WA Charters Conference
Why we believe in WA's charter sector & lessons learned from the nation

April 28, 2018
WA is creating the future of work, but not producing students prepared for the roles needed.

WA is proud to rank...

2nd in concentration of STEM and high tech jobs.

Yet ashamed to rank...

49th in student preparedness for these roles.

41st in graduation rates.

50th in closing the opportunity gap for low-income students.

The charter sector is a catalyst for change.
The IPS Vision

One day, every single Washington state student will have the choice to attend a high quality public school that prepares them with the skills, habits, and mindsets to succeed in a four-year college and positively contribute to our community.

One day, we will eliminate the growing opportunity gap in our state.

One day, Washington will boast a public education system that is connected, just, and vibrant.
Mission #1

We prepare a diverse student population to succeed in college and impact communities as the next generation of equity-driven, innovative leaders.
Mission #2

We make a broader impact on public education across Washington state by advocating for public policies that close the opportunity gap and provide all students their right to a high-quality education.
24 million kids have school choice (Over 4 in 10). Most of them are wealthy.

8 million kids
Move homes to get the school they want

5 million kids
Go to private school

3 million kids
Go to charter schools
The Charter School Growth Fund (CSGF) was founded in 2005 to grow the nation’s best public charter schools and prove what’s possible for large school systems.

**Our Mission:** CSGF is a nonprofit that invests philanthropic capital in the nation’s highest-quality charter school networks to dramatically expand their impact on underserved students.

**CSGF Portfolio: 2017-18**

- 61 charter school networks
- Over 870 schools
- ~370,000 students
- 28 states
These innovative and high-growth charter networks are proving what’s possible in public education.

The CSGF Portfolio serves 80% low-income and 90% minority students.
Summary of Stanford CREDO Findings on the Charter School Growth Fund

A June 2017 study conducted by Stanford’s Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) shows that students who attend schools that are part of networks supported by CSGF provide students with academic benefits equivalent to an additional 80 days of additional learning in math and 63 days of additional learning in reading per year.

This chart shows the effect size and additional days of learning associated with enrollment in CSGF-supported charter schools (darker bars) compared to enrollment in charter schools that are not supported by CSGF (light-colored bars) and traditional district schools (baseline of 0.00) in reading and math.
Similar to a venture capital firm, we use a rigorous due diligence process and work closely with entrepreneurs over the term of our investments.

Our Due Diligence Process Evaluates...

- **Academic Performance**: Do schools demonstrate strong academic performance?
- **Growth**: Is the proposed growth trajectory realistic with meaningful impact in target markets?
- **Financial Sustainability**: Can the charter network operate at full scale with minimal need for philanthropy?
- **Leadership Team**: Does the leadership team have the experience/skill to deliver?

We partner with entrepreneurs to support their charter school network's growth through business planning, strategic advice, facilities financing, etc.
We need more seats in innovative schools. New schools, specifically charters, are critical to achieving this.
There are exciting innovations across the country, including WA!

Levers for Innovation
- Coaching
- Grading
- Human Capital
- Schedule
- Space
- Technology

Spotlight
Debra Sullivan
Ashé Preparatory Academy
NewSchools finds, funds, and supports teams of educators and entrepreneurs committed to launching innovative schools.

**Mission**
NewSchools is committed to reimagining public education through **powerful ideas and passionate entrepreneurs** so that all children — especially those in underserved communities — have the opportunity to succeed.

**Role**
We find, fund, and support **teams of educators and entrepreneurs** who have a vision for creating great results for all students — particularly those in schools that do not work for them.

**Strategy**
- **New innovative schools** and the redesign of existing schools
- **Ed tech** to support the shift to innovative schools
- **Diverse leaders** to provide more relevant, sustainable solutions

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<th>465</th>
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**Financial Support**

**Community of Practice**

**Management Assistance**
ALL CHILDREN IN WASHINGTON STATE HAVE FAIR AND EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

RACE, INCOME, AND GENDER NO LONGER PREDICT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.
Even as there are slight improvements over time, significant achievement and opportunity gaps continue.
Washington State Charter Schools Initiative

Support the development of high quality charter public schools in Washington State

- Start-Up and Expansion Funding
  - Support operations/school launch toward sustainability
  - Support facilities solutions toward sustainability
- Technical Assistance and General Technical Supports
- Cross-Sector Collaboration

WA State Charter Landscape

- Strong leaders in the sector to build high-quality charter public schools
- Strong policies in terms of accountability and quality with a focus on students and families who seek options the most
- Applied lessons learned and what works from other states
Education Finance

Providing financial services to help fund quality solutions for low-income families and children requires a multi-dimensional understanding of various education models.
Impact Investment & Credit Products & Services

In addition to custom-tailored, flexible financial products, we provide lots of advice and try to always add value and meet the unique needs of changemakers taking on complex, community development challenges in poor communities.
Sector Investment Activity

Since inception, RDF has provided over $682 million dollars in low-income community development impact investments; we are poised to exceed $750 million of invested capital in this fiscal year.