

Charter Schools Program Remote Learning Quarterly Performance Report

January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021

Background

In 2016, Tennessee was awarded a federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant. This grant is designed to support the expansion of charter schools by funding the planning and implementation of new charter schools and the dissemination of best practices utilized by charter schools. The State is currently operating under a No-Cost Extension for this grant.

In the spring of 2020, as schools closed due to the pandemic, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) sought waivers from the U.S. Department of Education to use CSP funds for remote learning purposes. These waivers were granted on September 10, 2020. Subsequently, TDOE ran a sub-grant competition for remote learning. Grantees could use awarded funds to meet the immediate educational needs of students impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and to assist charter schools in transitioning from remote learning back to in-person instruction as soon as practicable and safe to do so.

TDOE awarded a total of \$2,058,900.00 in CSP remote learning sub-grants to 69 charter schools in amounts ranging from \$20,000.00 to \$34,600.00 through a competitive application process. Funds could be used to reimburse expenses incurred for remote learning purposes from October 17, 2020 – September 30, 2021. The complete list of charter schools that have been awarded CSP remote learning grant funds can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Performance Report

The April 1 CSP Remote Learning Performance Report reflects grant activity from January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, the period during which the sub-grants were awarded and funds were first expended by the charter school grantees.

Budget Expenses. From January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, charter school grantees have expended a total of \$245,897.50 in CSP remote learning grant funds. The expenditures by grantee are listed below. A detailed account of all expenditures to date can be found in [Appendix B](#).

Grantee Name	Authorizer	Expenses
Cornerstone Prep-Denver Campus	Shelby County	\$20,000.00
Lester Prep	Shelby County	\$23,650.00
Libertas School	Shelby County	\$9,247.50
Memphis Business Academy Elementary	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Elementary School	Shelby County	\$27,300.00

Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant

Grantee Name	Authorizer	Expenses
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Middle School	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Memphis Business Academy High School	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis Business Academy Middle	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis STEM Academy	Shelby County	\$34,600.00

Description of Services. From January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, charter schools provided a variety of services to meet the immediate educational needs of students impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, including but not limited to the following:

- Purchase of student tablets, laptops, and other individual student technology devices to ensure a one-to-one student-to-device ratio to support remote learning;
- Purchase of keyboards, cases, and other technology maintenance support services to ensure all students can safely and securely access their technology from home;
- Provision of troubleshooting, training, and other technology support for families and teachers;
- Network-wide professional development for online instructional programs; and
- Expanded network IT capacity to include bilingual support.

Charter schools that expended grant funds served a total of 2,608 students through remote learning. The number of students served by each charter school is listed below.

Grantee Name	Students Served
Cornerstone Prep-Denver Campus	353
Lester Prep	185
Libertas School	213
Memphis Business Academy Elementary	298
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Elementary School	88
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Middle School	478
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Middle School	63
Memphis Business Academy High School	565
Memphis STEM Academy	365

Average Instructional Time. From January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, the average teacher instructional time per day through remote learning was 6.8 hours. Individual schools ranged from 6.5 hours to 7.0 hours per day.

Average Student Participation. Student participation in classes each day was reflected in student attendance data submitted by the participating charter schools. From January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, the average percentage of attendance was 91.1%, and the range of average percentage of student attendance included a low of 59% and a high of 100%.

Average Results on Performance-Based Tests. Due to COVID-19 disruptions during the 2019-2020 school year, statewide summative assessments were not administered. Participating charter schools did report available performance-based testing data for the January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021 period.

For grades K through 8, data was derived from MAP Math and MAP Reading tests. The following table summarizes the reported average proficiency rates on each test by grade level from their most recently administered assessment.

Grade	MAP Average Proficiency- Math	MAP Average Proficiency- Reading
K	63%	60%
1	38%	43%
2	28%	32%
3	21%	19%
4	20%	22%
5	21%	22%
6	16%	21%
7	26%	28%
8	32%	38%

For grades 9 through 11¹, data is reported from Nobel Math, Reading, and English tests by grade level. A summary of the February 2021 assessment data is provided in the following table:

Assessment	Nobel Average Proficiency
Algebra I	23%
Algebra II	19%
English 9	9%
English 10	13%
English 11	1%
Reading 9	8%
Reading 10	29%
Reading 11	0%

Progress Overcoming Challenges. From January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, charter schools reported numerous examples of demonstrated effectiveness or progress in overcoming challenges. Common challenges reported across schools include lower student attendance and engagement, at-home technology support issues, vendor shortages of technology devices, parent/guardian skill gaps with technology, and navigating virtual assessments and benchmarking.

