

Charter Schools Program Remote Learning Quarterly Performance Report

April 1, 2021 – June 30, 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 July 1 CSP Remote Learning Performance Report reflects grant activity from April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, the second quarter of the grant period.

Budget Expenses. From April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, charter school grantees have expended a total of \$605,736.69 in CSP remote learning grant funds. The expenditures by grantee are listed below. A detailed account of total expenditures to date can be found in [Appendix B](#).

Grantee Name	Authorizer	Expenses
Believe Memphis Academy	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Cornerstone Prep Lester Campus	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Freedom Prep Academy Flagship	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Freedom Prep Westwood Elementary at Parkwood Campus	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Freedom Prep Whitehaven Elementary at Millbranch Campus	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Freedom Prep Whitehaven Middle at Brownlee Campus	Shelby County	\$27,300.00
Knowledge Academy	MNPS	\$19,624.43

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Knowledge Academy at the Crossings	MNPS	\$20,293.96
Knowledge Academy High	MNPS	\$24,514.08
Leadership Preparatory Charter School	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Libertas School	Shelby County	\$9,621.52
Liberty Collegiate Academy	MNPS	\$30,950.00
Memphis Grizzlies Preparatory	Shelby County	\$30,950.00
Memphis Merit	Shelby County	\$34,600.00
Memphis School of Excellence	Shelby County	\$23,650.00
Memphis School of Excellence Elementary	Shelby County	\$23,650.00
Nashville Classical	MNPS	\$30,950.00
Nashville Prep	MNPS	\$30,950.00
Promise Academy	Shelby County	\$26,509.08
RePublic High School	MNPS	\$34,600.00
STEM Prep Academy	MNPS	\$34,600.00
STEM Prep High	MNPS	\$24,573.63
Total expenses: April 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021		\$605,736.69

As of July 1, 2021, the total amount of CSP remote learning grant funds expended since the beginning of the grant on October 17, 2020 is \$851,634.19, about 41% of awarded funds. To date, \$1,207,265.81 remains to be spent by the expiration of the grant period on September 30, 2021.

Description of Services. From April 1, 2021 through June 30, 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;
- Provision of hotspots and wireless services for students and families without internet access;
- Classroom cameras to facilitate remote and hybrid instructional models;
- 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;
- Expansion of network IT capacity and supports;
- Online and take-home curricular resources; and
- Nursing services to support students and families in response to COVID-19 and as students returned to in-person instruction.

Charter schools that expended grant funds served a total of 8,008 students through remote learning in the reporting period. The number of students served by each charter school is listed below.

Grantee Name	Students Served
Believe Memphis Academy	330
Cornerstone Prep Lester Campus	116
Freedom Prep Academy Flagship	835
Freedom Prep Westwood Elementary at Parkwood Campus	570
Freedom Prep Whitehaven Elementary at Millbranch Campus	537
Freedom Prep Whitehaven Middle at Brownlee Campus	287
Knowledge Academy	71
Knowledge Academy at the Crossings	84
Knowledge Academy High	111
Leadership Preparatory Charter School	342
Libertas School	250
Liberty Collegiate Academy	460
Memphis Grizzlies Preparatory	109
Memphis Merit	176
Memphis School of Excellence	556
Memphis School of Excellence Elementary	369
Nashville Classical	503
Nashville Prep	350
Promise Academy	308
RePublic High School	650
STEM Prep Academy	500
STEM Prep High	500

As of July 1, 2021, the total amount of students served by CSP-supported remote learning since the beginning of the grant on October 17, 2020 is 10,616.

Average Instructional Time. From April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, the average teacher instructional time per day through remote learning was 6.3 hours. Individuals schools ranged from 4.0 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 April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, the average percentage of attendance was 86.4%, and the range of average percentage of student attendance included a low of 36% and a high of 100%.

Average Results on Performance-Based Tests. Due to COVID-19 disruptions during the 2019-20 school year, statewide summative assessments were not administered. Participating charter schools did report available performance-based testing data for the April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021 period.

For grades K through 8, math and ELA data were derived from NWEA MAP, i-Ready, Fast Bridges, and school-developed interim assessment proficiency rates provided by each school. The following table summarizes the reported average proficiency rates on each test by grade level from their most recently administered assessment. A detailed account of performance by school can be found in [Appendix C](#).

