



Office of Congressman Tom Perriello  
Representing Virginia's 5<sup>th</sup> District  
*PRESS RELEASE*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Grant to Help Develop High-Quality Education Options in Southside**

FARMVILLE—Congressman Tom Perriello today announced a grant that will help develop a model for more high-quality education opportunities in rural communities. The Moton Museum's Southside Virginia Regional Charter School project is eligible for \$159,103 per year for the next three years through the U.S. Department of Education's Public Charter Schools Program. The project will help rural communities apply educational best practices developed by traditionally urban charter schools in order to provide even more high-quality educational options in Southside Virginia.

**"Investments in education pay dividends for the competitive advantage of our communities and the quality of our workforce,"** said Rep. Tom Perriello. **"During my time in Congress I have supported over \$130 million in investment in our great school systems across Central and Southside Virginia, as well as \$35 million in broadband internet access so our students have access to the libraries of the world. It's great to see a community exploring even more ways to ensure every child gets a world-class education that will prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow."**

In Virginia, charter schools are public schools that provide high-quality educational options for parents and students while giving communities and educators flexibility to create alternative and innovative curriculums. Applications for the formation of a charter school must be approved by local school boards and are subject to a rigorous review process. Local school systems retain control over the schools once opened.

Today's grant will allow the Moton Museum to begin a community discussion on the formation of a charter school that would give Southside Virginia parents and students more educational options while meeting the unique challenges of rural school systems. The stated mission of the Southside Virginia Regional Charter School project is "to educate scholars through exploration and teamwork, providing a strong foundation for life-long curiosity and learning, postsecondary education and active citizenship." The project will help create a model for recruitment, development and retention of teachers, as well as a structure to promote excellence in curriculum development, school structure and operations, fiscal

management, and governance. The ultimate goal will be to create a model for charter school development in rural areas.

The grant is part of the U.S. Department of Education's Public Charter Schools Program. The purpose of the Charter Schools Program (CSP) is to increase national understanding of the charter school model and to expand, as appropriate, the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools. The CSP will also help evaluate the effects of charter schools, including the effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents, and will help spread information about successful practices in charter schools.

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