



**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S  
CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM  
OVERVIEW**

**DECEMBER 2015**

What is the purpose and history of the  
U.S. Department of Education's  
Charter Schools Program?

# THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM (CSP) HAS FOUR MAIN STATUTORY PURPOSES:

1. Providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of public charter schools;
2. Evaluating the effects of public charter schools, including effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents;
3. Expanding the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the United States; and
4. Encouraging States to provide support to charter schools for facilities financing.

# THE CSP HAS PROVIDED OVER \$3.3 BILLION TO FUND THE STARTUP, REPLICATION AND EXPANSION OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

The CSP has awarded **\$3.3 billion** for the creation of charter schools since its inception in 1995, through three grant competitions:



1. **State Educational Agencies (SEA):**  
**\$3.0 billion** from 1995-2015
2. **Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (CMO):**  
**\$266 million** from 2010-2015
3. **Non-State Educational Agencies (Non-SEA):**  
**\$83 million** from 2002-2015

Federal funds have also helped charter schools find suitable facilities, disseminate promising charter school practices, promote exemplary collaborations with traditional public schools, and invest in national activities and initiatives that support charter schools.

**NOTE: This presentation focuses only on the SEA, Non-SEA and CMO grants.**

Between SY 2006-07 and SY 2013-14 how many **schools and students have benefitted** from the SEA, CMO and Non-SEA programs?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>SY 2006-07 was the first year that SEAs reported comprehensive data on subgrantees.

# CSP HAS FUNDED OVER 40% OF OPERATIONAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS, SERVING 1 MILLION STUDENTS.

As of SY 2013-14:

**6,467** public charter schools were open nationwide

**2,676** of these public charter schools had received CSP funding between SY 2006-07 and SY 2013-14<sup>1</sup>



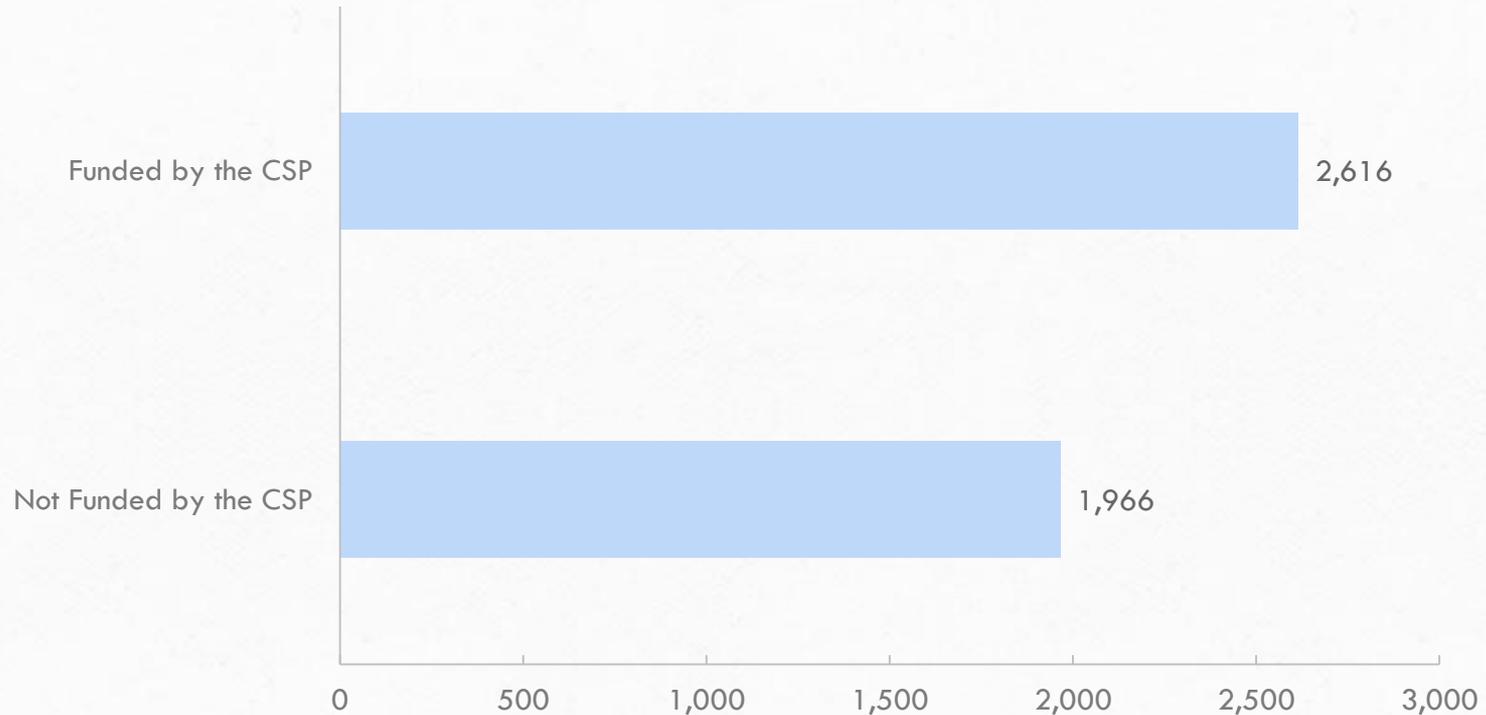
**41%** (2,676/6,467) of public charter schools operating had received CSP funding during the period of SY 2006-07 and SY 2013-14