Grade	Average Proficiency: Math	Average Proficiency: Reading
K	45%	43%
1	32%	27%
2	26%	34%
3	24%	31%
4	23%	26%
5	25%	35%
6	35%	44%
7	38%	47%
8	26%	34%

For grades 9 through 12, math and ELA data were derived from NWEA MAP and school-developed interim assessment proficiency rates provided by each school. The following table summarizes the reported average proficiency rates on each test by grade level from their most recently administered assessment.

Grade	Average Proficiency: Math	Average Proficiency: Reading
9	24%	39%
10	44%	47%
11	36%	54%
12	56%	62%

Progress Overcoming Challenges. From April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, charter schools reported numerous examples of demonstrated effectiveness or progress in overcoming challenges. Common challenges reported across schools include the lack of computers or stable internet connections in student homes, limited student and family computer knowledge, low student attendance, teacher burnout, adapting instructional models to online learning, and addressing rise in health concerns.

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

- Lack of computer or stable internet connections at home:
 - Providing 1:1 student technology to support at home instruction.

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- Providing hotspots and wireless internet for families in need.
- Parent/guardian skill gaps with technology:
 - Providing computer 101 classes for students and parents.
- Student attendance and engagement:
 - Providing consistent communication with parents on the importance of remote learning.
 - Providing incentives for attendance to both parents and students.
 - Positioning schools as resource hubs, providing 1:1 technology including laptops and hotspots, learning resources, community guides, food access, and resource materials at each school, turning school buildings into community hubs for students and families.
 - Conducting targeted parent intervention by implementing parent contact protocols for all families with an emphasis on safety and resources, providing weekly touchpoints with families to ensure they had the housing, food, and resources they needed to survive, and the learning materials for their students to continue learning.
 - Rethinking Dean of Students role to be a connector within the families and communities served. Deans now spend most of their time outside the school building traveling to families and students with whom the school either lost contact or are at risk for lost contact.
 - Offering an in-person option in the spring to at-risk students who struggled in the remote format.
- Teacher burnout:
 - Providing creative schedules to support teacher self-care and protect valuable learning time.
- Adapting instructional models to online learning:
 - Changing content delivery and scaffolding lessons to accommodate slower learning online.
 - Offering the same core classes and expecting live attendance in them.
 - Prioritizing educationally vulnerable students when reopening schools with a staggered start. Used federal criteria, family surveys, and staff surveys to identify students and worked with families on a case-by-case basis to roster classes for return. Every family that wanted to be in-person was offered an in-person option in October and November.
 - Using a data-driven approach, offering robust interventions informed by data and using a research-based curriculum. These interventions represent 90 minutes of the day and are aligned to the state's RTI² framework.
- Addressing rise in health concerns:
 - Contracting a full-time nurse to help answer questions from parents and address COVID related issues during remote instruction and upon return to in-person instruction.

Benefitting ALL Students. From April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, charter schools reported numerous examples of the quality of the remote learning services that they provided to all their students.

Believe Academy reported that over one third of its students received a T-Mobile wireless hotspot in order to have internet access throughout the year. CSP sub-grant funds played a significant role in providing devices as well as access to the school's high-level curriculum, regardless of income level.

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

Of the students attending the four Freedom Prep charter schools in Memphis, 86% are economically disadvantaged, 10% are English learners, and 12% are students with disabilities. All students, including these subgroups, received smaller group instruction as a result of having access to MiFis and Chromebooks/iPads, which were funded by the CSP Remote Learning grant.

Knowledge Academy reported that its schools benefited from the remote learning sub-grant by providing technical support, such as hotspots for families who are economically disadvantaged. Remote learning also supplemented the in-person instruction for students with disabilities.

Leadership Prep reported that the CSP sub-grant helped the school purchase enough computers to support learning for its most vulnerable students. 100% of its students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch, and most families live well below the poverty line. While about 40% of its families chose to return to school when it reopened for in-person instruction, 60% made the decision to continue to learn from home. As such, Leadership Prep had to provide learning for in-person and at-home students using various pathways to ensure access for all students. The CSP sub-grant also funded tutoring, enabling teachers to provide increased reading support for struggling students.

Memphis Merit Academy reported that it was able to provide platforms like Wowzers and Edgenuity that differentiated Math and ELA instruction based on individual students' NWEA RIT levels.

