



**Department
of Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

April 14, 2017

Stefan Huh
Director
Charter Schools Program
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Director Huh:

On behalf of the Ohio Department of Education, thank you for your continued support of Ohio's Charter School Program Grant Award of September 2015. We fully share your priorities of ensuring rigorous community school accountability and nurturing the growth of high-quality community schools across the state of Ohio.

Enclosed, please find our budget modification request, which more accurately reflects our eligible pool of prospective community school grantees based on our shared priorities. As you know, our rigorous school sponsor evaluation system has limited the number of eligible grantees in our community school pipeline. While these numbers are lower than originally projected, we think the increased level of accountability will bolster the grant's purpose of creating high-quality community schools. At the same time, we remain committed to aggressively fulfilling the scope of our project and have thought creatively about ways to increase our pipeline of eligible grantees without sacrificing quality.

To support the scope and goals of our five-year grant, we respectfully request an amendment to our budget. We project that we can make awards of \$49,380,956 disbursed as outlined in the attached budget summary.

We continue to make significant progress in preparing for our award process. We will keep the Charter Schools Program Office abreast of the evolving landscape here in Ohio. If you have additional questions, please contact RaShaun Holliman at Rashaun.Holliman@education.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Gratz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Gratz, Ph.D.
Senior Executive Director
Center for Student Support and Education Options