

# NC GROW CSP Overview

Presentation to the Charter Schools Review Board

March 9, 2026

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## North Carolina Association for Public Charter Schools

- **Mission:** The NC Association for Public Charter Schools exists to advance quality educational opportunities for all North Carolina children by supporting and expanding successful charter schools.
- **Vision:** Our vision is to be the fiercest champion for public charter schools in North Carolina by providing support through programming and vendor relationships; education of the public and legislators by increasing awareness and dispelling myths; and advocacy on the local, state, and federal levels to protect public charter schools' flexibility and autonomy and to increase funding.



## Why did NCAPCS apply for the CSP grant?

- To build on the legacy of impact of the NC ACCESS grant
- Leverage an opportunity for NCAPCS to support the increase of high-quality public charter school seats in our state and to promote high quality technical assistance to schools and the sector
- We are thankful for the letters of support for our application from Superintendent Mo Green, OCS Executive Director Ashley Logue, and CSRB Members Bruce Friend, John Eldridge, and Stephen Gay.



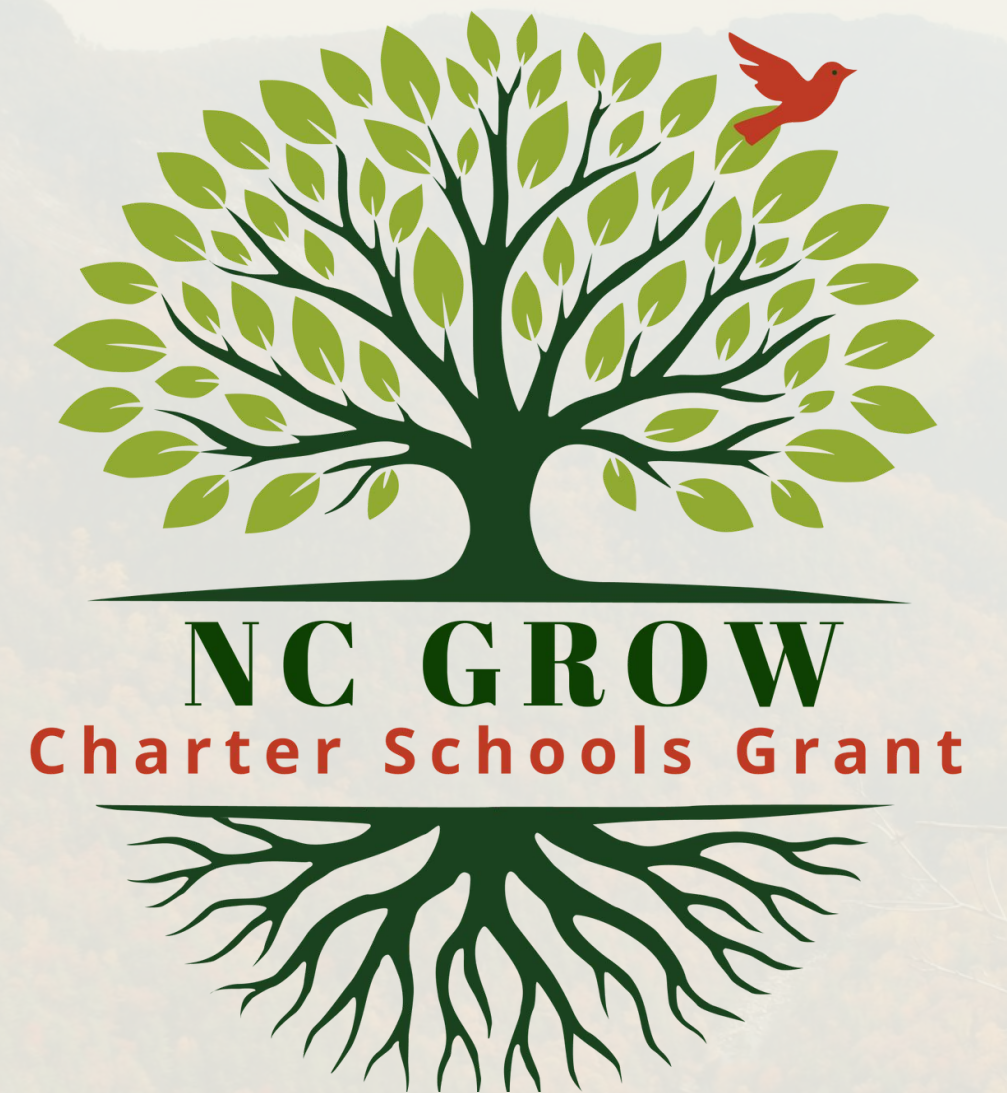
## Application Timeline

- The NCAPCS submitted our application in June 2025.
- We were awarded \$52.9M in funding in September 2025
