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Greater Collaboration between Charter Authorizers and Lenders Can Ease School Facility Financing Burden, Report Concludes

Chicago, Ill. - Today the [National Association of Charter School Authorizers](#) (NACSA) and the [Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#) (LISC) released a joint report aimed at increasing conversation and understanding between lenders and charter school authorizers—two groups with similar interests, albeit different goals, in the success and sustainability of the charter schools they support.

The report, "[Charter Lenders & Charter Authorizers: Can We Talk?](#)" is the result of a working group hosted by both organizations that revealed little overlap currently exists between how lenders and authorizers share or evaluate data.

"Both lenders and authorizers want to see strong schools that provide children with excellent educations and are stewards of public money and trust," said Greg Richmond, NACSA President and CEO. "Facility financing is a hurdle that can set a charter up for success or failure. Increased collaboration will help lenders and authorizers smooth this process and create more great schools."

The report highlights areas where increased collaboration would ease the burden of data collection for both groups. Most notably, while strong authorizers have a robust architecture of accountability in place to regularly evaluate and report on charter school performance, most bond investors and underwriters reported pulling data from original charter applications, which reflect goals rather than actual performance or progress in meeting goals.

"More productive and transparent communication between lenders and authorizers enables us to focus on growing high-quality schools, which ultimately helps us transform neighborhoods in need," concluded Reena Abraham, Vice President of Education of LISC.

About NACSA

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is committed to advancing excellence and accountability in the charter school sector and to increasing the number of high-quality charter schools across the nation. To accomplish this mission, NACSA works to improve the policies and practices of authorizers—the organizations designated to approve, monitor, renew, and, if necessary, close charter schools. NACSA provides training, consulting, and policy guidance to authorizers. It also advocates for laws and policies that raise the bar for excellence among authorizers and the schools they charter. In late 2012, NACSA launched its One Million Lives campaign to give one million more children the opportunity to attend a great school. For more, visit www.qualitycharters.org.

About LISC

LISC combines corporate, government, and philanthropic resources to help nonprofit community development corporations revitalize distressed neighborhoods. Since 1980, LISC has invested \$13.8 billion to build or rehab 310,000 affordable homes and apartments and develop 51 million square feet of retail, community and educational space. For more, visit www.lisc.org.

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