2024

CHARTER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

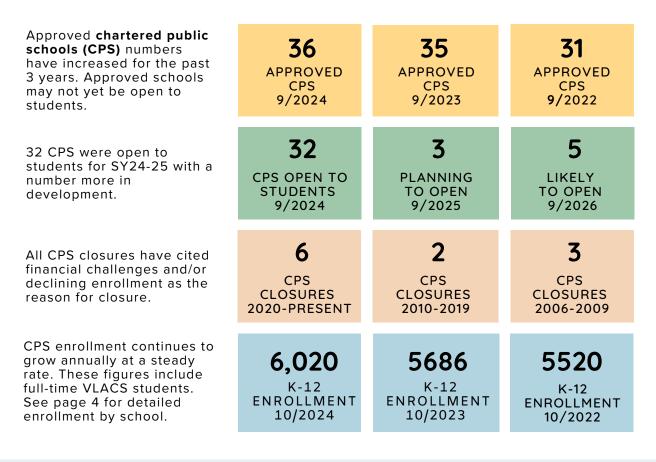
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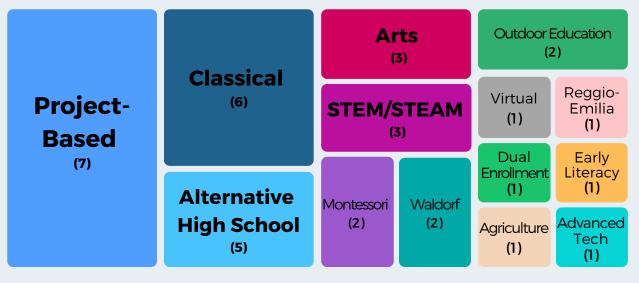
GENERAL CHARTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

Chartered Public School Stats



Charter School Models in New Hampshire

New Hampshire's charter community offers diverse educational models. The model landscape in is depicted below showing the prominent models vs. the overall number of approved charter schools.

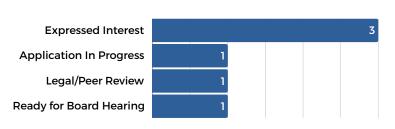




Authorization Pipeline: Startups & Renewals

Startups

Interest in starting a charter school in New Hampshire continues to be strong. This chart shows the number of schools currently moving through our pipeline for authorization.



Renewals

Chartered public schools must reapply for authorization every 5 years. For SY25-26, the board can expect two applications for renewal.

- Making Community Connections CPS
- Northeast Woodland CPS

Approved CPS By County

The Charter School Office is seeking to expand access to chartered public schools throughout the state. The first step is to understand the current representation by county. The map to the right provides a count by county of the approved chartered public schools.

The Charter School Office maintains a location map that provides detailed information on each CPS's location, charter status (approved or developing), grades served, and educational model by clicking on the individual map pins. This map is available to you by visiting this link: <u>New Hampshire Charter Schools Map via Maphub.net</u> (https://maphub.net/ethibeault/new-hampshire-charterschools)



NH Charter School National Recognition

Academy for Science and Design Chartered Public School was named a 2024 Blue Ribbon School and the school's leader, Jennifer Cava, was named a recipient of the 2024 Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership.

Spark Academy of Advanced Technology Chartered Public School was named a semi-finalist awardee for the Yass prize.



PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TRENDS

	October 2019 (K-12)	October 2024 (K-12)	Growth
District Public Schools	163,066	152,255	-10,811/-7%
Chartered Public Schools	4,178	6,020	+1,842/44%
Totals	167,244	158,275	-8,969/-5%

CPS Detailed Enrollment

Individual CPS have seen mixed results. The detail school by school is provided below along with sparklines to better show the trends.