- From October 1 to November 12, 2025 the federal government was shut down, as Congress failed to pass appropriations legislation for the 2026 fiscal year. This created a delay in launching our first subgrant competition as we were unable to communicate with the U.S. Department of Education (DE).
- In November 2025, it was announced that the CSP Office at the DE would be moving to the U.S. Department of Labor.



“There are two gifts we should give our children: one is roots, and other other is wings.”

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



## **Objective 1: Increase the Number of NC Public Charter Schools by 28 in 5 Years**

- The NC GROW CSP will expand access to high-quality charter schools through 42 subgrants over the grant period prioritizing opening new charter schools, replicating, or expanding schools that implement innovative CTE/STEM/AI programming to address North Carolina's workforce needs.



## Objective 2: Support CSRB/OCS with Best Practices for Charter School Authorizers

- The NC GROW CSP will strengthen charter school sustainability:
  - Board Governance Training
  - Finance Fellowship
  - Consultation and resource sharing in transportation best practices
  - Plan to ensure schools have the leadership capacity to thrive beyond the grant period.



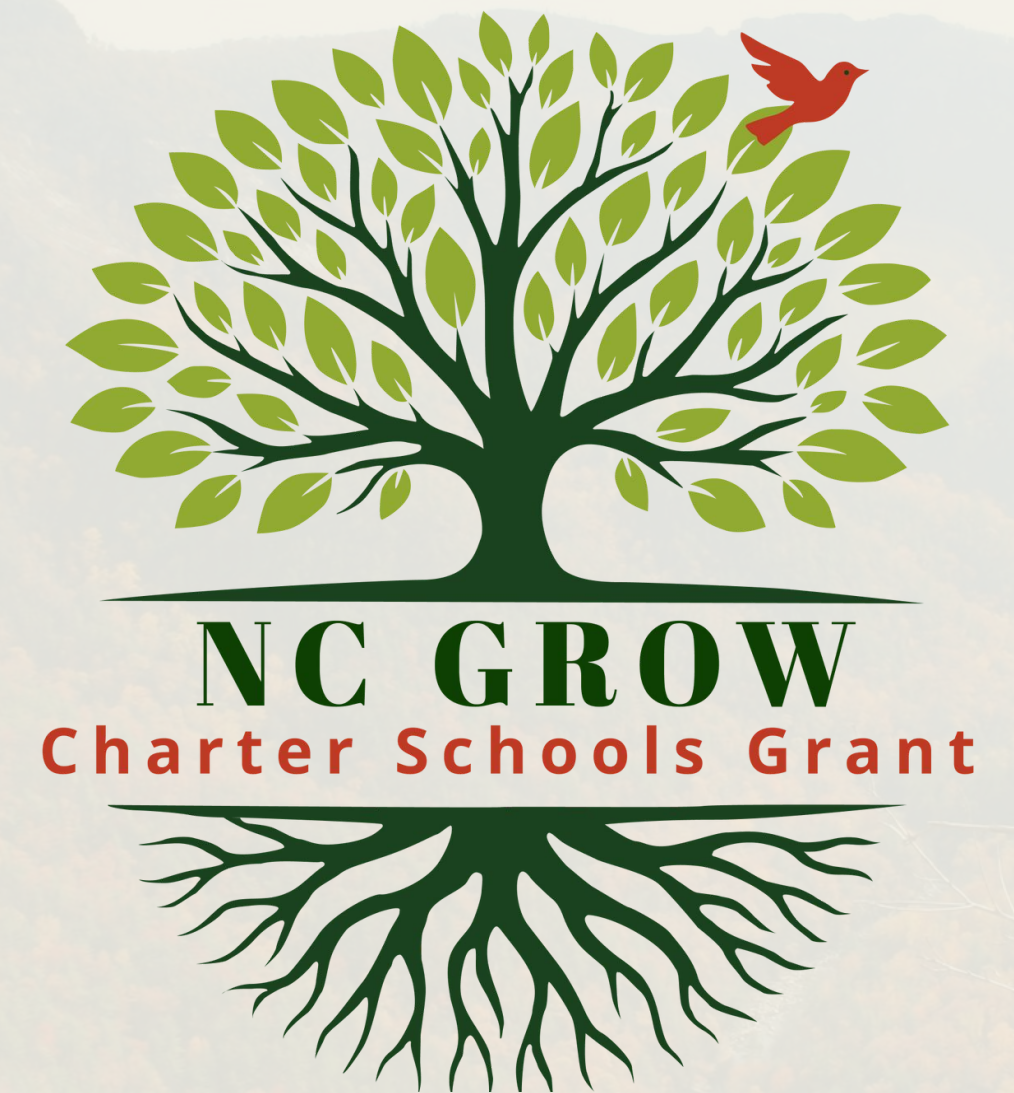
## Objective 3: Support Remote Academy Implementation per NCGS 115C-218.87

