

Minnesota's Definition of Significant Expansion and Replication for the purposes of the Federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant Project

Charter schools that have been identified as High-Quality Charter Schools (HQCS) are eligible to apply for a CSP Significant Expansion or Replication Grant. Once identified, schools will be eligible to submit an application for two grant cycles, until the next year's list of HQCS is published.

Charter LEAs may or may not have already submitted an application to their authorizer to expand/replicate, and the authorizer may or may not have already submitted a supplemental affidavit for expansion to the commissioner.

The expansion/replication must be approved via the supplemental affidavit process prior to any students being served via the expanded grades/additional site. If an affidavit has not yet been submitted, the authorizer must submit a letter of support along with the charter school's letter of intent to apply for CSP funds.

Definitions:

Significant Expansion: Serving a minimum of two additional grades and increasing enrollment by at least 50% of the current LEA enrollment (a minimum of 100 additional students – existing school must serve at least 200) by the time the expansion is fully implemented.

- The expansion must be beyond the grades for which the school received its original CSP planning & implementation subgrant.
- Expansions that have become operational within the past two years are eligible to apply for start-up funds, provided that CSP funds have not already been directed to the expansion.
- In an expansion, separate lotteries are not required even if more than one site is needed to serve the additional grades, provided that there is no overlap in grades between sites. If multiple sites will be serving the same grades, that would be considered a replication.

Replication: Opening a new school site, which will be students' primary site of enrollment, beyond what was approved in the original affidavit or charter contract and increasing enrollment by at least 50% of the current LEA enrollment (a minimum of 100 additional students – existing school must serve at least 200) by the time the replication is fully implemented. This results in multiple separate schools under a single charter.

- Additional sites that have opened within the past two years are eligible to apply for start-up funds, provided that CSP funds have not already been directed to this site's start-up.
- In a replication, the additional site will be required to have its own enrollment process and lottery, and enrollment preference does not cross school sites. The additional separate site will also have separate performance outcomes in the charter contract with the school's authorizer.