		SY	SY	SY	SY	SY	S	Y		
		19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25		OVERALL TREND	
								%	%	
SAU	School	Count	Count	Count	Count	count	count	Change		
411	Academy Science Design	535	541	532	543	640	672	5%	26%	
426	Arts Academy	113	114	121	128	121	106	-12%	-6%	
455	Benjamin Franklin					50	76	52%	52%	/
429	Compass Classical	127	151	122	128	165	192	16%	51%	\sim
410	CSI	32	28	24	32	47	34	-28%	6%	\sim
425	Gate City	164	140	155	151	143	160	12%	-2%	\searrow
450	Gathering Waters	n/a	n/a	228	266	272	286	5%	25%	
404	Great Bay	156	139	147	143	134	153	14%	-2%	\searrow
451	Heartwood	n/a	n/a	n/a	39	67	89	33%	128%	
432	Kreiva	121	142	175	146	151	117	-23%	-3%	\sim
408	Ledyard	32	34	44	43	44	48	9%	50%	
453	Lionheart	n/a	n/a	n/a	195	275	311	13%	59%	
418	Making Community Connections	137	106	49	62	65	80	23%	-42%	
430	MicroSociety	230	241	248	297	306	304	-1%	32%	
416	Mill Falls	168	168	168	168	167	168	1%	0%	\rightarrow
427	Mountain Village	103	96	103	108	114	117	3%	14%	
422	Next	75	75	81	80	74	79	7%	5%	\sim
402	North Country	53	47	42	46	27	50	85%	-6%	\sim
441	Northeast Woodland		133	156	146	155	158	2%	19%	\sim
419	Polaris	109	109	118	120	122	119	-2%	9%	
454	River View					18	30	67%	67%	/
420	Robert Frost	52	40	48	32	33	36	9%	-31%	\sim
403	Seacoast	297	296	300	299	288	287	0%	-3%	
433	Seacoast Classical						179			
437	Spark	26	34	63	88	87	96	10%	269%	
409	Strong Foundations	283	309	334	314	336	337	0%	19%	\sim
407	Surry Village	92	99	93	94	97	79	-19%	-14%	
435	Synergy						20			-
417	The Birches Academy	225	225	223	225	235	286	22%	27%	
423	The Founders Academy	365	369	366	432	401	431	7%	18%	\sim
412	VLACS	349	478	567	613	534	510	-4%	46%	
434	Windham Academy	167	245	298	351	369	410	11%	146%	
	Overall Charter School Trends	4178	4534	4924	5520	5686	6020	6%	36%	



FINANCIAL DATA

Chartered Public School Per Pupil Aid

The New Hampshire legislature recently made changes to funding for public schools. Changes taking effect for SY23-24 included increases to base aid and the additional charter grant. Increases to the free and reduces, special education, and English Language Learner differentiated aid components were also passed. Differentiated aid is also provided for Free and Reduced Meal students, special education, and English Language Learners.

Base Adequacy &	SY24-25	SY23-24	SY22-23	SY21-22
Additional Charter Grant	\$9,180.00	\$9,000.00	\$7,338.94	\$7,338.94
VLACS per pupil aid	SY24-25	SY23-24	SY22-23	SY21-22
	\$6,579.21	\$6,450.21	\$6,090.79	\$6,045.61

Average Cost Per Pupil for FY23

District Public Schools	Chartered Public Schools	VLACS
\$20,322.52	\$10,569.58	\$6,629.04

Cost per pupil by chartered public school (listed by highest to lowest) is provided below.

