

**The All Students Achieving through Reform (All-STAR) Act of 2009
(Rep. Jared Polis, Colorado)**

**Help Close the Achievement Gap by Building on Successful Innovation!
Become an Original Co-Sponsor of the All-STAR Act**

Supported by

Democrats for Education Reform, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Education Equality Project, National Council of La Raza, Black Alliance for Educational Options, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation, NewSchools Venture Fund, NCB Capital Impact, and The Reinvestment Fund.

"We'll invest in innovative programs that are already helping schools meet high standards and close achievement gaps. And we will expand our commitment to charter schools."

--President Obama, February 24, 2009, Addressing a Joint Session of Congress

"I am a big fan of charter schools. Where we have innovation that is working, where we have charter schools that are showing great results for children, why do we cap their ability to do more? Where we have great innovation we need to support that, replicate it, do more."

-- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, March 11, 2009

All-STAR will enable and encourage successful public charter school models that get the job done to expand and replicate, and will also strengthen public charter school accountability and transparency. Now, more than ever, we need to reinvigorate America's education system and give each and every child the opportunity to learn and thrive. **Let's build on what works and improve outcomes for underserved children. All-STAR:**

- Establishes a new competitive grant program in the Department of Education to enable successful public charter schools to replicate, expand and serve more students who are currently in underperforming schools.
- Eligible grantees include Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) that have or intend to authorize a public charter school, States, Authorized Public Chartering Agencies, and Non-Profit Organizations with an organizational mission and proven track record of success in replicating high-quality charter schools.
- Encourages new rigorous levels of reporting, oversight and accountability for charter school authorizers, including intervention or closure of low-quality charter schools.
- Allows funds to be used for replication and expansion costs, including:
 - ✓ Transportation
 - ✓ Hiring additional staff and teachers
 - ✓ Special education programs
 - ✓ Facilities acquisition & development and other activities to serve more students.

- Requires that students must be enrolled via a lottery in charters, but also allows expanding schools to matriculate their current students into the new grades.
- Charter schools are eligible only if they have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) the last two consecutive years or exceeded their state graduation rate (where applicable).
- Focuses resources on serving those areas most in need by giving priority to eligible entities that serve areas with a large share of students who are enrolled in schools that have not made AYP in the last two consecutive years or have a graduation rate that is lower than their state graduation rate (where applicable), and other factors determined appropriate by the Secretary.
- Gives priority to states that do not have caps restricting the growth of public charter schools and have policies in place that support academically successful charter schools, provide autonomy to schools, promote strong authorizing policies, and ensure quality control through performance-based accountability.
- Focuses resources on replicating the best models of public education by giving priority to the top-performing charter schools:
 - ✓ Rank among the top 20% of the state’s public schools and are eligible for schoolwide improvement programs under Title I;
 - ✓ High schools with 75% or more at-risk¹ students where at least 60% of 9th graders matriculate to college;
 - ✓ Middle schools with 75% or more at-risk students where at least 85% of 5th graders enroll in high schools with a 60% or above college matriculation rate; or
 - ✓ Schools with 75% or more at-risk students where the average student score on a nationally norm referenced exam like the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is at least in the 60th percentile in reading and at least in the 75th percentile in math.

Let’s reward educational entrepreneurship, duplicate success, and close the achievement gap. America’s students deserve nothing less.

To co-sponsor All-STAR or if you have any questions, please contact Spiros Protopsaltis at Spiros.Protopsaltis@mail.house.gov or 202-225-5721.

¹ At-risk factors include: free and reduced lunch eligibility, limited English proficiency, disabilities, homelessness, foster care, and dropouts.