**1 million** students were served by these schools

**Note:** SY 2013-14 is the most recent year in which enrollment data was available.

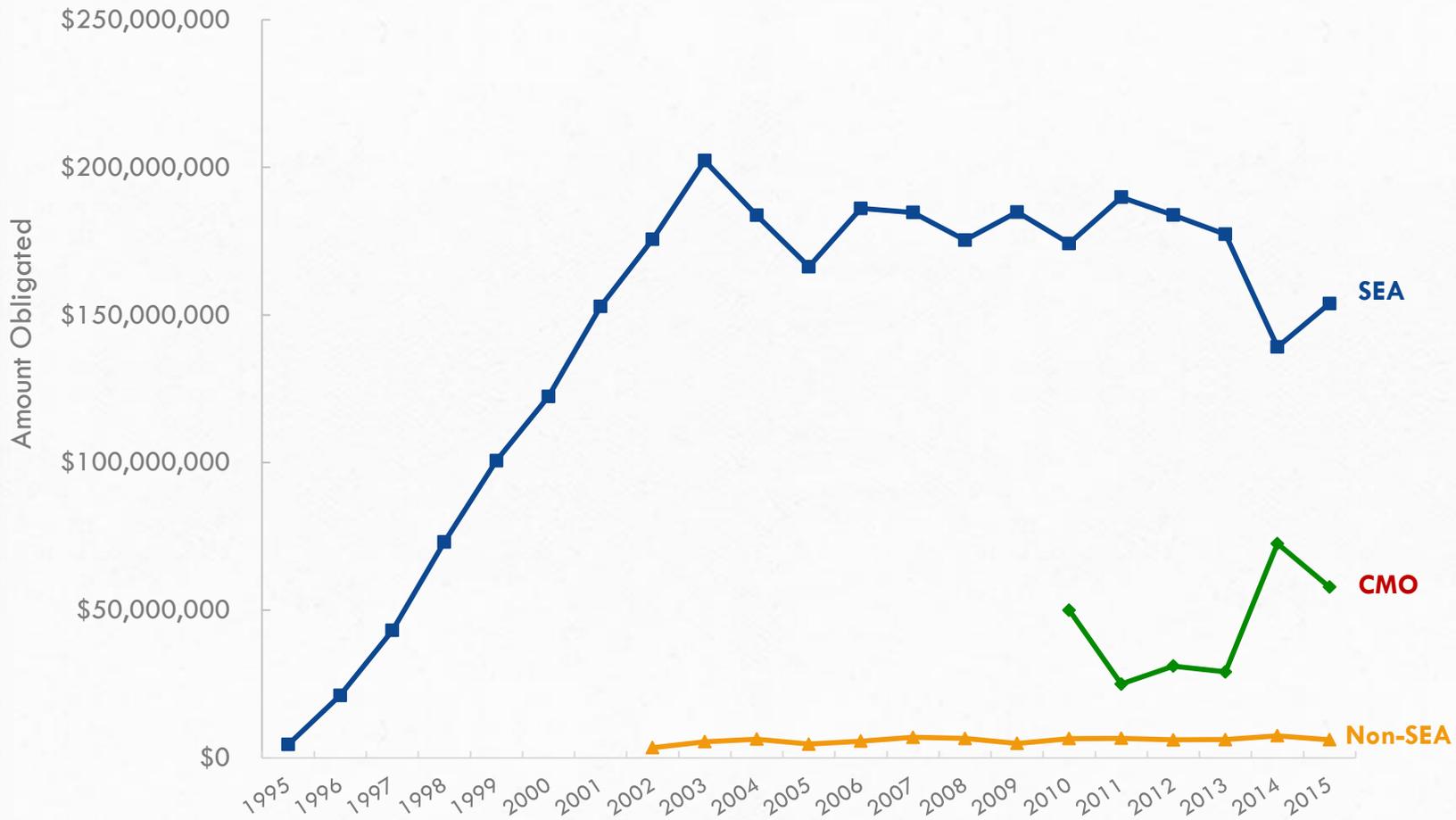
<sup>1</sup>56 public charter schools that had received CSP funding between SY 2006-07 and SY 2013-14 subsequently converted to traditional public schools. These schools are not included in this analysis.

# CSP FUNDED NEARLY 60% OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS OPENED BETWEEN SY 2006-07 AND SY 2013-14.



Number of Charter Schools Opened Between SY 2006-07 and SY 2013-14

# THE VAST MAJORITY OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL GRANTS ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THE SEA PROGRAM.



# CSP AWARDS HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT—AVERAGING \$461,813 PER OPERATIONAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SINCE 2006.<sup>1</sup>

**\$461,813** average award per public charter school open as of SY 2013-14 that had received CSP funding between SY 2006-07 and SY 2013-14



**\$207,673** average award per prospective public charter school that had received CSP funding between SY 2006-07 and SY 2013-14<sup>2</sup>



\$0                      \$100,000                      \$200,000                      \$300,000                      \$400,000                      \$500,000

Average award amount per school

<sup>1</sup>Amounts adjusted for inflation.

<sup>2</sup>Prospective schools refers to developers that received CSP funds, but have not yet opened a school—this encompasses recent recipients that may still open a school as well as recipients where it is unlikely that they will open a school.

Which students are benefitting from CSP funds?