	Pupil Cost	Enrollment	Cost Per Pupil
North Country Charter Academy	\$844,145.16	41.13	\$20,523.83
Heartwood Public Charter School	\$816,835.00	43.40	\$18,821.08
Next Charter School	\$1,415,929.23	78.74	\$17,982.34
Ledyard Charter School	\$752,178.26	42.45	\$17,719.16
Robert Frost Charter School	\$440,407.00	26.25	\$16,777.41
Making Community Connections Charter School	\$991,893.03	60.18	\$16,482.10
Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies	\$1,321,765.00	86.11	\$15,349.73
Kreiva Academy Public Charter School	\$2,247,209.00	154.01	\$14,591.32
Great Bay Charter School	\$1,930,948.58	139.30	\$13,861.80
Surry Village Charter School	\$1,281,605.76	94.15	\$13,612.38
Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School	\$2,176,849.00	160.27	\$13,582.39
Strong Foundations Charter School	\$3,943,956.00	316.59	\$12,457.61
Mill Falls Charter School	\$1,884,477.14	167.47	\$11,252.63
Compass Classical Academy Charter School	\$1,384,191.00	124.60	\$11,109.08
Gate City Charter School For the Arts	\$1,658,955.79	151.80	\$10,928.56
Arts Academy of New Hampshire Chartered Public High School	\$1,266,281.00	122.61	\$10,327.71
Gathering Waters Charter School	\$2,650,125.28	259.27	\$10,221.49
The Birches Academy of Academics & Art A Public Charter Sch	\$2,290,352.39	224.41	\$10,206.11
Seacoast Charter School	\$2,734,486.21	296.43	\$9,224.73
Mountain Village Charter School	\$976,329.43	106.52	\$9,165.69
The Founders Academy Charter School	\$3,754,338.00	413.25	\$9,084.91
LEAF Charter School	\$811,198.09	92.28	\$8,790.62
Polaris Charter School	\$1,023,161.44	119.62	\$8,553.43
Academy for Science and Design Charter School	\$4,515,088.00	536.39	\$8,417.55
CSI Charter School	\$299,899.16	36.68	\$8,176.09
Windham Academy Public Charter School	\$2,835,281.00	347.01	\$8,170.60
MicroSociety Academy Charter School Foundation	\$2,307,774.00	300.03	\$7,691.81
Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School	\$1,416,168.00	186.94	\$7,575.52
Virtual Learning Academy Charter School	\$13,482,280.00	2,033.82	\$6,629.04

State Summary of Revenue & Expenditures for CPS 2022-23

Local Taxation - 0.0% Tuition, Food, & Other Local Revenue* \$7,185,351 11.2% Equitable Education Aid \$46,470,094 72.7% Other State Sources \$2,526,669 4.0% Federal Sources \$7,775,106 12.2% Other (Includes insurance settlements) - 0.0% Total Net Revenues \$63,957,220 100.0% Sale of Bonds & Notes ** \$170,015 100.0% Special Programs* \$3,740,779 5.5% Vocational Programs* \$3,740,779 5.5% Vocational Programs* \$3,451,437 0.7% Student Support Services \$3,452,828 5.1% Instructional Programs \$3,451,437 0.7% Student Support Services \$3,452,828 5.1% Instructional Programs \$3,481,930 5.0% School Administration and Business \$3,418,930 5.0% School Administration \$6,343,084 9.3% Business Services \$1,170,507 1.7% Plant Operations \$11,51,850 <
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Other State Sources \$2,526,669 4.0% Federal Sources \$7,775,106 12.2% Other (Includes insurance settlements) - 0.0% Total Net Revenues \$63,957,220 100.0% Sale of Bonds & Notes ** \$170,015 DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES \$3,530,213 49.2% Regular Instruction* \$33,530,213 49.2% Special Programs* \$3,740,779 5.5% Vocational Programs* \$42,614 0.1% Other Instructional Programs \$445,1,437 0.7% Student Support Services \$3,452,828 5.1% Instructional Staff Support \$3,687,738 5.4% General Administration and Business \$3,418,930 5.0% School Administration \$6,343,084 9.3% Business Services \$1,170,507 1.7% Plant Operations \$11,751,850 17.3% Pupil Transportation \$262,680 0.4% Non-Public Programs 0.0% 0.0% Community Programs \$56,497 0.1%
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Non-Public Programs0.0%Community Programs\$56,4970.1%
Community Programs \$56,497 0.1%
Bond & Note Interest \$228,202 0.3%
Charter Schools/Other Agencies - 0.0%
Food Service \$(241) 0.0%
Total Recurring Expenditures \$68,137,118 100.0%
Facility Construction\$1,049,274
TOTAL EXPENDITURES\$69,186,392
Bond & Note Principal Payment\$374,905
* The following adjustments have been made to State Total DOE-25 data. Deducted from Revenues:
Tuition from other NH school districts \$3,453,005
Transportation from other NH school districts \$12,907
Food service revenues except interest \$130,456
Services provided other NH school districts other than food \$465,420