¹ For January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021, only one high school reported academic data, which did not include assessments for grade 12.

Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant

Charter schools provided several examples of how they are working to overcome these challenges, including but not limited to:

- Student attendance and engagement:
 - Hosting online “spirit days” and virtual classroom events;
 - Increasing communication with families by calling, texting, and emailing students and families to check-in;
 - Supplying students with devices and hot spots for connectivity;
 - Hosting Zoom meetings to encourage parents to help their child in attending classes; and
 - Forming community partnerships to appoint personnel as success coaches to reach out to those students who are struggling with attendance or academic issues.

- At-home technology support:
 - Providing personalized technology support to at-home learning families;
 - Offering technology support to guide parents through the remote learning process; and
 - Providing remote updates and fixes for obstacles to remote learning.

- Vendor shortages with technology devices:
 - Providing supplementary home packets while the charter network switched to a different vendor to provide devices.

- Parent/guardian skill gaps with technology:
 - Expanding IT support staff;
 - Offering bilingual training sessions for families;
 - Posting bilingual training videos on the school’s webpage; and
 - Offering real-time chat support to address technology issues throughout the day.

- Navigating virtual assessments and benchmarking:
 - Allotting more time for online assessments to account for technology issues.

Benefitting ALL Students. From January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, charter schools reported numerous examples of the quality of the remote learning services that they provided to all their students.

Cornerstone Prep-Denver and Lester Prep schools reported that, because of the CSP remote learning sub-grant, they were able to provide the necessary technology to every student who needed it, including at-risk learners. Their remote learning program has provided more one-on-one attention from teachers, intervention teams, and academic coaches. They also hosted smaller classes while on campus, further facilitating more individualized attention to all learners.

Libertas School reported serving a higher-than-average rate of students with an IEP (24%). The CSP remote learning sub-grant enabled the school to provide students with IEPs with personalized technology support to continue learning at home during the pandemic.

Memphis Business Academy schools reported that the sub-grant enabled them to serve their student community, many of whom did not have access to personal computers at home. All students were provided an individual technology device to support remote learning, and hot spots were provided to those students needing connectivity. The CSP remote learning sub-grant has supported their schools' engagement with parents and funded small group virtual instruction for at-risk students. Students also were provided with increased access to supplemental curricular resources to improve opportunities for individualized learning experiences.

Appendix A
List of CSP Remote Learning Sub-Grant Recipients

Grantee Name	Name of Authorizer	Amount
Aurora Collegiate Academy	Shelby County	\$20,000.00
Believe Memphis Academy Charter School	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Bluff City High School	State Board of Education	\$34,600.00
Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Middle	Hamilton County	\$23,650.00
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy	Hamilton County	\$30,950.00
City University School Girls Prep	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
City University School of Independence	Shelby County	\$23,650.00
City University School of Liberal Arts	Shelby County	\$20,000.00
Cornerstone Prep-Denver Campus	Achievement School District	\$20,000.00
Cornerstone Prep-Lester Campus	Achievement School District	\$27,300.00
East End Prep	Davidson County	\$23,650.00
Explore! Community School	Davidson County	\$30,950.00
Fairley High School	Achievement School District	\$34,600.00
Freedom Prep Academy - Flagship	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Freedom Prep Academy - Westwood Elementary at Parkrose	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Freedom Prep Academy - Whitehaven Elementary at Millbranch	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Freedom Prep Academy - Whitehaven Middle at Brownlee	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Granville T. Woods Academy	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
Hillcrest High School	Achievement School District	\$34,600.00
Intrepid College Prep	Davidson County	\$34,600.00
Ivy Academy	Hamilton County	\$20,000.00
Journey Coleman	Achievement School District	\$30,950.00
Journey East Academy	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
Journey Hanley Elementary	Achievement School District	\$30,950.00
Journey Hanley Middle	Achievement School District	\$30,950.00
Kaleidoscope School of Memphis	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
KIPP Memphis Academy Elementary	Achievement School District	\$30,950.00
KIPP Memphis Academy Middle	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
KIPP Memphis Collegiate Elementary	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
KIPP Memphis Collegiate High	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
KIPP Memphis Collegiate Middle	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
Kirby Middle School	Achievement School District	\$34,600.00
Knowledge Academy at the Crossings	Davidson County	\$34,600.00
Knowledge Academy High School	Davidson County	\$34,600.00
Knowledge Academy Middle School	Davidson County	\$34,600.00
Leadership Preparatory Charter School	Shelby County	\$34,600.00

Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant

Lester Prep	Achievement School District	\$23,650.00
Libertas School	Achievement School District	\$34,600.00
Liberty Collegiate Academy	Davidson County	\$30,950.00
Memphis Business Academy Elementary	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Elementary	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Middle	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Memphis Business Academy High	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis Business Academy Middle	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis College Preparatory	Shelby County	\$20,000.00
Memphis Grizzlies Preparatory	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
Memphis Merit Academy	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis School of Excellence	Shelby County	\$23,650.00
Memphis School of Excellence Elementary	Shelby County	\$23,650.00
Memphis STEM Academy	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Nashville Classical	Davidson County	\$30,950.00
Nashville Prep	Davidson County	\$30,950.00
Perea Elementary School	Shelby County	\$23,650.00
Power Center Academy Elementary - Hickory Hill	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Power Center Academy Elementary - Southeast	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Power Center Academy High School	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Power Center Academy Middle - Southeast	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Promise Academy - Hollywood	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
Promise Academy - Spring Hill	Achievement School District	\$23,650.00
RePublic High School	Davidson County	\$34,600.00
Smithson Craighead Academy	Davidson County	\$23,650.00
STEM Prep High	Davidson County	\$34,600.00
STEM Prep Middle	Davidson County	\$34,600.00
STRIVE Collegiate Academy	Davidson County	\$27,300.00
The Soulsville Charter School	Shelby County	\$20,000.00
Valor Flagship Academy	Davidson County	\$30,950.00
Valor Voyager Academy	Davidson County	\$30,950.00
Veritas College Preparatory	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Vision Preparatory Charter School	Shelby County	\$23,650.00

Appendix B
Detailed Budget Expenditures

School Name	Line Item	Amount	Description
Lester Prep			
	72250-336	\$15,150.00	Accidental Damage Protection warranty from Safeware for 355 Chromebooks @ \$42.78 each.
	72250-790	\$8,500.00	50x HP Chromebook 14 @ \$170 each.
	Subtotal	\$23,650.00	
Libertas			
	72250-399	\$9,247.50	IT Technician Services during remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$9,247.50	
Cornerstone Prep-Denver			
	72250-790	\$20,000.00	Accidental Damage Protection from Safeware for 468 Chromebooks @ \$42.78 each.
	Subtotal	\$20,000.00	
Memphis STEM Academy			
	72250-499	\$15,107.20	240 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets sealed cases at a cost of \$87.84 each; submitted \$15,107.20 for reimbursement.
	72250-790	\$19,492.80	240 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet keyboards at a cost of \$81.22 each; submitted \$19,492.80 for reimbursement.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
Memphis Business Academy Middle			
	72250-790	\$34,600.00	416 Dell Latitude Laptop at a cost of \$727 each for a total of \$302,432; submitted reimbursement for \$34,600.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
Memphis Business Academy High			
	72250-790	\$34,600.00	412 Dell Latitude Laptop at a cost of \$727 each for a total of \$299,524; submitted reimbursement for \$34,600.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Middle			
	72250-790	\$27,300.00	95 Dell Latitude Laptop at a cost of \$727 each for a total of \$69,065; submitted reimbursement for \$27,300.
	Subtotal	\$27,300.00	

Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grant

Memphis Business Academy Elementary			
	72250-499	\$15,107.20	240 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets sealed cases at a cost of \$87.84 each for a total of \$21,081.60; submitted reimbursement for \$15,107.20.
	72250-790	\$19,492.80	240 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet keyboards at a cost of \$81.22 each; submitted reimbursement for \$19,492.80.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
Memphis Business Academy Hickory Hill Elementary			
	72250-499	\$12,297.60	140 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets sealed cases at a cost of \$87.84 each for a total of \$12,297.60.
	72250-790	\$11,370.80	140 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablet keyboards at a cost of \$81.22 each for a total of \$11,370.80.
	72250-790	\$3,631.60	240 Lenovo ThinkPad Tablets at a cost of \$529 each for a total of \$74,060; submitted reimbursement for \$3,631.60.
	Subtotal	\$27,300.00	
	TOTAL	\$245,897.50	