**Issue Date:** July 7, 2009 **Revised:**
**Sources:** Public Charter Schools Program Title V, Part B, Subpart 1 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; Charter Schools Program Title V, Part B Non-Regulatory Guidance July 2004
**Key Words:** Public Charter Schools Program, grant, eligibility
**Summary:** Definition clarifies criteria that a school must meet to be considered a "new" school for purposes of one-time federal funding. It applies not only to schools that intend to start in a location previously occupied by a closed community school, but also to some extent to conversion schools to demonstrate their autonomy from their sponsoring district or Educational Service Center.

# Community Schools Funding Application
# Public Charter School Program (PCSP) Guidance

## Definition of a New School for the Purpose of Receiving Federal PCSP Funding

CFDA 84.282, Discretionary/Competitive Grants, also known as Public Charter School Program (PCSP) or CSP, has the purpose of "providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and *initial* implementation of charter schools. . . .

Section 5202(d)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides in pertinent part that "[a] charter school may not receive . . . more than one grant for [planning and implementation activities]."

Pursuant to Section 5203 of the ESEA, a state educational agency (SEA) may require "other assurances" that a charter/community school is eligible to apply for a PCSP grant. Therefore:

If a school that previously received PCSP funding closes or is closed, and a subsequent school that intends to open in the same general location/city seems to be essentially a replacement for the previous school, the subsequent school can establish that it is eligible for one-time PCSP funding by demonstrating autonomy from the previous school by such criteria as:

1) new sponsor;
2) majority new governing authority;
3) majority of new administration;
4) new operator's clearly defined role that will ensure successful operation of the new school;
5) different educational program that is research based;
6) new teachers and staff in any areas of previous AYP deficiency;
7) measurable objectives to show how the new school will remedy/avoid the problems of the closed school;
8) informing previous students that they can select a currently higher-performing school;
9) parental/community involvement with the school's new program.

A change of school name, status or Internal Retrieval Number (IRN) does not automatically establish that a school is eligible to apply for a planning or implementation grant. In addition, sale or disposal of assets acquired by the previously PCSP-funded school, especially if the assets are acquired by the sponsoring district or Educational Service Center, does not establish that a new school will be created.

All the above criteria with the exception of #1) new sponsor must be met to demonstrate compliance with new school criteria, with special emphasis on new research-based curriculum, the role of the operator for new start-ups, majority new administration, new staff in the areas of previous AYP deficiency and measurable objectives to show how the new school will remedy/avoid the problems of the closed school.