Total Revenue Adjustments:	
----------------------------	--

Deducted from Expenditures:	
Regular, Special and Voc Tuition from other NH school districts	-
Food service revenues except interest	\$130,456
Total Expenditure Adjustments:	\$130,456

**Bonds & Notes must be repaid with revenues from other sources. To avoid double counting revenues, these amounts are shown below the total revenue line.



\$4,061,787

FISCAL AUDIT & FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

Public school districts are political subdivisions of the state made for convenient administration of government and are "municipal corporations" (RSA 191:1). As such and with the requirements of RSA 194-B:10, state chartered public schools must obtain an annual financial audit in accordance with GASB financial reporting requirements and 2 CFR. This report is due to the Office of Charter Schools by March 31st for the prior year's financials. The audit for SY22-23 was due March 31, 2024.

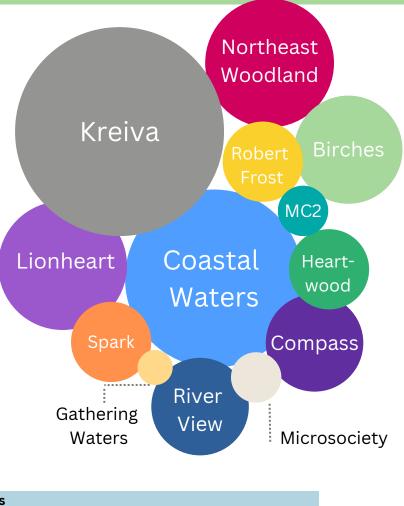
Schools currently out of compliance with this requirement:

- Gate City (missing 2 consecutive audits)
- River View (missing 2 consecutive audits)

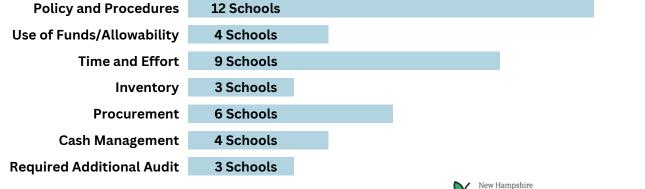
Monitoring of Charter Schools

The Bureau of Federal Compliance is charged with performing compliance monitoring on behalf of NHED for public schools receiving federal funds. The Bureau uses a risk assessment tool to determine the schools that will undergo monitoring in any given year. Additionally, any school expending over \$100,000 of their charter school program grant in a single fiscal year is selected. Monitoring involves a detailed review of selected expenditures covered through federal grants, as well as a review of required policies and procedures including record keeping procedures, procurement policies and procedures, and internal controls. In SY23-24, 13 charter schools were monitored for compliance under various federal programs including the federal charter school grant. A summary of the findings is noted to the right by school. The complete report may be viewed here:

https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/eh bemt326/files/inline-documents/sonh/fy24program-summary.pdf



Department of Education



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE & ACCOUNTABILTY REVIEW

Chartered Public Schools are required to submit an Annual Progress and Accountability Report (APAR) that provides operational and accountability status for each school that was opened to students in the previous school year. The reporting template developed by NHED conforms with RSA 194-B:10 and New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) Administrative Rules Ed 318.16. These rules and statutes dictate the information to be collected. The report is due by August 31st, annually. The APAR is divided into seven parts:

- Part I: School Contact Information: Asks for current school information and if this has changed in the past year.
- Part II: School Compliance: Asks questions regarding transparency, registrations, and fees.
- <u>Part III: School Status</u>: Schools note changes at the board level, report engagement data, and progress on school development and facilities.
- Part IV: Financial Reporting: Schools confirm required submissions have been made.
- <u>Part V: Needs Assessments:</u> Schools are asked to provide information on strategic planning and/or needs assessments that have been performed.
- <u>Part VI: Attachments:</u> Schools are asked to provide a school calendar with hours, an accountability
 plan with progress updated, sample plan for struggling students, copy of their admission process
 and application forms, and best practice to share.
- Part VII: Certification: Signing that the statements and materials provided are accurate.

