic accountability and fiscal management. Last month, the Ohio Senate, by a unanimous 30-0 vote, passed the most comprehensive charter school reform proposal in Ohio history.

Awarding Ohio a federal charter school startup grant would help the Ohio Department of Education to shape the growth of Ohio’s charter school sector. The grant would allow the Department to put an increased emphasis on quality and to support high-performing charter schools in communities with a short supply of high-performing public schools.

Importantly, the grant requires that the Ohio Department of Education form partnerships with a local Community Educational Development Organization to create neighborhood-level strategies to increase the number of high-quality schools and to review proposals from schools seeking to locate in that neighborhood. This will authentically engage urban parents and neighborhood and civic leaders in key decisions.

This grant offers Ohio an important tool to screen potential new charter school operators and to provide startup grants to charter schools with a demonstrated ability to help students make progress. Thank you for considering Ohio’s request.

Sincerely,

Mark Real
President
KidsOhio.org
July 8, 2015

Mr. Stephan Huh, Director
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. Huh,

The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Quality School Choice in its submission for a 2015 Charter School Program Grant for State Educational Agencies.

As a statewide membership organization dedicated to expanding the scope and quality of Ohio’s charter schools, OAPCS joins ODE in its commitment to create new and better educational options, particularly for the state’s disadvantaged students. We believe an SEA grant to expand high-quality charter schools in Ohio is critical to the continuous improvement of student achievement in the state’s urban centers. Further, additional funds would help generate equitable outcomes for all students, especially those in challenging economic environments with limited resources and access to high-performing schools.

Currently, the families of nearly 125,000 students in Ohio choose charter schools as they seek innovation, equity and quality for their children. The challenge for education leaders in our communities is providing more successful charter options so more students can benefit. In this endeavor, OAPCS fully endorses the efforts of ODE’s Office of Quality School Choice to seek grant funding to increase the number of high-quality charter schools available in the state. Improving the charter school sector in Ohio is a high priority we share with our state leadership and our families. We urge your favorable consideration of this SEA application.

Sincerely,

Dr. Darlene Chambers
President and CEO
July 8, 2015

Stephan Huh, Director
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202

Subject: Charter School Program for State Education Agencies

Dear Mr. Huh –

The Ohio Coalition for Quality Education is the leadership organization representing Ohio's public charter schools and the high performing charter school sponsors.

With nearly 400 charter schools educating over 123,000 students, Ohio has become one of the nation’s leading states providing options to thousands of families searching for quality educational choices for their children.

Working with many of Ohio’s leading charter school stakeholders, the Ohio Department of Education’s Office of Quality School Choice has been highly focused in propelling excellence in education. This grant will help continue to expand the number of high quality charter schools in Ohio.

We strongly support their application for the Charter School Grant for State Educational Agencies.

Regards,

Ron F. Adler
President
July 14, 2015

Mr. Stephan Huh  
Office of Innovation and Improvement  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh:

Please accept this letter of support for the Ohio Department of Education’s (ODE) application for funding through the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Programs State Education Agency Grant. The grant has the potential to leverage many exciting education reform efforts underway across Ohio and in Cincinnati.

The Farmer Family Foundation is a private family foundation based in Cincinnati. One of our core focus areas for investment is improving educational outcomes for at-risk youth. Together with key business, philanthropic, and community leaders from across Cincinnati, we have recently launched a new organization – Accelerate Great Schools - with a mission to double the number of students with access to high performing schools in the next five years. Accelerate Great Schools is an example of a Community Education Development Organization. We will raise a $25 million fund over five years to support the launch of an ecosystem of high performing schools for Cincinnati. This would have a demonstrable impact on student outcomes and the larger economic vibrancy of our community.

Over the past several years, The Farmer Family Foundation has had the pleasure of partnering with ODE to advance education opportunities for underserved students in Ohio. We look forward to ongoing opportunities to work with them to meet our shared objective of increasing the number of high-quality seats in Ohio.

The Farmer Family Foundation is extremely supportive of ODE’s grant application and appreciative of the opportunity it may provide to our families and youth in need. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Martin  
Executive Director

6847 Cintas Boulevard, Suite 120  •  Mason, Ohio 45040  •  (513) 459-1085  •  Fax (513) 573-4078
July 14, 2015

Stephan Huh
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh:

I am writing to express strong support from The Greater Cincinnati Foundation for Ohio’s application for funding through the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Programs Startup Grants for State Education Agencies.

