

News Release

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Wisconsin charter schools to receive \$8.17 million in grants

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers announced grant awards to support 51 charter schools for the 2014-15 school year. Funding for the charter school awards is provided through a federal grant Wisconsin won in 2009 worth \$86 million.

The grant awards are broken into five different categories designed to assist charter schools at differing stages of their operations. Eight schools will share \$1.2 million in planning grants, 16 schools will share \$2.7 million in initial implementation grants for charter schools in their first year, 20 schools will share \$3.4 million in implementation renewal grants for schools in their second year, four schools will share \$495,000 in dissemination grants aimed at supporting program sharing activities, and three schools will share \$312,500 in dissemination renewal grants that will assist established charter schools with outreach activities.

“Wisconsin’s charter schools, and the dedicated educators that serve these schools, are given the latitude to explore new instructional methods and refine best practices. They are laboratories of innovation,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Funding from these grant awards ensures that successful charter schools have the ability to begin or continue to build upon their work.”

In 1993, Wisconsin became one of the first states to authorize the creation of charter schools and has continually ranked in the top 10 states nationwide for the number of charter schools. 242 charter schools operated during the 2013-14 school year, serving 45,078 students.

Under state law, school districts can authorize an unlimited number of charter schools. Additionally, the City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, have authority to charter schools. Charter schools authorized by these entities are often referred to as non-district, independent, or 2R charter schools. Charter schools are public schools and are accountable to the locally elected school board or authorizing agency that approved their charter contract. Charter schools must employ licensed teachers, involve parents, administer statewide tests, and comply with federal regulations that govern all public schools.

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NOTE: A list of charter school grants follows. More information about charter schools in Wisconsin can be found at http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/sms_csindex. This news release is available electronically at http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2014_89.pdf.

Charter School Grants

2014-15 School Year

Planning Grants (8) \$1,200,000

Ashland School District

Ashland Collaborative Academy, \$150,000

City of Milwaukee

TransCenter for Youth, \$150,000

Kewaskum School District

i4Learning, \$150,000

Mauston School District

Lyndon Station Montessori, \$150,000

Northland Pines School District

Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center, \$150,000

Stevens Point Area School District

Stevens Point Expeditionary Learning School, \$150,000

Tomah Area School District

Tomah Area Montessori, \$150,000

UW-Milwaukee

Penfield Montessori Academy, \$150,000

Initial Implementation Grants (16) \$2,732,500

Appleton Area School District

Appleton Technical Academy, \$150,000

Ashland School District

Oredocker Project School, \$170,000

Janesville School District

Rock University High School, \$150,000

Kettle Moraine School District

High School of Health Sciences, \$191,250

La Crosse School District

Seven Rivers Community Charter High School, \$150,000

Little Chute Area School District

Flex Academy, \$150,000

Milwaukee Public Schools

NOVA Tech, \$212,500

Nekoosa School District

Central Wisconsin STEM Academy, \$150,000

New London School District

Catalyst Academy Charter School, \$150,000

Racine Unified School District

Racine Civil Leaders Academy, \$212,500

River Valley School District

Arena Community Elementary School, \$170,000

Rubicon J6 School District

Rubicon Personalized Learning Academy, \$150,000

Sparta Area School District

Innovations STEM Academy, \$150,000

UW-Milwaukee

Milwaukee College Preparatory School-Lola Rowe North Campus, \$276,250

Viroqua Area School District

Viroqua Area Montessori School, \$150,000

Watertown Unified School District

Endeavor Charter School, \$150,000

Implementation Renewal Grant (20) \$3,433,750

Albany School District

Albany Community Middle School, \$191,250

Ashland School District

Ashland Elementary Charter School, \$170,000

Cumberland School District

Island City Academy, \$150,000

Fond du Lac School District

Fond du Lac STEM Institute, \$150,000

Hartland-Lakeside J3 School District

Hartland Fine Arts Leadership Academy, \$150,000

Kettle Moraine School District

KM Explore, \$170,000

Milwaukee Public Schools

Carmen Northwest, \$212,500

MTEC School of Environmental Science, \$170,000

The Banner School of Milwaukee, \$212,500

Universal Academy for the College Bound, \$212,500

Montello School District

Montello Junior-Senior High School, \$255,000

New London School District

Next Generation Academy, \$150,000

Northland Pines School District

School of Options and Applied Research, \$150,000

Oconto Unified School District

Bayshore Community Academy, \$150,000

Ripon Area School District

Journey Charter School, \$170,000

Rosendale-Brandon School District

Cirrus High School, \$150,000

Tomorrow River School District
Tomorrow River Community School, \$150,000

UW-Milwaukee
Woodlands School East, \$170,000

Verona Area School District
Exploration Academy, \$150,000

West Bend School District
Pathways Academy, \$150,000

Dissemination Grants (4) \$495,000

Highland School District
Highland Community Middle School, \$120,000

Ripon Area School District
Quest, \$125,000

Waukesha School District
Waukesha STEM, \$125,000

Wausau School District
Wausau Engineering & Global Leadership Academy, \$125,000

Dissemination Renewal Grants (3) \$312,500

Birchwood School District
Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School, \$125,000

Columbus School District
Discovery Charter School, \$125,000

Milwaukee Public Schools
Hmong American Peace Academy, \$62,500