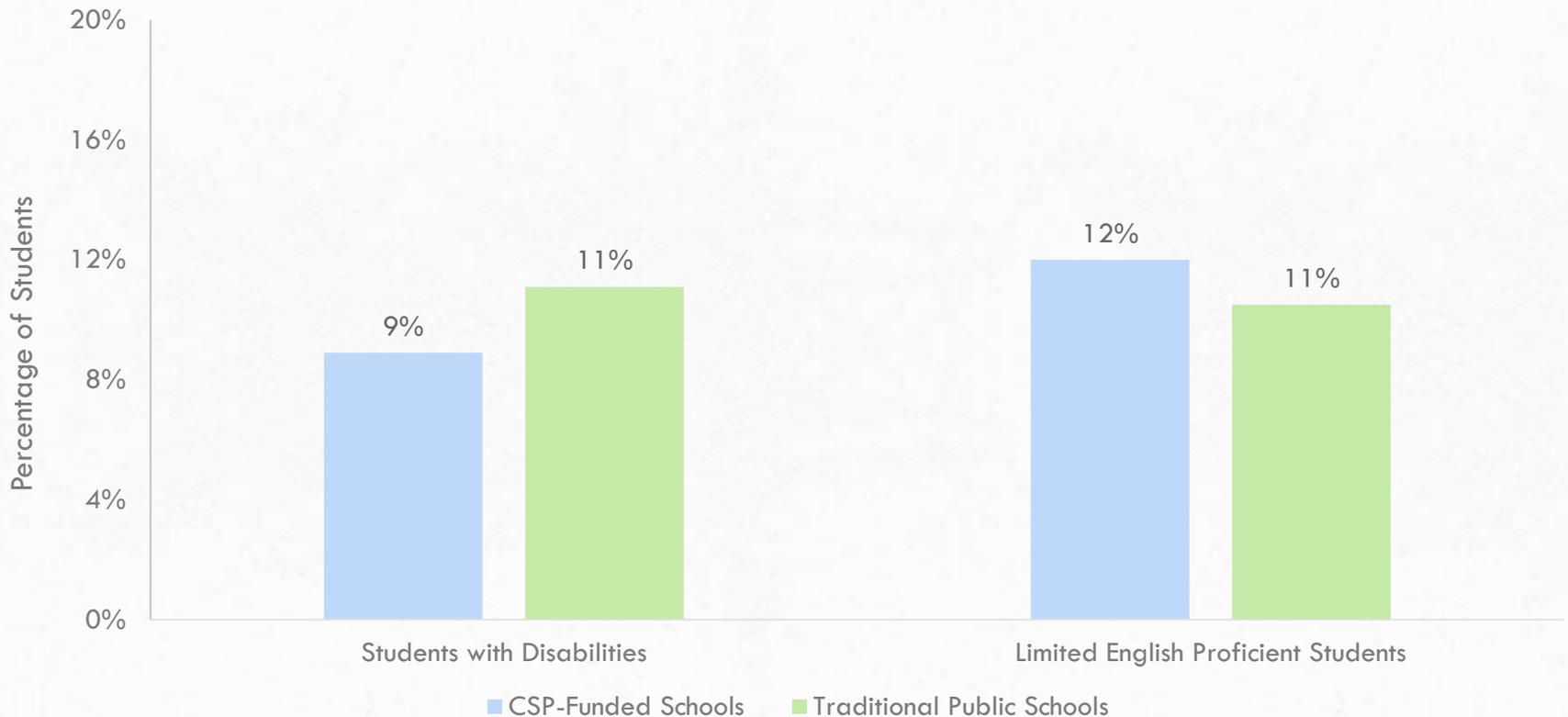
# CSP-FUNDED SCHOOLS SERVE HIGHER PERCENTAGES OF BLACK AND HISPANIC STUDENTS, AND STUDENTS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED-LUNCH.

CSP-funded public charter schools served approximately 2% of total free and reduced-lunch students in SY 2013-14	CSP-Funded Charter Schools (n = 2,648)		Traditional Public Schools (n = 88,641)	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Total number of students</b>	<b>991,626</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>47,165,130</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Free and reduced-lunch (FRL) eligible students	584,650	59.0%	24,180,298	51.3%
White	304,821	30.7%	24,116,093	51.1%
Black	318,423	32.1%	7,052,344	15.0%
Hispanic	294,844	29.7%	11,600,786	24.6%
Asian	35,369	3.6%	2,306,807	4.9%
Two or more races	28,563	2.9%	1,421,331	3.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	5,816	0.6%	498,982	1.1%
Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander	3,790	0.4%	165,049	0.3%

Source: Common Core of Data.

**Note:** The enrollment data of 28 CSP-funded public charter schools that were operational in SY 2013-14 was not included because their enrollment data did not meet the National Center for Education Statistics data quality standards, or the data was missing.

