

The National Association  
of Charter School Authorizers'

# INDEX OF ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

2012



**nacsa**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS



Dear Colleagues:

Twenty years into the charter movement, we have learned some critical lessons. We have learned that excellent charter schools have the power to transform the lives of children, preparing future generations for success in college and providing them with infinitely more opportunities in life.

We have also learned that while there are many high-performing charter schools, there are too many schools that are performing at the lowest levels. These chronically low-performing charters fail children, families, and communities.

We know one more thing: that quality authorizing leads to quality charter schools. Authorizers that implement strong practices are more likely to approve schools that have a greater chance of success, to preserve school autonomy, and to close schools that simply do not perform.

NACSA's *Index of Essential Practices* is derived from the five domains of effective authorizing described in NACSA's foundational *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*. The Index articulates a set of practices for authorizers that can significantly improve the quality of their work—and in turn the quality of the charter schools in their portfolios.

This second edition of the Index reflects what authorizers told us about their work in our 2012 authorizer survey. It also serves as a tool for initial self-evaluation and a starting point for discussion and action, enabling any of the nation's nearly 1,000 charter authorizers to spur improvements in their own work.

Quality authorizing is the cornerstone of NACSA's *One Million Lives* campaign, launched in late 2012 to engage a broad coalition to give one million more children the chance at a great education by closing the lowest-performing charter schools and opening many more great schools. NACSA is working on several fronts to make this a reality—through legislative advocacy and by developing and supporting skilled authorizers and effective authorizing practices.

As authorizers evaluate their own work against this Index, they can look to NACSA for support in developing better practices through our human capital programs, consulting, and a new set of powerful training resources and practical tools to facilitate quality authorizing.

We hope you find this Index informative and useful as one in an array of tools offered by NACSA to improve and develop the authorizing profession, the quality and rigor of authorizing, and the excellence of charter schools across the nation.

Sincerely,



Greg Richmond  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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[www.qualitycharters.org](http://www.qualitycharters.org)

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# About the Index

The genealogy of this report begins with NACSA's *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*. Regularly amended and updated as NACSA learns more about effective authorizing, *Principles & Standards* is grounded in three Core Principles that guide the complex work of charter authorizing:

- Maintain high expectations about student achievement and school performance
- Protect school autonomy
- Protect student and public interests

Authorizers are as varied as the schools they oversee. Some oversee just one school, while others monitor hundreds of schools serving tens of thousands of students. Our profession includes school districts, independent statewide boards, universities, not-for-profits, state education agencies, and other non-educational government entities.<sup>1</sup> Despite that variety, all authorizers are guided by these same Core Principles, which should inform authorizers' work in the five fundamental domains of authorizer responsibility:

- Agency commitment and capacity
- Application process and decision making
- Performance contracting
- Ongoing oversight and evaluation
- Revocation and renewal decision making

Drawing from each of these five domains, NACSA created a 12-point Index of specific practices recommended for all authorizers. This Index was based on stakeholder input, practice in the field, and research conducted internally and in partnership with other organizations. It primarily addresses practices that support accountability and achievement, but also describes the policies and procedural steps that must be in place for strong accountability to take hold:

- Transparency in decision making
- Respect for the promised autonomy of charter schools
- Responsible stewardship for public resources

The Index is informed by NACSA's annual survey, which in 2012 covered 157 active authorizers, both large and small.<sup>2</sup> This report presents findings for individual authorizers, arranged in state-by-state tables. An overall Index score is compiled by awarding one point for each of the 12 essential practices each authorizer reports. The tables also show changes since the 2011 survey.

A companion report, *The State of Charter School Authorizing 2012*, will be released shortly. It will contain aggregated results of our entire authorizer survey, showing patterns in adoption of essential practices, new data on charter school openings and closures, and other indicators of progress in the authorizing profession.

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<sup>1</sup> State laws establish the types of agencies that may serve as charter authorizers. NACSA has classified these entities into six types of organizations: Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); Independent Chartering Boards (ICBs); Local school districts, or Regional Education Agencies (LEAs); Non-Educational Government entities (NEGs); Not-For-Profit organizations (NFPs); and State Education Agencies (SEAs).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on NACSA's annual survey of authorizers, please refer to Appendix A.