The Memphis School of Excellence schools reported that the sub-grant allowed them to ensure all students, especially at-risk learners, students with IEPs, and English learners, were able to access the technology and internet necessary to participate in remote learning. The CSP remote learning sub-grant ensured that Chromebooks were available to those students most in need.

Nashville Classical reported that the sub-grant enabled the school to purchase Core Knowledge Language Arts Sets for its K-2 students. This school has used CKLA since 2013 and was one of the very first schools in Tennessee to implement the curriculum. However, its students were still using materials purchased between five and seven years ago. As a result, the school frequently asked students to either use online versions of workbooks or required families to come to school to retrieve copied packets to accompany the curriculum. The CSP remote learning sub-grant enabled the school to purchase additional CKLA readers for all students in grades K-2 to make sure every student could take their own workbook home. These materials especially benefited the school's most educationally vulnerable students. CKLA readers can continue to be used for in-person instruction.

The STEM Academy schools reported that the funds enabled them to provide health services to their spring in-person learning cohort, which consisted primarily of at-risk and special population students.

Report Summary. From April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, Tennessee’s charter schools used CSP remote learning sub-grants to fund technological devices, support services and infrastructure, online and take-home curricula, and nursing services. While these expenditures benefited all students, they particularly aided more vulnerable populations. Through the use of CSP funds, charter schools were able to continue to safely provide a high-quality education to their students during the pandemic.

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	MNPS	\$23,650.00
Explore! Community School	MNPS	\$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	MNPS	\$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	MNPS	\$34,600.00
Knowledge Academy High School	MNPS	\$34,600.00
Knowledge Academy Middle School	MNPS	\$34,600.00
Leadership Preparatory Charter School	Shelby County	\$34,600.00

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Lester Prep	Achievement School District	\$23,650.00
Libertas School	Achievement School District	\$34,600.00
Liberty Collegiate Academy	MNPS	\$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	MNPS	\$30,950.00
Nashville Prep	MNPS	\$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	MNPS	\$34,600.00
Smithson Craighead Academy	MNPS	\$23,650.00
STEM Prep High	MNPS	\$34,600.00
STEM Prep Middle	MNPS	\$34,600.00
STRIVE Collegiate Academy	MNPS	\$27,300.00
The Soulsville Charter School	Shelby County	\$20,000.00
Valor Flagship Academy	MNPS	\$30,950.00
Valor Voyager Academy	MNPS	\$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
Believe			
	72250-350	\$815.00	T-Mobile wireless hotspot devices.
	72250-790	\$33,785.00	Chromebooks for 1:1 access during remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
Cornerstone Prep-Lester			
	72250-336	\$7,140.00	Damage protection for student computers.
	72250-399	\$20,160.00	IT Technician Services during remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$27,300.00	
Freedom Preparatory Academy Flagship			
	72250-350	\$27,300.00	Service for 162 Mifi devices for remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$27,300.00	
Freedom Preparatory Academy Westwood Elementary at Parkwood Campus			
	72250-350	\$27,300.00	Service for 177 Mifi devices for remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$27,300.00	
Freedom Preparatory Academy Whitehaven Elementary at Millbranch Campus			
	72250-350	\$27,300.00	Service for 162 Mifi devices for remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$27,300.00	
Freedom Preparatory Academy Whitehaven Middle at Brownlee Campus			
	72250-350	\$27,300.00	Service for 149 Mifi devices for remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$27,300.00	
Knowledge Academy			
	72250-350	\$2,170.80	Verizon Hotspot wireless service for students.
	71100-722	\$10,836.00	12 Meeting Owls for hybrid classroom instruction.
	71100-722	\$6,617.63	Chromebooks for 1:1 access during remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$19,624.43	

