



EMBARGOED UNTIL 5/14/2020

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SEVEN IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AWARDED \$4.18 MILLION IN NEW SCHOOL GRANTS

Boise – (May 14, 2021) Idaho’s *Communities of Excellence* consortium announced the award of \$4.18 million in grant funding from the Federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) to seven Idaho public charter schools. Bluum has conducted five rounds of grant competitions since 2019, and has committed \$17.6 million to support the startup, expansion or replication of 22 public charter schools in communities across Idaho.

“We are proud to work with so many great Idaho school leaders, board members and their partners who have dedicated themselves to providing our families with quality learning options that simply didn’t exist previously,” says Terry Ryan, Bluum’s CEO and Project Director for the *Communities of Excellence* program.

The grant awards are aimed at increasing the number of high-quality public charter school options for Gem State. Idaho’s charter schools have consistently delivered [strong academic outcomes for students](#). In 2021, five of Idaho’s top ten public high schools as ranked by the [US News and World report are public charter schools](#).

The current round of grants will allow the seven subgrantee schools to add a total of 2,136 new students. Funding comes from a \$22 million U.S. Department of Education grant awarded last year to Idaho’s *Communities of Excellence* consortium.

Members of the consortium include the Boise-based education nonprofit and project lead Bluum; the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation; the Idaho State Board of Education; the Idaho Public Charter School Commission; and Building Hope, a national charter school facilities financing nonprofit organization.

Schools and communities receiving Charter Schools Program Grants this round are:

- Cardinal Academy in Boise
- Doral Academy in Meridian
- Elevate Academy Nampa
- Elevate Academy North in Post Falls
- Pinecrest Academy in Twin Falls
- RISE Charter School in Kimberly
- The Academy (Connor) in Chubbuck



Winning narratives and reviewer comments available here: <https://www.bloom.org/subgrantees/>

Summary of Current Recipients

	Award Date	School	Community	Amount	New Seats
1	May 2019	Gem Prep Meridian	Meridian	\$1,250,000	574
2	May 2019	Forge International	Middleton	\$1,250,000	653
3	May 2019	White Pine STEM	Ammon	\$613,353	182
4	May 2019	Future Public School	Garden City	\$1,250,000	576
5	May 2019	Compass Public Charter	Meridian	\$800,000	319
6	Nov 2019	Elevate Academy	Caldwell	\$1,250,000	487
7	Nov 2019	Fern Waters	Salmon	\$133,224	57
8	Nov 2019	Gem Prep Meridian North	Meridian	\$800,000	574
9	Nov 2019	Hayden Canyon	Hayden	\$800,000	434
10	Nov 2019	MOSAICS	Caldwell	\$800,000	540
11	Nov 2019	Treasure Valley C.A.	Fruitland	\$1,250,000	702
12	Apr 2020	Anser Public Charter School	Garden City	\$800,000	302
13	Apr 2020	Idaho Arts	Nampa	\$800,000	260
14	Dec 2020	Alturas Preparatory Academy	Idaho Falls	\$800,000	602
15	Dec 2020	Gem Prep Meridian South	Meridian	\$800,000	574
16	May 2021	Cardinal Academy	Boise	\$376,085	120
17	May 2021	Doral Academy	Meridian	\$500,000	348
18	May 2021	Elevate Academy Nampa	Nampa	\$800,000	486
19	May 2021	Elevate Academy North	Post Falls	\$800,000	308
20	May 2021	Pinecrest Academy	Twin Falls	\$501,600	367
21	May 2021	RISE Charter School	Kimberly	\$405,615	225
22	May 2021	The Academy (Connor)	Chubbuck	\$800,000	282
			Totals:	\$17,579,877	8,972
				Per Seat Investment: \$1,959	

All dollars for subgrantees were allocated through a rigorous third-party review process approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Funded schools span the state of Idaho from the Treasure Valley, to Fruitland, up north to Hayden, and down through Salmon to Idaho Falls and back southwest to Twin Falls. The average grant amount per subgrantee school is \$799,085 and vary in amounts from \$1.25 million to \$133,000 based on the number of new seats to be created.

Instructionally school models range from Classical Education, to Career Technical Education, to International Baccalaureate to STEM Education. Five of the schools serve rural communities, and most are at or above their district averages in serving needy students.

These grant dollars are also available to public school districts interested in converting and redesigning struggling traditional schools that may operate in their communities.

For more information about the grant, visit www.bloom.org/idaho-csp-grant

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About Public Charter Schools



A public charter school is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations, and is not affiliated with a sectarian school or religious institution. Public charter schools are open to all students who apply and cannot charge tuition. A charter school receiving CSP funds must use a lottery if more students apply for admission to the charter school than can be admitted. Idaho has 60 public charter schools and collectively they serve over 25,000 public school students.

About Bluum

Bluum is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring Idaho's children reach their fullest potential by cultivating great leaders and innovative schools. For more information visit www.bluum.org.

About the Federal CSP Grant

Idaho received \$22 million in funding over five years. At least 90 percent of these dollars will flow to public charter school subgrantees for school start-up, school replication and school expansion. At least seven percent must be utilized for state-level technical assistance activities and program evaluation/research. No more than three percent for Bluum administration.