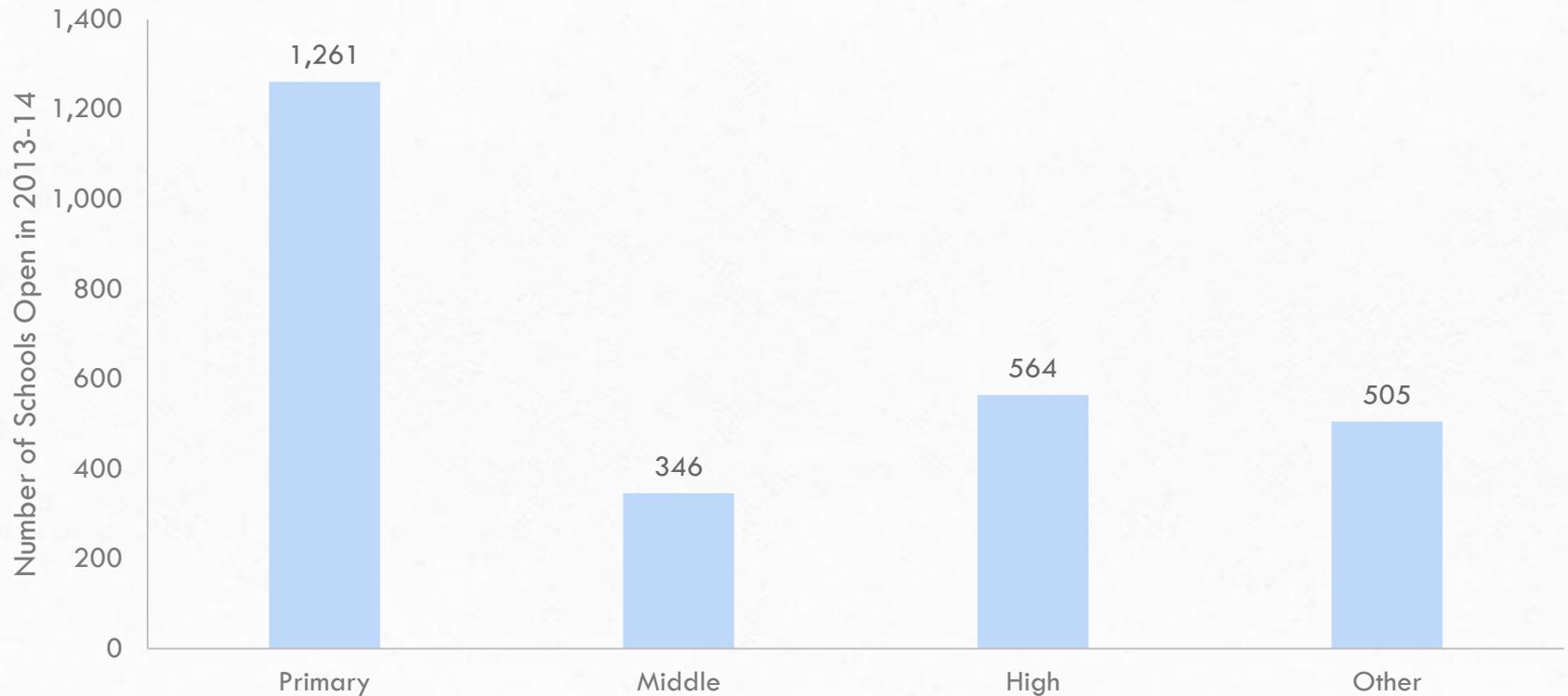
# AS OF SY 2011-12, CSP-FUNDED SCHOOLS SERVED A SIMILAR PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS AS TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS.



Source: *EDFacts*.

**Note:** Reflects most recent school-level enrollment data for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency in EdFacts.

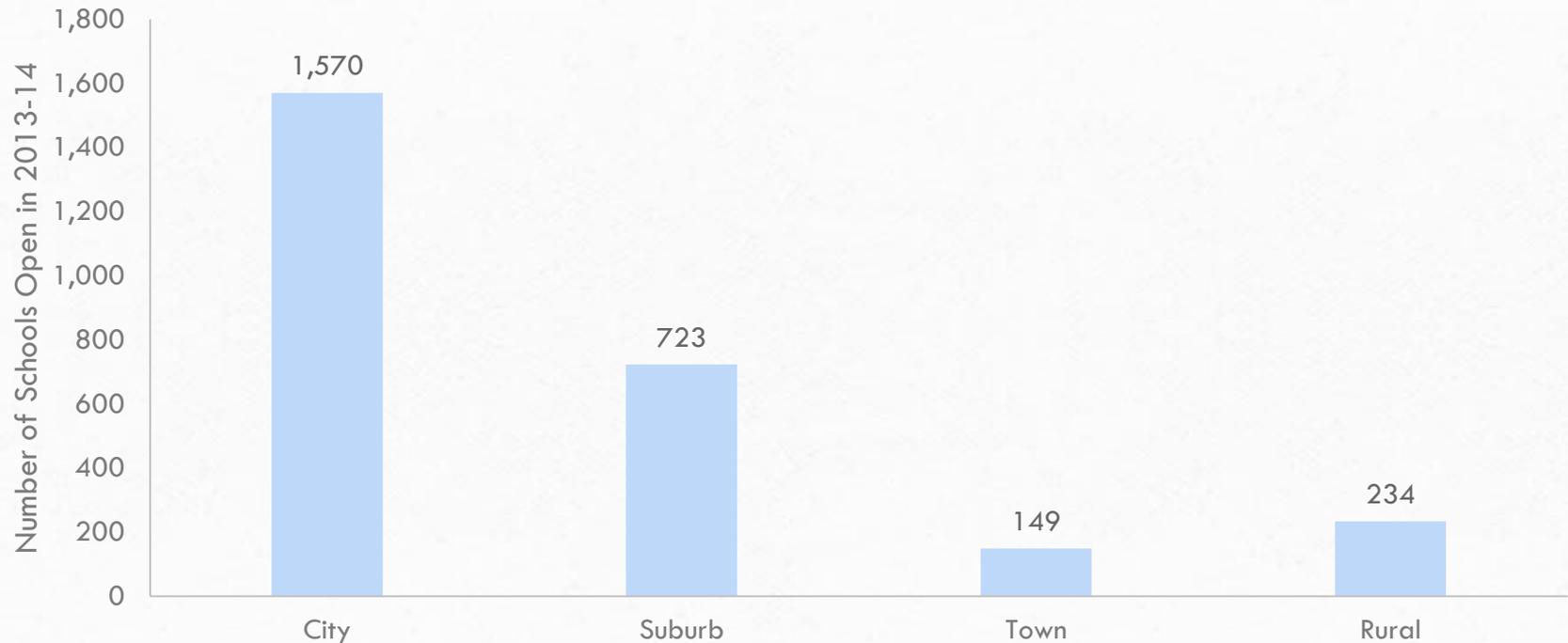
# CSP-FUNDED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS SERVE STUDENTS AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL.