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Knowledge Academy at the Crossings			
	71100-722	\$10,836.00	12 Meeting Owls for hybrid classroom instruction.
	71100-722	\$1,876.50	Chromebook adapters.
	71100-722	\$550.00	Computer mice.
	71100-722	\$4,741.13	Chromebooks for 1:1 access during remote learning.
	72250-350	\$2,290.33	Verizon Hotspot wireless service for students.
	Subtotal	\$20,293.96	
Knowledge Academy High School			
	71100-722	\$9,933.00	11 Meeting Owls for hybrid classroom instruction.
	71100-722	\$1,876.50	Chromebook adapters.
	71100-722	\$4,741.13	Chromebooks for 1:1 access during remote learning.
	72210-138	\$7,963.45	Tech support services.
	Subtotal	\$24,514.08	
Leadership Preparatory Charter School			
	71100-189	\$1,594.00	After school tutoring for COVID learning loss.
	71100-430	\$1,500.00	i-Ready curriculum.
	71100-499	\$5,172.70	Printing costs for remote instruction.
	71100-499	\$4,647.30	210 computer headsets.
	71100-189	\$6,503.00	340 laptop bags.
	71100-722	\$11,999.40	60 Chromebook computers for remote learning.
	71100-722	\$3,183.60	8 iPads for SPED remote instructional use.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
Libertas School			
	72250-399	\$9,621.52	MemFi IT technician services.
	Subtotal	\$9,621.52	
Liberty Collegiate Academy			
	72250-336	\$30,950.00	Accidental damage protection for 248 Chromebooks.
	Subtotal	\$30,950.00	
Memphis Grizzlies Preparatory Charter School			
	72250-790	\$30,179.00	103 student Chromebooks for remote learning.
	72250-790	\$771.00	Swivl camera for remote teaching.
	Subtotal	\$30,950.00	
Memphis Merit			
	72250-471	\$6,688.00	Edgenuity for online RTI instruction.
	72250-471	\$2,160.00	Wowzers online math curriculum.
	72250-790	\$14,600.00	Student Chromebooks for remote learning.
	72250-790	\$9,072.00	8 Swivl Education boards for hybrid instruction.
	72250-790	\$2,080.00	8 Classroom i-Pads.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	

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Memphis School of Excellence			
	72250-499	\$23,650.00	67 Chromebooks and set-up for remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$23,650.00	
Memphis School of Excellence Elementary			
	72250-499	\$23,650.00	67 Chromebooks and set-up for remote learning.
	Subtotal	\$23,650.00	
Nashville Classical			
	71100-499	\$19,298.17	K-2 Core Knowledge take-home curriculum.
	72250-790	\$11,651.83	Remote learning tech: 10 Chromebooks, 15 hotspots, and 520 headphones.
	Subtotal	\$30,950.00	
Nashville Prep			
	72250-336	\$30,950.00	Accidental damage protection for 248 Chromebooks.
	Subtotal	\$30,950.00	
Promise Academy			
	72120-399	\$26,509.08	Full-time nurse provided by Well Child Inc. on site 5 days per week to address COVID-19 related issues.
	Subtotal	\$26,509.08	
RePublic High School			
	72250-336	\$34,600.00	Accidental damage protection for 248 Chromebooks.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
STEM Prep Academy			
	72120-131	\$34,600.00	School Nurse position to assist in developing our plan to return to on-campus.
	Subtotal	\$34,600.00	
STEM Prep High			
	72120-131	\$24,573.62	School Nurse position to assist in developing our plan to return to on-campus.
	Subtotal	\$24,573.62	
	TOTAL	\$605,736.69	

Appendix C
Performance Data Overview

Grantee Name	Assessment	Grades Tested
Believe Memphis Academy	School developed	4, 5, 6, 7
Cornerstone Prep Lester Campus	NWEA MAP	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Freedom Prep Academy Flagship	NWEA MAP	6, 7, 8, 9
Freedom Prep Westwood Elementary	NWEA MAP	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Freedom Prep Whitehaven Elementary	NWEA MAP	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Freedom Prep Whitehaven Middle	None Provided	---
Knowledge Academy	i-Ready	5, 6, 7, 8
Knowledge Academy at the Crossings	i-Ready	5, 6, 7, 8
Knowledge Academy High	NWEA MAP	9, 10, 11, 12
Leadership Preparatory Charter School	Fast Bridges (Math); NWEA MAP (ELA)	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Libertas School	NWEA MAP	3, 4, 5
Liberty Collegiate Academy	School developed	5, 6, 7, 8
Memphis Grizzlies Preparatory	None provided	---
Memphis Merit	NWEA MAP	K, 1, 2
Memphis School of Excellence	None provided	---
Memphis School of Excellence Elementary	None provided	---
Nashville Classical	NWEA MAP	K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Nashville Prep	School developed	5, 6, 7, 8
Promise Academy	None provided	---
RePublic High School	School developed	9, 10, 11, 12
STEM Prep Academy	School developed	5, 6, 7, 8
STEM Prep High	School developed	9, 10, 11, 12