- The NC GROW CSP will develop comprehensive guidance and support systems for charter schools establishing Remote Academies, ensuring high-quality remote instruction is available to all students enrolled through these innovative learning environments.
  - Research Project to inform the creation of tools to help the charter school sector in North Carolina understand the best practices for establishing and implementing remote academies.
  - Deliverables:
    - Remote Academy Implementation Guide
    - Quality Indicators Rubric



## Objective 4: Meet Educational Needs of All Students Through Innovative CTE/STEM/AI Programming

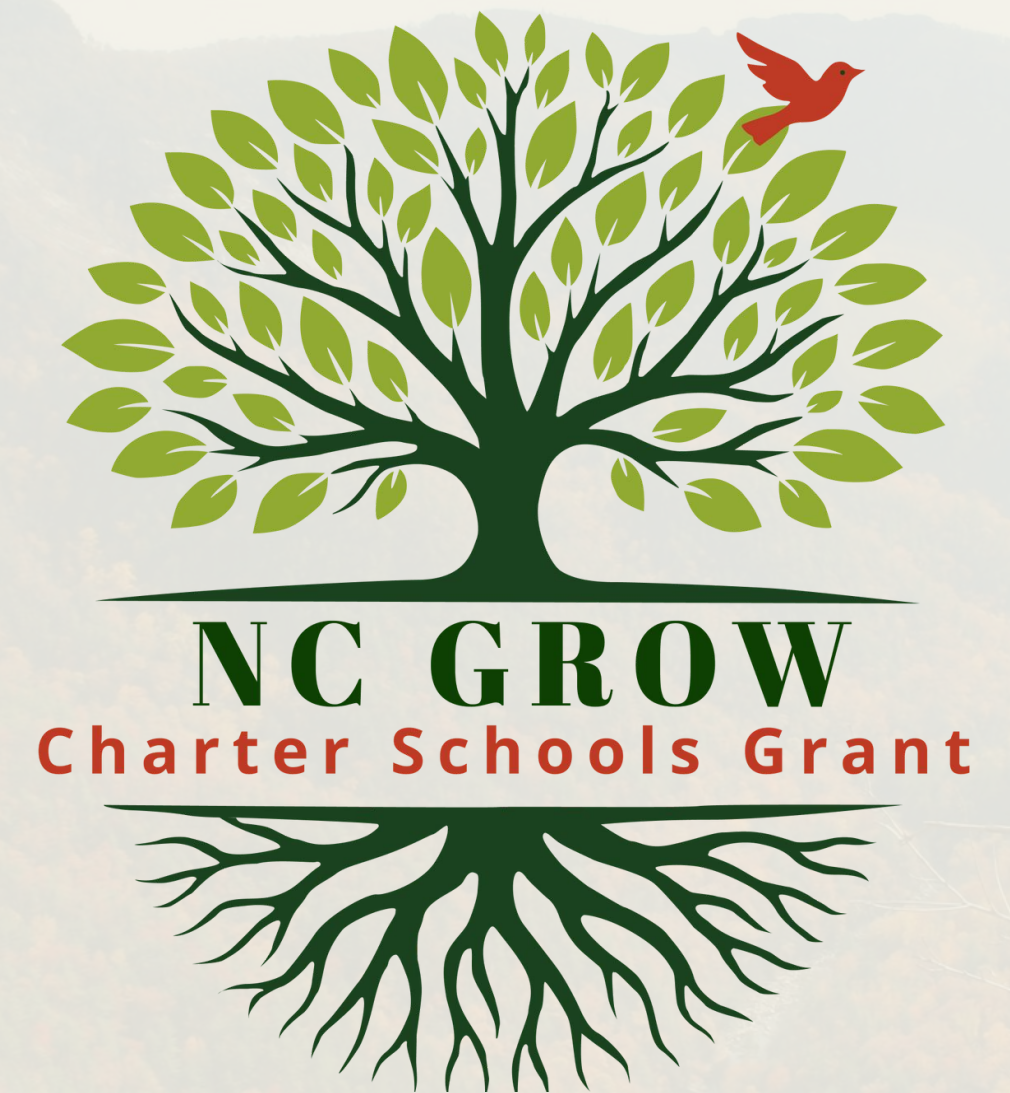
- The NC GROW CSP will catalyze the development of high-quality charter schools that prepare students for success in North Carolina's rapidly evolving economy through targeted CTE, STEM, and AI educational programs.
  - In 2025, North Carolina ranked #1 in Business and #1 in Workforce Development
  - With North Carolina facing 628,000 annual job openings and requiring two million credentialed workers by 2030 to maintain economic competitiveness, the NC GROW CSP addresses this critical talent pipeline through innovative charter models that integrate computational thinking, forge strategic industry partnerships, and establish comprehensive career pathways aligned with the state's high growth sectors.