# 12

## ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

*for every authorizer*

- Sign a contract with each school
- Have established, documented criteria for the evaluation of charter applications
- Publish application timelines and materials
- Interview all charter applicants
- Use expert panels that include external members to review charter applications
- Grant charters with five-year terms only
- Require and/or examine annual, independent financial audits of its charter schools
- Have established renewal criteria
- Have established revocation criteria
- Provide an annual report to each school on its performance
- Have staff assigned to authorizing within the organization or by contract
- Have a published and available mission for quality authorizing

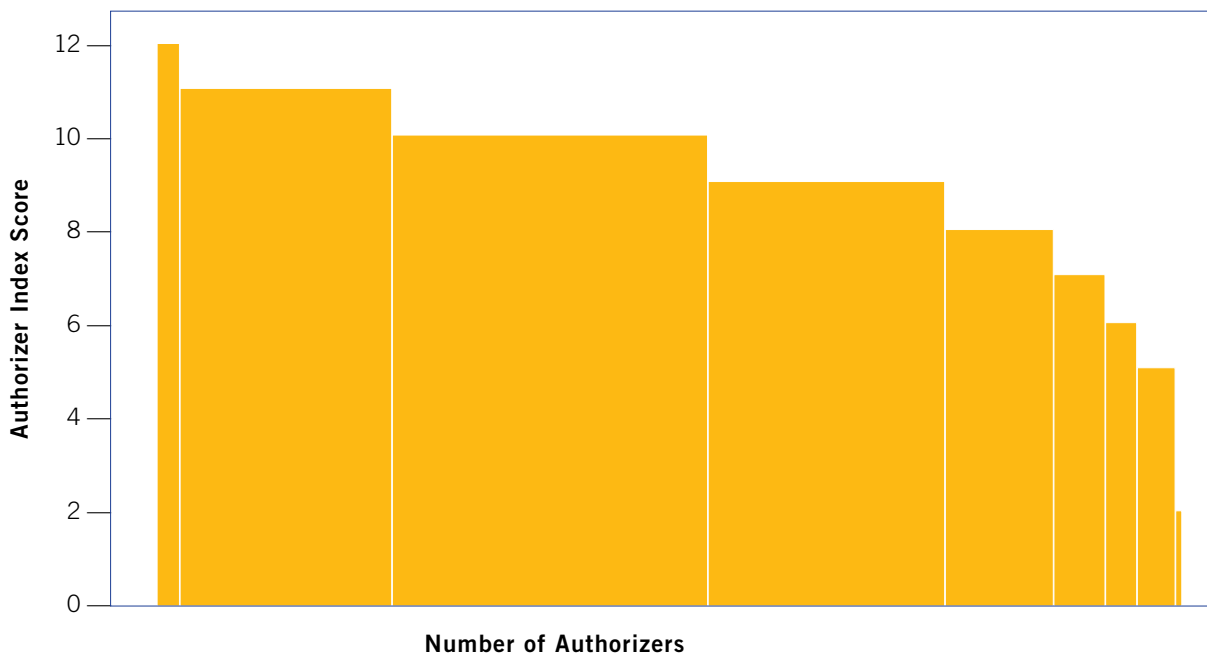
A few points to keep in mind while reading this Index report:

- First, the 12 Index components are **basic, minimum** expectations—not complex challenges that will take years to implement. By taking advantage of the resources NACSA offers, authorizers can move quickly to adopt the practices considered essential by their most effective peers.
- Second, NACSA's survey asks authorizers whether a given practice is in place but cannot judge how well it is being done. Just as two students may turn in homework but only one deserves a gold star, two authorizers may respond “yes” to a question about a particular practice, but may implement it with quite different results. Authorizers may affirm that they sign contracts with each charter school they oversee, but the contracts might omit critical elements that safeguard accountability and autonomy. One authorizer's applicant interview may be probing and productive; another's may skim the surface. It is safe to say, though, that authorizers that implement only a few of these essential practices are not leading the pack when it comes to strong stewardship and quality authorizing.
- Third, the year-to-year variations in individual authorizers' Index scores most often reflect actual changes in practice—such as an authorizer now granting five-year charter terms after previously limiting them to three years. But in a few cases, changes in staffing, bookkeeping, or simply an authorizer's interpretation of the survey questions might affect the score. Some authorizers may be correcting errors in reporting from previous years. New staff may arrive and decide that the agency's “contract” doesn't actually pass muster, or that charter applicant interviews are too unstructured to merit a check mark. NACSA learns of these situations from time to time and tries to minimize their impact; each year, staff refine the survey to make clearer what NACSA means by a given practice, and what passes the threshold of acceptable implementation.
- Fourth, in a few cases, state statute may restrict an authorizer's ability to implement essential practices. For example, Delaware, New Jersey, and Iowa all call for four-year charter terms rather than the minimum-recommended five years. By remaining clear about what constitutes strong professional practice, NACSA hopes the Index will be a force for change in these state policies.