The submitted reports were reviewed by staff at the Office of Charter Schools and schools were provided with written feedback on the contents of their reports. The submitted reports are provided in the appendix for your review. Key areas of the report are summarized below.

DOJ CTU Compliance

A review of standing with the NH Charitable Trust Unit occurs annually.

At this time the following operational charters are not in good standing:

- Compass Classical Academy
- Gate City Charter School for the Arts
- Seacoast Charter School
- River View Chartered Public School is not yet registered (Claremont Learning Partnership is in good standing)

Reporting Not Complete

The following is a list of schools that have not submitted their APAR for review. All schools were contacted regarding their missing reports:

- Benjamin Franklin Academy Chartered Public School
- Ledyard Charter School
- Lionheart Classical Academy Chartered Public School
- Windham Academy Chartered Public School (second year failing to submit)



8

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW (RSA 194-B:10)

A new tool for performance review was recently developed by the Office of Charter Schools to understand the overall performance of charter schools and identify potential signs of distress. In July 2024, the Charter School Office piloted the new performance review, evaluating all operational charter schools against the established criteria and indicators. Data used for the evaluations included the submitted annual performance and accountability report for SY23-24 (due 8/31 each year), assessment data from SY 23-24, fiscal audits from FY23, and other available sources including school websites and training records.

The Pilot Review Process and Next Steps

The Office of Charter Schools developed indicators of performance in the areas of Academics, Operations and Finance for chartered public schools. Within each indicator, parameters for Exceeding, Meeting, Approaching, or Not Meeting expectations were established along with scoring values. In the summer of 2024, the Office of Charter Schools reviewed all approved schools that were operational in the 23-24SY against the criteria to pilot the tool and evaluate its effectiveness. Initial outcomes and feedback from the charter community seem to indicate the performance matrix provides a valuable, consolidated look of performance for every school. We are currently conducting meetings with each reviewed school to review their performance, solicit their feedback on the indicators and share any concerns. These meetings will continue through the winter.

In addition to standard performance measures, the Office of Charter Schools developed adjusted indicators for academics for schools whose model or student population is focused on at-risk youth. These indicators were developed at the same time as the standard template and in coordination with Institute of Excellence in Education and a cohort of charter school leaders with eligible models. The indicators largely are the same; however, the data used and reviewed varies for these schools. Schools seeking to use alternative indicators for academic performance, must agree to a number of reporting requirements and continue to focus on serving at-risk youth.

As we gain feedback from our meetings, we will be adjusting certain indicators for clarity and work with highly innovative schools that may not fit all indicators (VLACS and NH Career Academy) to find alternative data to review.

Next fall, the State Board of Education will be able to see a summary report for each charter school as well as charter-wide performance. Our intent is to maintain year over year performance records to be used for during renewal and identify schools in potential distress earlier. PILOT PERFORMANCE REVIEW OVERVIEW

> 30 Schools Evaluated

Schools Eligible for Adjusted Academic Indicators

80%

Schools Meeting or Exceeding Academic Expectations (based on standard pilot measures, not adjusted)



Review Areas and Indicators

Indicators were established in three key areas to assess overall performance. Within each indicator targets for Exceeds, Meets, Approaches, and Does Not Meet were established. A summary of these indicators is provided below. *Please see attached pilot performance indicator template that was used to perform the pilot review and shows the targets for each indicator.*

Standard Academic and Program Measures (6 indicators for ES/MS, 6 indicators for HS)