## NCAPCS Board of Directors Statement

The NCAPCS is dedicated to promoting the growth, innovation, and success of all public charter schools in North Carolina. As an organization, we recognize that charter schools represent a wide range of education models, missions, and student populations. We welcome and support all types of charter schools—regardless of size, location, instructional approach, management structure, or demographic make-up.

In September 2025, the NCAPCS was awarded the federal CSP grant in the amount of \$52.9M. We are excited about the opportunities it represents, and we affirm that every North Carolina charter school is eligible to apply for the NC GROW grant (CSP) through an objective process that engages with outside, impartial peer reviewers. This opportunity is open to all charter schools statewide, reflecting our commitment to equitable access and the advancement of high-quality educational options for North Carolina families. The NC GROW grant is designed to foster innovation, strengthen school communities, and promote excellence across the full spectrum of charter schools.



## FY2026 Subgrant Application Timeline

- Information Sessions:
  - March 10 @ 4:00 p.m. - Virtual Session on Zoom
  - March 11 @ 4:00 p.m. - TMSA Triad Elementary
  - March 13 @ 1:00 p.m. - Durham Charter School
  - March 23 @ 4:00 p.m. - Bradford Preparatory School
  - March 27 @ 12:00 p.m. - ArtSpace Charter School
  - March 31 @ 4:00 p.m. - Southeastern Academy
  - Register for All Sessions: <https://members.ncpubliccharters.org/event-calendar>
- Request for Applications Release: April 2
- Letter of Intent Deadline: April 16
- Full Application Deadline: May 21
- Award Notifications following External Reviewer Evaluation: June



## FY2026 - 30 Subgrant Breakdown

- The available funds for the 2026 Request for Applications will be divided and awarded to successful applicants as follows:

Type of Subgrant	2026 Award	2026 Funds Available
Planning & Implementation	1	\$2,000,000
Implementation Only	1	\$500,000
Expansion	0	0
Replication	0	0



## FY2026 - 30 Subgrant Breakdown

- In subsequent years of the grant, depending on available funding, the number of awards to successful applicants are as follows:

Type of Subgrant	2027 Awards	2028 Awards	2029 Awards	2030 Awards
Planning & Implementation	4	5	5	
Implementation Only	2	4	2	1
Expansion	3	5	6	
Replication		3		



## Subgrant Amounts by Subgrant Year

- NC GROW CSP subgrants are designed for the opening of a new school, replication school, or expansion project. Award recipients are limited to a planning period of up to 18 months.

Type of Subgrant	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Funds
Planning & Implementation	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
Implementation Only	\$250,000	\$250,000		\$500,000
Expansion	\$500,000	\$250,000		\$750,000
Replication	\$500,000	\$400,000		\$900,000