Source: Common Core of Data.

**Note:** Categories as defined by Common Core of Data coding system.

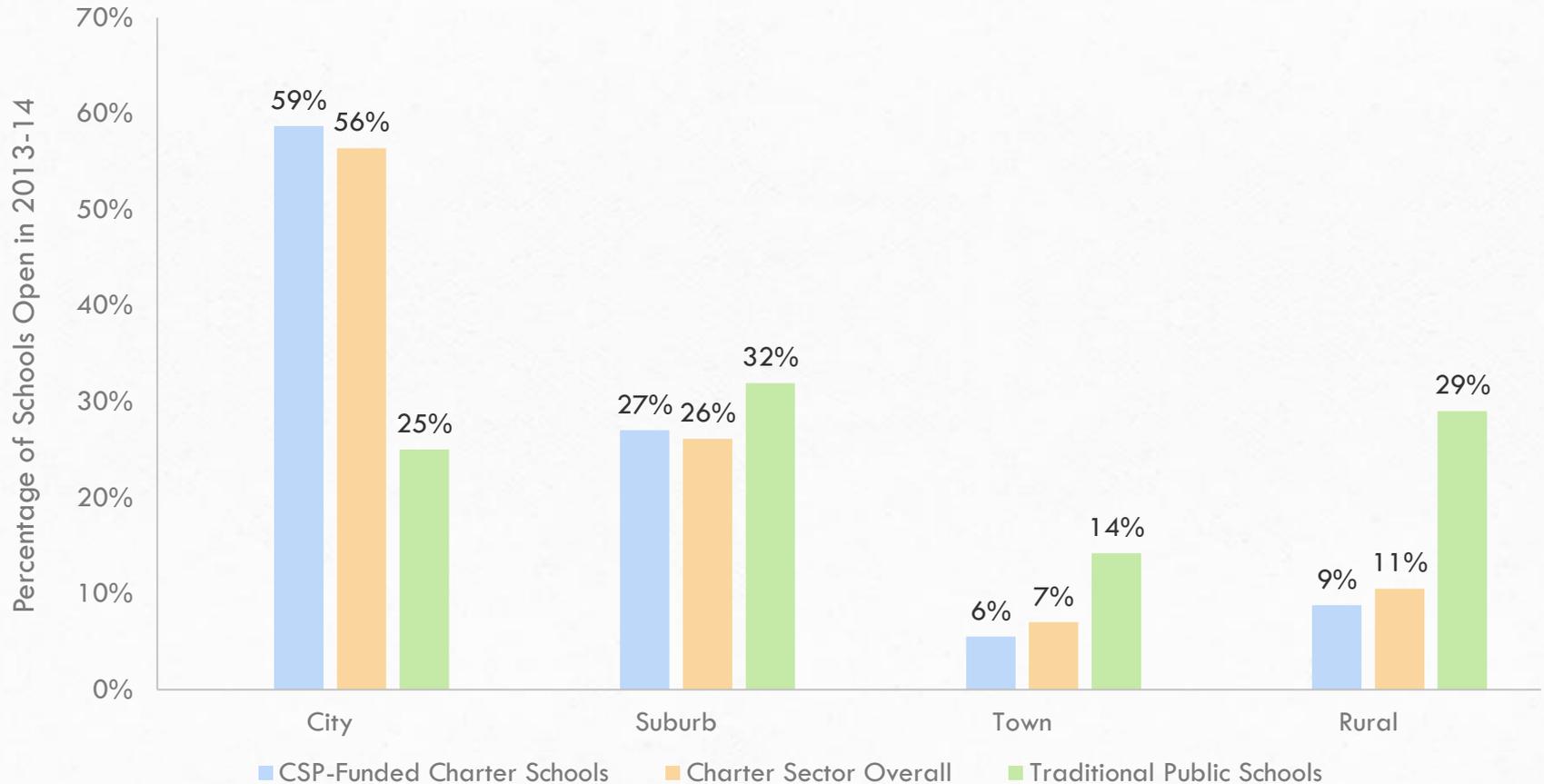
# THE CSP FUNDS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS, WITH THE MAJORITY IN URBAN AREAS.



Source: Common Core of Data.

**Note:** Categories as defined by Common Core of Data coding system.

# A SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF CSP-FUNDED SCHOOLS ARE IN CITIES VS. TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS.

