

Crafting a Mission for Quality Authorizing

DON'T JUST HAVE A MISSION. LIVE YOUR MISSION.

Every successful organization relies on a clearly articulated mission to guide its work.

A strong mission states an organization's core purpose and reason for existence and describes what it does to achieve its purpose.

A strong mission statement:

- Avoids buzzword, clichés, and complicated language
- Can be easily understood, remembered, and explained
- Defines an organization's purpose and what it does to achieve it
- Must be able to guide the organization's every action
- Can be lived by everyone in the organization

A strong mission for quality authorizing will:

- Unite your team members
- Signal your commitment
- Keep decision-makers focused on:
 - » The essential purpose of chartering
 - » The core responsibilities of authorizing
 - » The best interests of students

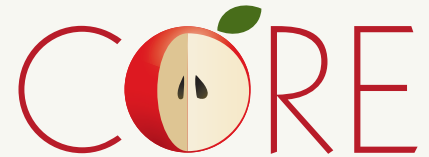
When crafting your mission, answer these key questions:

- Why does your organization exist?
- What does it do?
- Where does it do it?
- Who the intended beneficiary?

Remember:

Keep it simple. Keep it concise. Make it memorable.

NACSA KNOWLEDGE



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“A quality authorizer states a clear mission for quality authorizing.”

– NACSA's *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*, Standard on Agency Commitment and Capacity

Steps in Crafting Your Mission:

- Engage everyone in the organization
- Brainstorm together
- Listen to stakeholder feedback
- Publish and publicize

Example:

“To authorize and hold accountable a portfolio of high-performing charter schools in which students achieve high levels of growth and graduate prepared for college and careers.”

– *Indiana Charter School Board*



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