## Project Budget

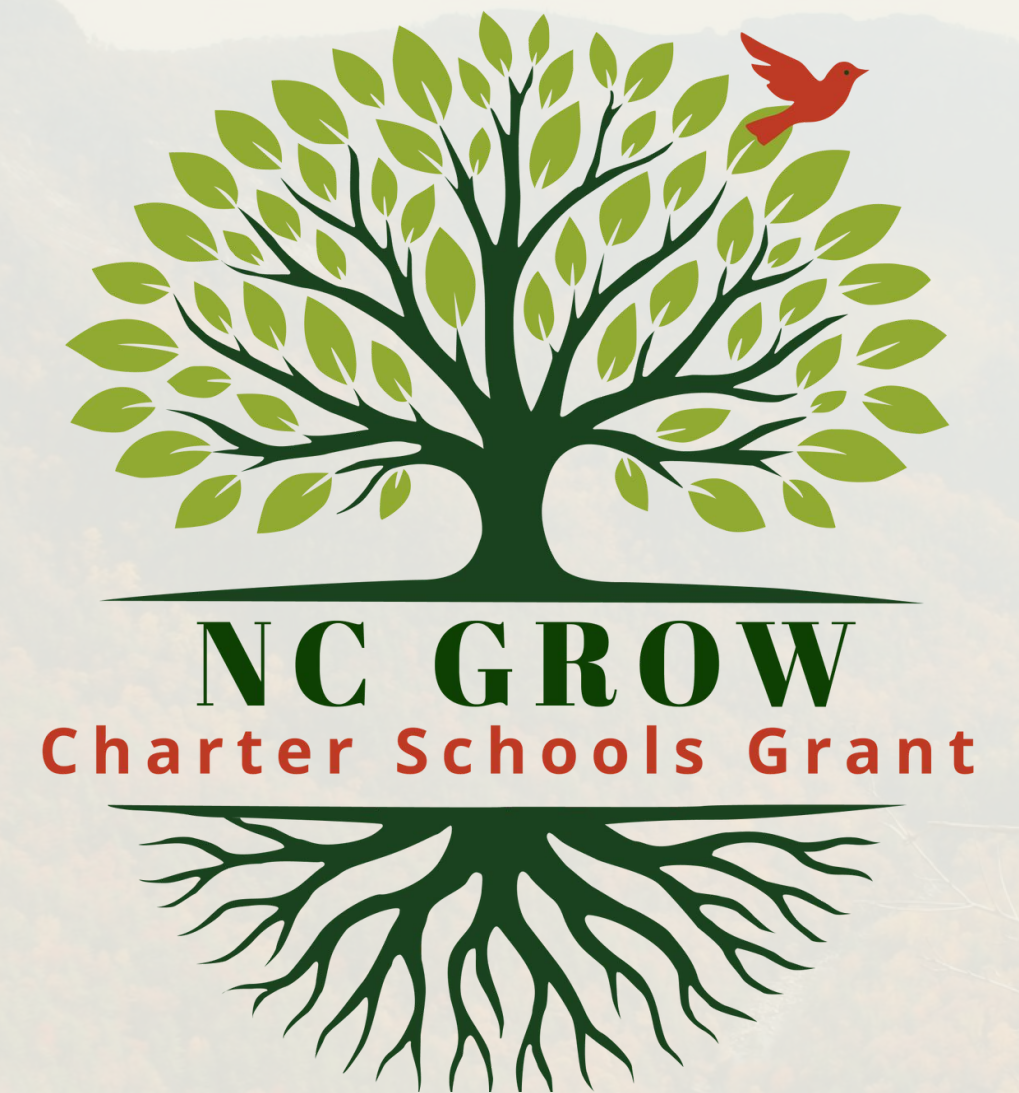
91% to Subgrants / 7% Technical Assistance / 2% Administrative

	Project Year 1	Project Year 2	Project Year 3	Project Year 4	Project Year 5	Total
<b>Personnel</b>	\$420,109	\$432,712	\$445,693	\$450,986	\$456,194	\$2,205,694
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	\$32,138	\$33,102	\$34,096	\$34,500	\$34,899	\$168,736
<b>Travel</b>	\$65,314	\$67,273	\$69,292	\$71,370	\$73,511	\$346,761
<b>Equipment</b>						
<b>Supplies</b>	\$32,307	\$23,234	\$23,931	\$24,648	\$25,388	\$129,508
<b>Contractual</b>	\$453,514	\$352,360	\$414,498	\$414,058	\$310,555	\$1,944,984
<b>Subgrants</b>	\$2,500,000	\$11,250,000	\$18,450,000	\$15,500,000	\$500,000	\$48,200,000
<b>Total Costs</b>	\$3,503,382	\$12,158,681	\$19,437,509	\$16,495,563	\$1,400,547	\$52,995,683