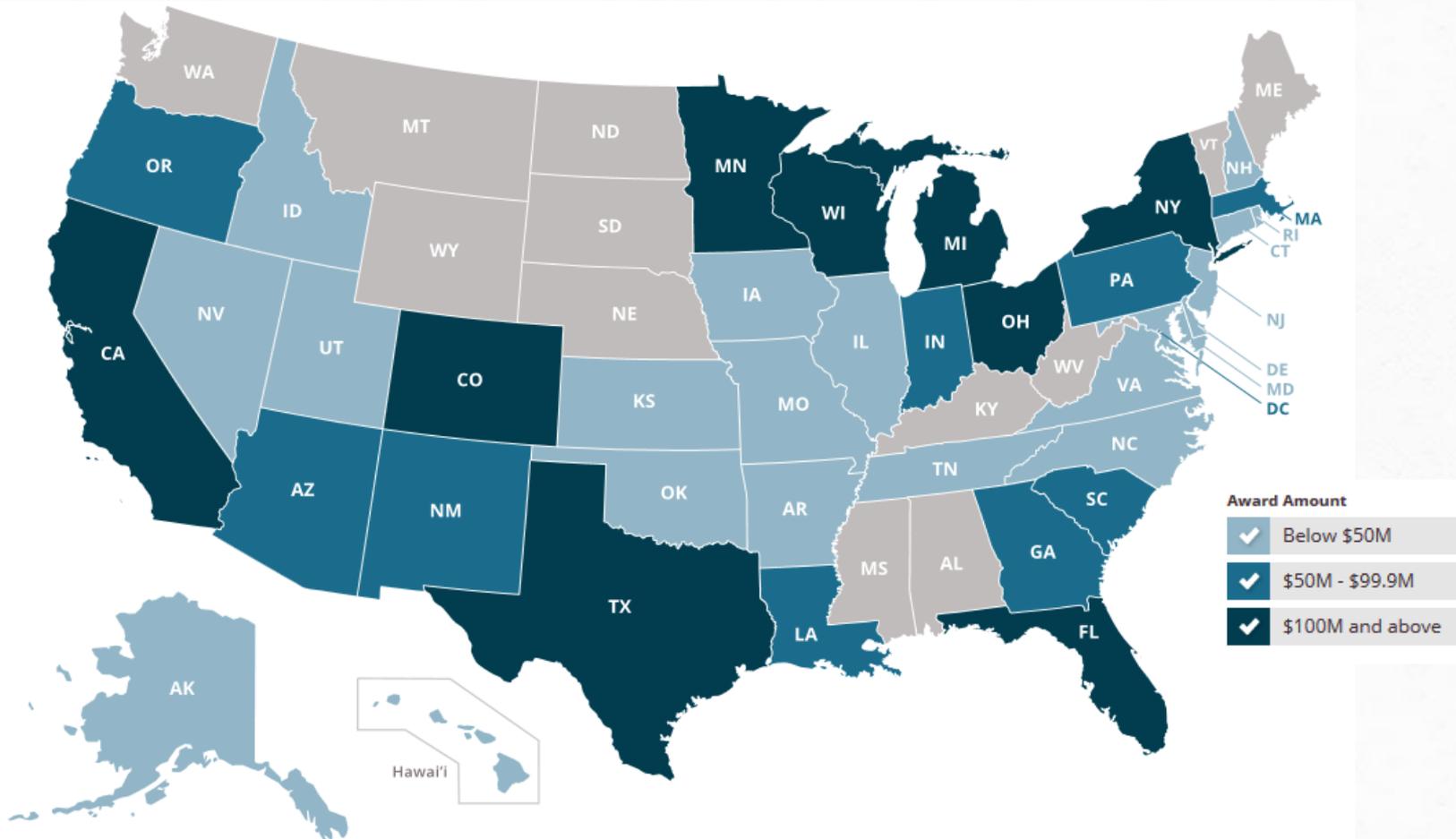


Source: Common Core of Data.

Note: Categories as defined by Common Core of Data coding system.

Do States with the highest-performing charter schools  
receive SEA funding?

# 38 STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE RECEIVED GRANTS FROM THE SEA PROGRAM<sup>1</sup>.



**Note:** States in gray (i.e., AL, KY, ME, MS, MT, ND, NE, SD, VT, WA, WV, WY) did not receive an SEA grant. KY, MT, ND, NE, SD, VT, and WV have not had charter laws in place during this time.

<sup>1</sup> Since the inception of the CSP program in 1995.

# STATES WITH THE HIGHEST-PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE ALL RECENT SEA-PROGRAM GRANTEEES.

A 2013 report by the Center for Research on Educational Outcomes (CREDO) identified eleven States where charter school performance outpaced traditional schools in both Math and ELA.

**All are  
recent CSP  
SEA  
program  
grantees**



STATE:	RECENT SEA GRANT YEAR(S):
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	2010, 2015
ILLINOIS	2015
INDIANA	2010, 2015
LOUISIANA	2009
MASSACHUSETTS	2012
MICHIGAN	2010
MISSOURI	2010
NEW JERSEY	2012
NEW YORK (UPSTATE)	2011
RHODE ISLAND	2010
TENNESSEE	2009

Source: Woodworth, J. L., Raymond, M. E., et al. (2013). *National Charter School Study*. Stanford, CA: CREDO.

Do the highest-performing CMO operators receive replication and expansion funding?

# HIGHEST-PERFORMING CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT ARE RECENT CMO-PROGRAM GRANTEEES.

Over a third of CMO grants have been awarded to CMOs identified by CREDO in 2013 as organizations that outpaced traditional public schools in growth rates for both math and reading.<sup>1</sup>