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation has invested over $2.2 million over the last 5 years to improve the educational success of our region. Too many Greater Cincinnati children enter kindergarten not prepared for school, not succeeding educationally in elementary school through high school, nor successfully transitioning into post-secondary education. Nearly half of all adults in our region currently lack any education beyond high school. It is estimated that by 2018, two-thirds of all jobs will require some type of post-secondary credential or degree. We have invested a wide range of educational programs, including a regional early childhood education initiative, programs to reengage urban teenagers in learning, and partnerships to support non-traditional and first-generation college students in furthering their education.

The Ohio Department of Education is working diligently to improve charter school quality in Ohio and support the creation of improved educational opportunities for students across the state. This grant would allow communities to partner with the State of Ohio to increase the pace of innovation and improvement. The newly launched Accelerate Great Schools organization in our city is focused on doubling the number of students in high performing seats. Cincinnati is on the brink of meaningful change in education and such a partnership could dramatically boost the scope and pace of change.

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation stands in support of this proposal and is confident that students and families in Ohio would benefit from such an opportunity.

Sincerely,

Shiloh Turner

200 West Fourth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2775
tel: 513-241-2880

Page 5040 of 5062
July 14, 2015

Stephan Huh
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh:

As the chairman of the Cincinnati Regional Business Committee (CRBC), I would like to offer support for Ohio’s funding application through the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Programs Startup Grants for State Education Agencies.

The CRBC is a mid-cap, executive civic organization. Comprised of more than 75 members, the CRBC is dedicated to promoting transformational change and improving economic competitiveness in the greater Cincinnati region.

The CRBC recently helped to launch a new organization called Accelerate Great Schools to dramatically improve educational opportunities for students in Cincinnati. This broad community effort has been supported by philanthropic, business, education, and faith-based organizations in our city. The organization is focused on doubling the number of students in high performing schools over the next five years by investing in new schools, growing talent pipelines for qualified teachers, and improving policy conditions. Community partners are pursuing a $25 million fund to support Accelerate Great Schools over the next five years. CRDC has committed $1 million. In total, over $15 million has been raised to date.

We urge you to support Ohio’s application. It would enable the Ohio Department of Education to become a key partner with groups like Accelerate Great Schools to transform communities across the state by creating new high performing school options for students and their families.

Sincerely,

Scott Robertson
Chairman
Cincinnati Regional Business Committee
July 14, 2015

Stephan Huh
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh:

I am writing on behalf of the Cincinnati Business Committee (CBC) in support of Ohio’s application for funding through the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Programs State Education Agency Grant. If awarded, this grant funding would dramatically accelerate our education reform efforts here in Cincinnati and across the state.

The CBC is an organization of CEOs in the Greater Cincinnati area committed to identifying and providing leadership on issues that improve our community’s long-term economic vitality and well-being. We place special emphasis on economic development, public education, and government reform and collaboration.

The CBC is committed to improving education options for disadvantaged students in Cincinnati. Earlier this year, we joined forces with leaders from the philanthropic, business, and education communities to launch a new organization with the mission of doubling the number of students with access to high performing schools in our community over the next five years. This organization – called “Accelerate Great Schools” – will focus on attracting and growing proven school models from across the country and building the talent pipeline needed to fuel a local system of high performing schools. Our community partners are pursuing a $25 million fund to support this work over the next five years.

If successful in this grant application, the Ohio Department of Education could become a key partner with groups like Accelerate Great Schools to create new high performing school options for families.

Again, the CBC is pleased to support Ohio’s grant application and view this as an exciting opportunity to accelerate education reform efforts across the state.

Sincerely,

Gary Lindgren
Executive Director
Cincinnati Business Committee
July 15, 2015

Stephan Huh
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Ms. Huh:

The mission of the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) is to mobilize private sector leadership, expertise and resources to create jobs and economic vitality for the region. We do that in many ways – by promoting public policies that improve the business and economic climate; working to enhance our physical infrastructure and next-generation projects and civic assets; and continuing the momentum that is underway with regard to education reform.