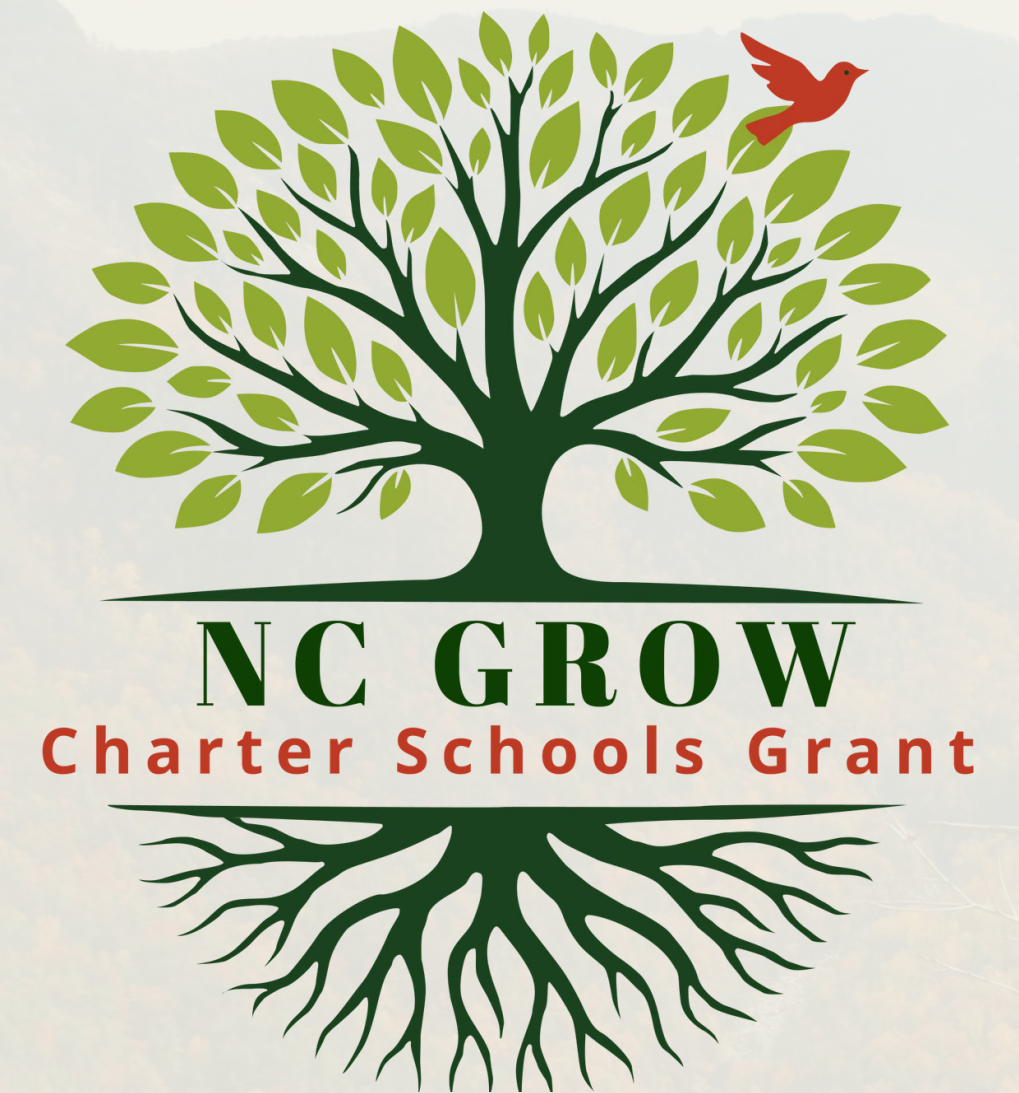
## Key Outcomes By Year 3

- 28 subgrants awarded (prioritizing CTE/STEM/AI)
- 56 Finance Fellowship Graduates
- Remote Academy Implementation Guide Developed
- Subgrantees' 4th and 8th Grade Proficiency is greater than the state by 5 percentage points
- Teachers from 28 schools participate in AI training
- 15 industry partnerships established to support CTE
- Host CTE/STEM/AI Showcase