**CSP CMO  
program  
grantees**



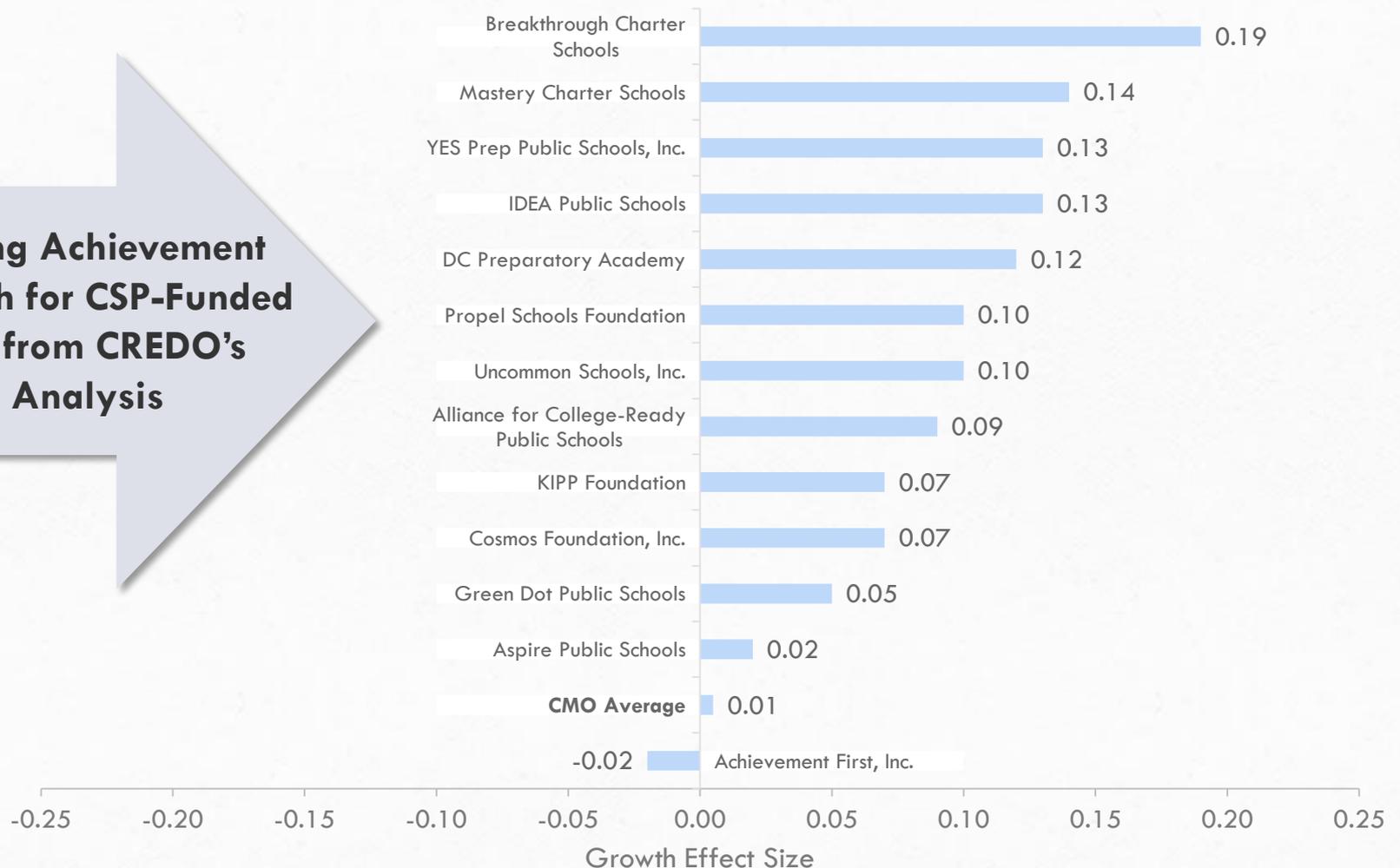
CMO:	RECENT CMO GRANT YEAR(S):
Aspire Public Schools	2010, 2014
Breakthrough Charter Schools	2011
DC Preparatory Academy	2011
IDEA Public Schools	2010, 2014
KIPP Foundation	2010, 2011, 2012, 2014
Mastery Charter Schools	2010, 2015
Propel Schools Foundation	2010
Uncommon Schools, Inc.	2010, 2011
Uplift Education	2015
YES Prep Public Schools, Inc.	2014

Source: Woodworth, J. L., & Raymond, M. E. (2013). *Charter school growth and replication: Volume II*. Stanford, CA: CREDO.

<sup>1</sup>A significant portion of CMO grantees were not included in the 2013 CREDO study.

# THE REPLICATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM INVESTS IN CMOs WITH IMPRESSIVE GROWTH IN READING SCORES.