GCP was an integral partner in the creation of Cleveland’s Plan for Transforming Schools that seeks to ensure every child in the City of Cleveland has an excellent education and every neighborhood has great schools – public and charter. We worked closely with local and state leadership to create the enabling legislation (HB 525) for the Cleveland Plan that passed in 2012, and the local levy that has helped to fund its implementation. A key component of that plan was the creation of the Transformation Alliance – the watchdog for charter quality and growth in the City of Cleveland. Led by Mayor Frank Jackson, the Alliance is comprised of key stakeholders from the education, union, business, and civic community who are all committed to the success of Cleveland’s kids.

As a member of the Transformation Alliance, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with the Ohio Department of Education as an important partner in our work. If awarded a grant from this initiative, we could strengthen our collective efforts to transform the quality of education for all children in our city and, ultimately, the State of Ohio. For these reasons, we support the Ohio Department of Education’s Charter Startup School grant proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Joseph D. Roman
President & CEO
July 14, 2015

Stephan Huh
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh:

I am writing on behalf of the Lovett and Ruth Peters Foundation in support of the state of Ohio’s application for funding through the U.S. Department of Education’s Charter School Programs State Education Agency Grant.

The Lovett and Ruth Peters Foundation, based in Cincinnati, is focused on improving the quality of K-12 education and has partnered with leaders from the philanthropic, business, and education communities to launch a new effort called Accelerate Great Schools. This organization will work to double the number of students with access to high performing schools in our community over the next five years. It will focus on expanding and attracting proven school models, building human capital pipelines, and engaging and informing the community. This is a transformational moment for educational innovation and improvement in our community.

As president of the Lovett and Ruth Peters Foundation, I am pleased to support this proposal. Should Ohio be awarded funding, I am confident that it will significantly contribute to our ability to provide improved educational opportunities for the most disadvantaged children in our community.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Peters, President
Lovett & Ruth Peters Foundation
1500 Chiquita Center
250 East Fifth St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Tel: 513.562.1550
dan@petersfdn.org
July 14, 2015

Mr. Stephan Huh
Director, Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Mr. Huh:

On behalf of the Columbus Partnership, I am writing to express our support of the Office of Quality School Choice in applying for the Public Charter School Program Grant for State Education Agencies through the U.S. Department of Education.

I believe that quality education is imbedded in the integral foundation of our economic development work which supports the local community. The Columbus Partnership is dedicated to creating and maintaining the best urban metropolitan education infrastructure in the nation serving as a magnet to attracting talent and businesses to the Columbus Region. Therefore, this grant is essential in supporting and sustaining quality charter schools in the state of Ohio.

I have full confidence that awarding this grant to the Ohio Department of Education will be the next key step in improving our education system.

Very truly yours,

Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO

ARF/tt
June 29, 2015

David Hansen
Executive Director
Office of Quality School Choice
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Hansen:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West in the submission of the application for Charter School Program Grant for State Educational Agencies by the Office of Quality School Choice.

As an organization that sponsors charter schools in Ohio, we understand the importance of our schools providing the best education possible for the students of Ohio. It is increasingly beneficial for us to evaluate the academic and social effectiveness of our charter schools for students, staff, and parents. Having an opportunity to expand those successful programs, in the highest of quality facilities, will only make Ohio stand out as a national leader in the charter school movement.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Office of Quality School Choice as they seek external funding to increase the understanding of the charter school model to benefit our students and their communities.

Sincerely,

Apryl M. Morin, M.OD.
Director
Center for Community Schools
Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West
To Whom It May Concern;

As one of three exemplary authorizer/sponsors in Ohio we write in support of the Office of Quality School Choice at the Ohio Department of Education ("ODE") as they seek funding for the Charter School Program Grant. Under the direction of Executive Director, David Hanson, ODE has worked tirelessly strengthening Ohio's charter school movement by enacting policy changes and administrative processes.