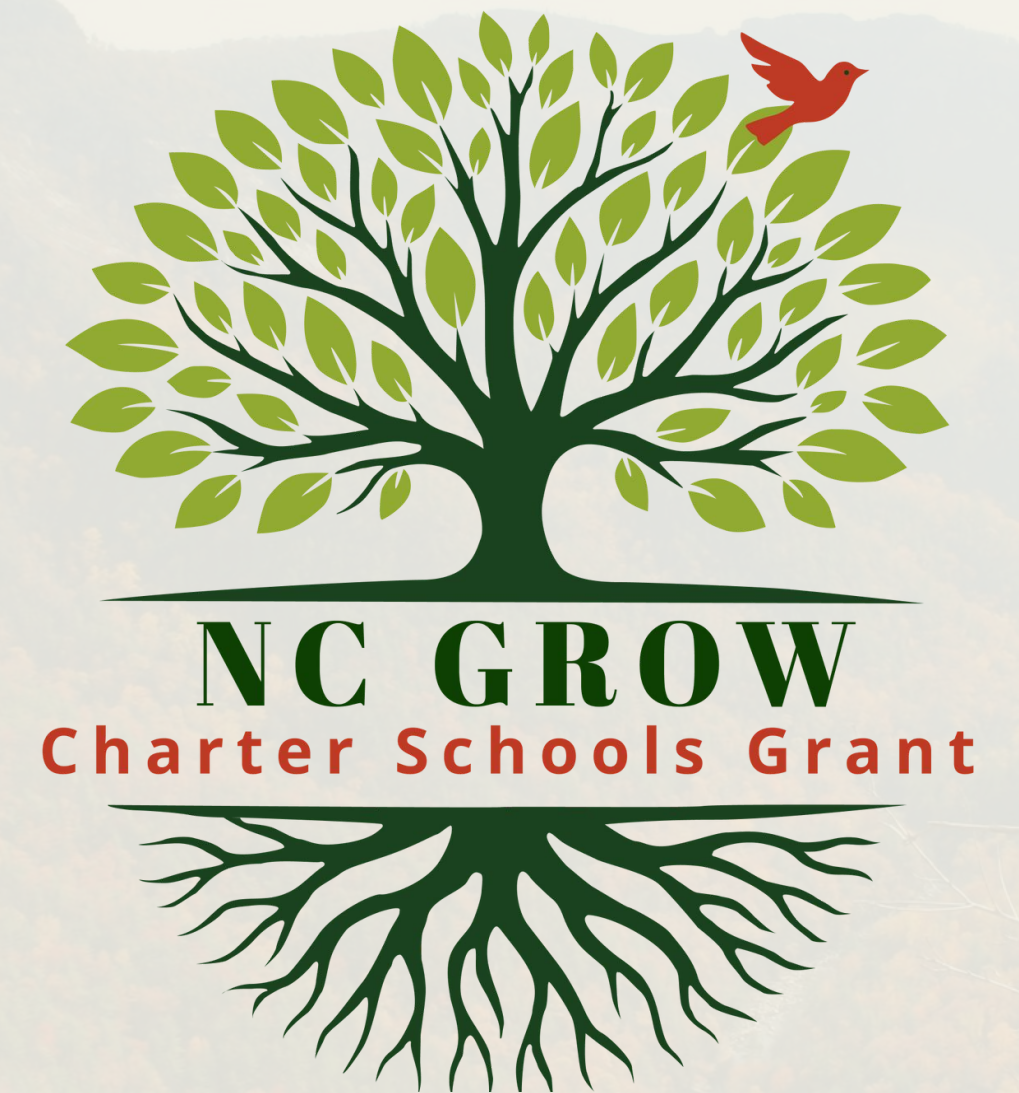
## Key Outcomes By Year 5

- 42 subgrants awarded (prioritizing CTE/STEM/AI)
- 84 Finance Fellowship Graduates
- Zero closures due to governance issues in subgrantee schools
- Adoption of Remote Academy Implementation Guide and Quality Indicators Rubric
- Subgrantees' 4th and 8th Grade Proficiency is greater than the state by 10 percentage points
- 500 industry-recognized credentials earned
- 75% of new schools implement CTE/STEM/AI programs
- Teachers from 42 schools participate in AI training
- 40 industry partnerships active