NHSAS Percent Proficient for ELA Math, and Science (ES/MS) NHSAS Academic Growth in ELA and Math (ES/MS) Assessment Participation Rates (ES/MS) SAT or NHSAS (as applicable) Percent Proficient for ELA Math, and Science (HS) Attendance Rate (HS) 4-Year Graduation Rate (HS) Drop Out Rate (HS)

Adjusted Academic and Program Measures (6 indicators for ES/MS, 6 indicators for HS) Approved Alternative Assessment and NHSAS Percent Proficient for ELA Math, and Science (ES/MS) Academic Growth Rate in ELA and Math (goal oriented) (ES/MS) Assessment Participation Rates (ES/MS) Approved Alternative Assessment/NHSAS/SAT Percent Proficient for ELA Math, and Science (HS) Credit Attainment (HS) 5 -Year Graduation Rate (HS) Drop Out Rate Adjusted for Positive Outcomes (HS)

Organizational Measures (7 indicators)

Board of Trustees Membership and Compliance Board of Trustees Training in Finance and Governance School Environment as a function of Out of School Suspension Rates Parent/Student Satisfaction as a function of Re-enrollment Rate Compliance with RSA 91A Compliance with RSA 194-B Facility Compliance and Capacity

Financial Measures/KPIs (9 indicators)

Enrollment Trends Months of Cash (based on previous 12 months expenses) Quick Ratio (ability to cover current liabilities) Percent of Revenue coming from State Adequacy Change in Net Position Debt Ratio (long term stability) Financial Practices, Outcomes of Financial Audits Federal Funding Compliance DOE Financial Submittal Compliance



STUDENT PERFORMANCE: FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The chart below lists the status of chartered public schools that have been identified under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). Schools that were identified for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) are also listed.

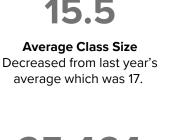
				Evited	Exited	T
School Name	CSI	TSI	ATSI	24	23	Schools without a
Academy for Science and Design Charter School						check are current
Arts Academy of New Hampshire CPS						in good standing
Birches Academy of Academics & Art CPS					✓	for federal
Compass Classical Academy Charter School	√					accountability
CSI Charter School				~		under ESSA.
Founders Academy Charter School ATSI: elementary school free and reduced; TSI: Elementary School white students		~	~			Green notes
Gate City Charter School For the Arts						school's with a
Gathering Waters Charter School						mission to serve
Great Bay Charter School ATSI: free and reduced and students w. disabilities			×			large at-risk populations, as
Heartwood Public Charter School						stated in their
Kreiva Academy Public Charter School CSI: High School, TSI: Middle School free and reduced, ATSI: multiple subgroups	~	~	~			Gold notes that
EAF Charter School						schools were previously
Ledyard Charter School	 ✓ 					identified for a
Lionheart Classical Academy CPS						particular status
Making Community Connections Charter School	 ✓ 					and did not exit
MicroSociety Academy Charter School ATSI: students with disabilities			×			the status.
Mill Falls Charter School						
Mountain Village Charter School						*
Next Charter School	 ✓ 					-
North Country Charter Academy					 ✓ 	
Northeast Woodland CPS exited CSI status, ATSI: free and reduced subgroup			×		×	
Polaris Charter School						-
Robert Frost Charter School						
Seacoast Charter School						
Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies						
Strong Foundations Charter School ATSI: students with disabilities			×			
Surry Village Charter School						
Virtual Learning Academy Charter School					 Image: A second s	
Windham Academy Public Charter School						



SCHOOL SAFETY & FACILITIES

The Office of Charter Schools works closely with the Bureau of School Facilities to ensure charter school compliance with health and safety requirements. Additionally, as new charters are preparing facilities for their first day of class, we are working to ensure they comply with the recently adopted ED 320 rule. This rule established a process for school facility approval and requires all public schools including chartered public schools to have facility approvals from NHED prior to opening. CPS must now apply 60-days prior to student occupancy to the Bureau of School Safety & Facilities for facility approval.