Ohio's charter school movement began in 1998 with a small school in Toledo that served fewer than 200 at-risk students. Since then, the movement has evolved into one of the strongest and largest school choice communities in the country. Nationwide, over 6,000 charter schools operate in 42 states and the District of Columbia, serving 2.3 million students. In Ohio, there are 383 charter schools serving approximately 125,000 students. As the sole sponsoring designee of the University of Toledo, the Ohio Council of Community Schools ("OCCS") is one of two original sponsors borne out of Ohio's original school choice experiment. We are proud of our partnership with the University and of the opportunities it provides for our sponsored schools. In addition, we are proud of our partnership with ODE as together we attempt to change the quality of charter schools opening, and operating in Ohio.

One of the current challenges in Ohio is that schools are not encouraged to replicate. If a school wish to replicate or relocate to Ohio they would have to bear the entire cost because funds are not available.

The Charter School Program Grant would only strengthen Ohio Charter School Movement by;
- Providing financial assistance for planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools;
- Evaluating the effects of charter schools, including the effects on students, student achievement, student growth, staff and parents; and
- Expanding the number of high-quality charter schools available to students in Ohio;

As noted above, ODE is making great progress in altering Ohio's charter school movement and with the assistance the Charter School Program Grant, ODE would be provided the leverage to encourage high quality charter schools to replicate, relocate and or start anew.

Yours in Education Choice,

Lenny Schafer M.Ed., PCC-S
Executive Director
Ohio Council of Community Schools
July 14, 2015

Stephan Huh, Director
Office of Innovation and Improvement
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DS 20202

Dear Mr. Huh,

On behalf of Cardinal Health, I am writing to express our support of the Office of Quality School Choice in applying for the Public Charter School Program Grant for State Education Agencies through the U.S. Department of Education.

We believe that educating our children for a life of opportunity is one of our community’s most important responsibilities. And we recognize that failure to prepare our children for the future carries with it staggering costs to individuals, families, neighborhoods and our city’s economy. The development and sustainability of high performing charter schools is an important part of an effective education ecosystem. As such, this grant will help ensure quality charter school opportunities are available for students in the state of Ohio, particularly those from low-income and minority families.

I am confident that awarding this grant to the Ohio Department of Education will contribute to improving our education system and help us support the success of all children.

Sincerely,

George S. Barrett
From: Hoffman, Joni  
To: Hansen, David  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: FW: eSchools & DOPR Schools 7-16-2015 for MH.xls  
Date: Thu Jul 16 2015 14:12:54 EDT  
Attachments: eSchools & DOPR Schools 7-16-2015 for MH.xls

From: Hoffman, Joni  
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 1:44 PM  
To: Huffman, Melissa  
Subject: eSchools & DOPR Schools 7-16-2015 for MH.xls
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## Student Population Types

### Dropout Recovery 1

The dropout recovery school’s Report Card data do not roll up into its sponsoring district’s Report Card data. The school receives the Dropout Recovery Community School Report Card established under ORC Section 3314.017 and will be evaluated for closure under ORC Section 3314.351.

### Dropout Recovery 2

The dropout recovery school has an approved closure exemption waiver under ORC 3314.36. The school receives the Dropout Recovery Community School Report Card established under ORC Section 3314.017 and will be evaluated for closure under ORC Section 3314.351.

### General

The school does not primarily serve a dropout recovery student population nor does it primarily serve a special education student population.

### Special Education

Special Education schools are those schools reporting that more than half of their students had IEPs during the school year. These schools are exempt from permanent closure for continued poor academic performance under ORC Section 3314.36.
From: Hoffman, Joni
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Huffman, Melissa
Subject: Dates of reviews

Hi,

Let me know if you need something more/different.

Thanks.

Joni
<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Quality Review completed</th>
<th>Overall Rating Letter sent</th>
<th>Authorizer Agreement; expiration date</th>
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The Pew Trusts does reporting on education. They’re doing a story on Cleveland and other cities including charters in their school reform efforts. They called me because of authorizer evaluation, not related to any current reported. Can someone talk to them? It would potential lead to a bit more favorable coverage in philanthropy circles about Cleveland’s ed reform efforts?

Susan Warner is the reporters name. swarner@pewtrusts.org

David J. Hansen
Executive Director, Office of Quality School Choice
614.466.0452 (o) | 614.557.5231 (m) | 877.644.6338
25 South Front Street | Columbus, Ohio 43215
David.Hansen@Education.Ohio.Gov

Email Pic