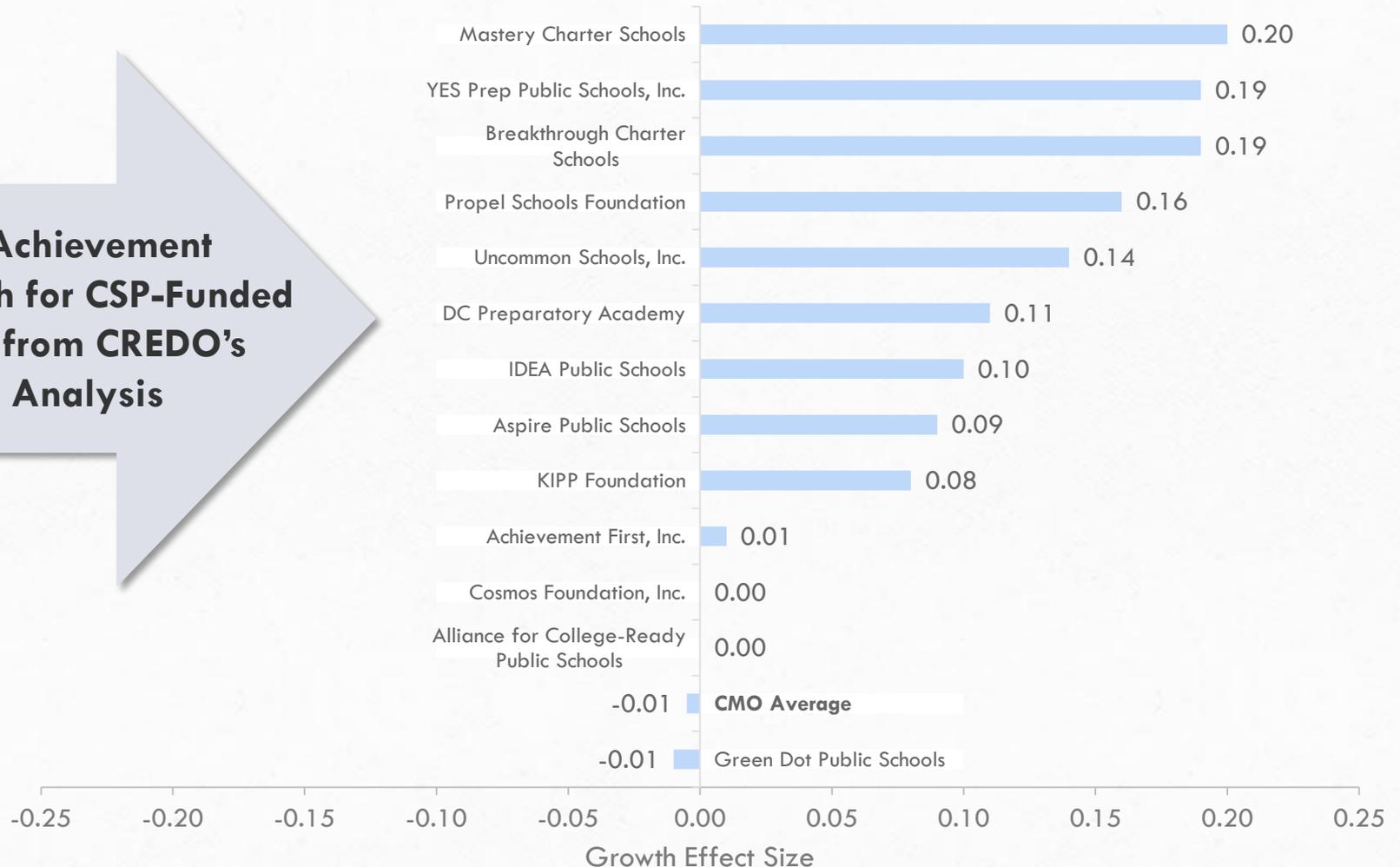
## Reading Achievement Growth for CSP-Funded CMOs from CREDO's (2013) Analysis



Source: Woodworth, J. L., & Raymond, M. E. (2013). *Charter school growth and replication: Volume II*. Stanford, CA: CREDO.

# THE REPLICATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM ALSO INVESTS IN CMOs WITH PROMISING MATH RESULTS.

## Math Achievement Growth for CSP-Funded CMOs from CREDO's (2013) Analysis

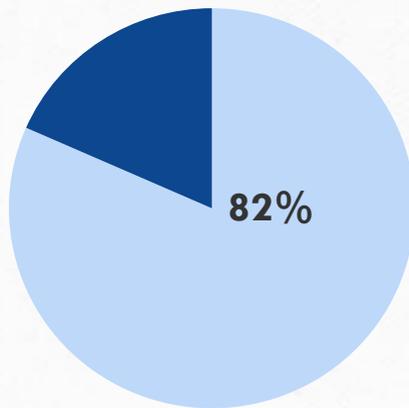


Source: Woodworth, J. L., & Raymond, M. E. (2013). *Charter school growth and replication: Volume II*. Stanford, CA: CREDO.

# THE REPLICATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM OVERWHELMINGLY INVESTS IN CMOs SERVING LOW-INCOME STUDENTS.

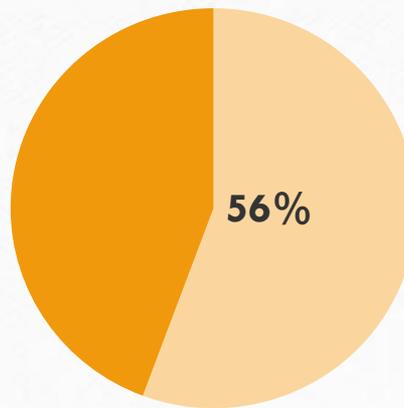
Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Lunch as Percentage of Total Student Population (SY 2013-14)

**CMO-Funded  
Charter Schools**



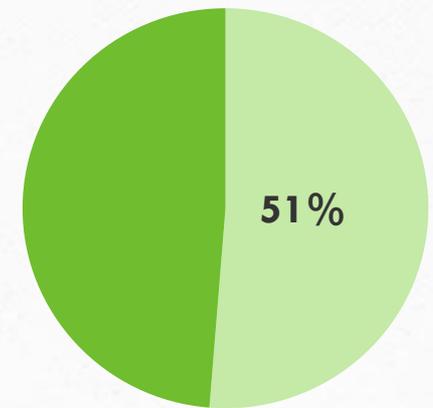
**FRL Students** 65,430  
**Total Number of Students** 80,122

**Charter Sector  
Overall**



**FRL Students** 1,400,714  
**Total Number of Students** 2,516,377

**Traditional Public  
Schools**



**FRL Students** 24,180,298  
**Total Number of Students** 47,165,130

Source: Common Core of Data.

## DATA SOURCES

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## THE ANALYSIS INCLUDES DATA FROM FOUR SOURCES:

- **CSP Grantee Annual Reporting Data**
  - Period covered: 2006 through June 2015
  - Data categories include award amount and type
  
- **Common Core of Data (CCD)**
  - Data categories include charter school identifier (“tag”), operational status, enrollment for racial/ethnic groups, location, and free and reduced-lunch eligible students
  
- **EDFacts**
  - Data categories include enrollment for students with disabilities and limited English proficient students
  
- **G5**
  - Grant award data from 1995 to 2015