## CSRB, OCS, NCDPI, and NCAPCS: Aligning Our Goals

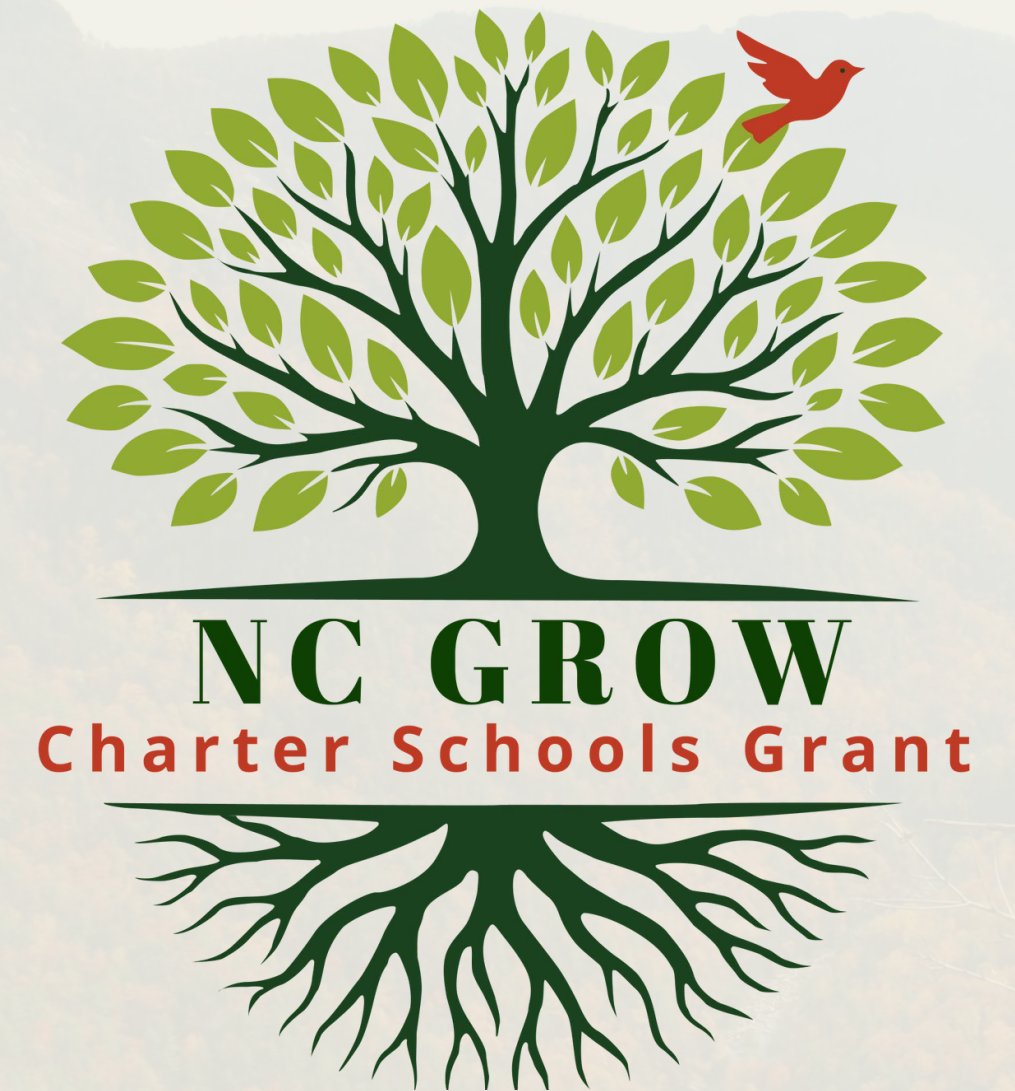
- Growing and supporting the number of high-quality charter schools in North Carolina.
- Providing relevant educational models that align with the current economic landscape.
- Reducing the number of charter school closures.
- Supporting the Achieving Educational Excellence Strategic Plan (NC DPI and the SBE)
  - 41% CTE participation among all K-12 students (currently 36.1%), which aligns with the goals of the NC GROW CSP.



## NC GROW CSP Staff

- Rhonda Dillingham, Executive Director, [rhonda@ncpubliccharters.org](mailto:rhonda@ncpubliccharters.org)
- Meredith Flowe, Project Director, [meredith.flowe@ncpubliccharters.org](mailto:meredith.flowe@ncpubliccharters.org)
- Vanessa Baker, Technical Assistance Specialist, [vanessa@ncpubliccharters.org](mailto:vanessa@ncpubliccharters.org)
- LaKisha Cherry, Budget Specialist, [lakisha@ncpubliccharters.org](mailto:lakisha@ncpubliccharters.org)
- Jameya Jones, Career Development Specialist, [jameya@ncpubliccharters.org](mailto:jameya@ncpubliccharters.org)
- Spencer Busby Menzel, Grants Manager, [spencer@ncpubliccharters.org](mailto:spencer@ncpubliccharters.org)

Check out NC GROW CSP Website:



# Questions?