School Facility Statistics





Average Square Footage Reporting schools range from 1,950 - 137,000 sq ft.



Schools Own a Facility 3 have two spaces. These schools own and lease.



12

Have Capacity to Grow Either within their current space or have agreements.



Building Aid Charter schools are now eligible for this program. Applications are due in April.



Active Construction Projects 2 CPS have active construction projects for startup facilities.

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SAFE Grant Applications 25 CPS applied for the SAFE grant program and 24 were awarded.



Applications for Lease Aid 15 CPS applied out of 24 eligible CPS leased facilities.



SAFE Grant Awards Were awarded to fund 48 projects at these 24 charter schools.



Lease Aid Awarded \$521,461 was awarded to 15 schools for SY23-24.



SAFE Grant Waitlist There is a waitlist of 12 projects from 7 charter school for this program.





FEDERAL CHARTER SCHOOL GRANT

New Hampshire was awarded a no-cost extension on our federal program grant that extends our project to 9/30/2025. The grant, awarded in 2019 for \$46,000,000, requires that we award 90% of the value in subgrants, use no more than 3% on administration, and use at least 7% for technical assistance. Below is a breakdown by grant category as of 9/30/2024.

89% of expended dollars	Subgrants Budgeted: \$41,400,000 Obligated: \$25,926,962 Expended: \$14,235,597 NHED has run five grant competitions with a total of 28 awards. An additional competition is planned for the winter.
	Technical Assistance Budgeted: \$3,220,000 Contracts: \$721,900 Expended: \$1,204,264
8% of expended dollars	NHED is delivering technical assistance in a number of ways including: hosting a best practice conferences, creating a new-leader coaching cohort, and providing workshops and direct to school financial, board, instructional, and data training. This program kicked off in May 2023 and has been very well received by schools. NHED contracted with 7 vendors to assist in providing technical assistance to charter schools.
3%	Administrative Costs Budgeted: \$1,380,000 Obligated: \$0 Expended: \$467,565
Administrative	Administrative costs associated with the grant include staff time for oversight of the

Aaministrative work is running at 2.9% of expended dollars

Administrative costs associated with the grant include staff time for oversight of the grant, monitoring of subgrants, and improving systems and processes. NHED is currently working on improving tools for authorization and accountability.

Subgrant Goals & Awards to Date

17 OF 23 **STARTUPS** 74% 10 OF 14 **EXPANSIONS** 71% **1 OF 3 REPLICATIONS**

33%

- (E) Academy for Science and Design, Nashua
- (S) Benjamin Franklin Academy CPS, Loudon
- (S) Coastal Waters CPS, Exeter (school closed, grant returned)
- (S) Cornerstone, Lebanon
- (R) CSI Charter School, Concord (project canceled by school, grant returned)
- (S) Experiential Academy CPS (pending charter approval), Manchester
- (S) Gathering Waters CPS, Keene
- (S) Granite Valley Preparatory Academy CPS, Keene
- (E) Great Bay Charter School, Exeter
- (S) Heartwood CPS, Jefferson
- (S) Lionheart Classical Academy CPS, Peterborough
- (E) MicroSociety Academy Charter School, Nashua
- (S) New Hampshire Career Academy
- (E) Next Charter School, Dover
- (S) North Star Academy CPS, Ossipee
- (S) Northeast Woodland CPS, Conway
- (S) River View CPS, Claremont
- (E) Robert Frost Academy Charter School, Conway
- (E) Seacoast Charter School, Dover
- (S) Seacoast Classical Academy CPS, Newton
- (S) Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies Charter School, Manchester
- (S) Synergy CPS, Concord
- (E) The Birches Academy of Academics and Art Charter School, Salem
- (E) The Founders Academy CPS, Manchester
- (E) VLACS
- (S) Wellheart CPS, Milford
- (E) Windham Academy CPS, Windham