# Survey Says...

The graph below describes the distribution of Index scores for 134 authorizers that provided complete responses to NASCA's 2012 Authorizer Survey. Scores range from authorizers implementing all 12 practices on the Index to some with just three critical practices in place. The width of the “steps” in the graph below reflects the number of authorizers with that score. Note the shape of the slope: Very few authorizers claim to implement all 12 essential practices, with most in the mid-range and then a sharp fall-off.



The tables on the following pages present the responses to each of the individual items of the Index for each authorizer and an overall Index score. Since this is the second year NASCA has reported Index scores, any change in score from 2011 to 2012 for authorizers that responded to NASCA's survey in both years is noted.

# HOW CAN THE INDEX RESULTS

*help individual authorizers?*

What NACSA intends with this report is not just a horse race to see which of the responding authorizers score highest on the Index. Rather, it is a serious reflection among *all* authorizers about whether or not they are building professional practices that are likely to create and maintain a portfolio of high-performing charter schools.

By publishing authorizer-specific data, NACSA hopes to include in that discussion charter school authorizing staff and boards, school operators, charter support organizations, and policymakers. When all charter school stakeholders can read the same roadmap, NACSA believes they will tend to push in the same direction—toward higher accountability and achievement for all.

## Suggestions for Authorizers

- **Commit to essential practices.** Start with the 12 practices in the Index and then aim higher, guided by NACSA's *Principles & Standards*.
- **Focus.** Identify which practices are missing or weak, and develop a plan to establish or strengthen them during the coming year.
- **Monitor improvement.** Question what is working and what is not. Seek evaluation and assistance.
- **Don't reinvent the wheel.** NACSA's new *Knowledge Core*—an online, personalized knowledge and learning system—provides a wealth of tools, publications, multimedia learning modules, and networking opportunities to help authorizers continually improve their practice. *Knowledge Core* allows authorizers to develop and follow their own customized programs using best-in-class materials. Access *Knowledge Core* at [www.qualitycharters.org/about-nacsa-knowledge-core](http://www.qualitycharters.org/about-nacsa-knowledge-core).
- **Go deep.** Because the Index is survey-based, it is not designed to provide a fine-tuned appraisal of the quality of a particular authorizer's practices. Many authorizers engage NACSA to conduct in-depth evaluations of their authorizing practices. These reviews include analyses of documents, multi-day visits by expert teams who conduct focus groups and observe authorizer activities, and well-structured reports designed to inform strategic planning and long-term self-improvement. If a review of Index findings suggests it is time to move to the next level, a NACSA evaluation could help light the path.

## Why They Matter

### AUTHORIZER SIGNS A CONTRACT WITH EACH SCHOOL.

*“A quality authorizer executes a contract with a legally incorporated governing board independent of the authorizer.”*

A charter is a contract: a legally binding agreement between an authorizer and a school. It states the conditions of the school's operation (e.g., address, length of term, assurances about compliance with the law) and articulates the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding school autonomy, funding, administration and oversight, outcomes, measures for evaluating success or failure, performance consequences, and other material terms.

A charter *contract* is a document separate from a charter *application*. Simply rubber-stamping the application “approved” and calling it a contract may seem like a good short cut. However, this can cause complications later; without a contract, schools may not understand the terms for which they will be held accountable. By setting clear terms, a strong charter contract reduces misunderstandings and helps guide a school and its authorizer through the course of their relationship. It protects school autonomy and safeguards schools from inappropriate intervention, while at the same time establishing the performance standards that enable authorizers to hold schools accountable for results. It makes clear the school's obligation to uphold the public trust and protect students' rights.

The charter contract commits both parties to the autonomy-for-accountability bargain and is critical for making the charter school concept work.



AUTHORIZER HAS ESTABLISHED, DOCUMENTED CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING CHARTER APPLICATIONS.

*“A quality authorizer implements a comprehensive application process that... follows fair, transparent procedures and rigorous criteria...”*

Solid evaluation criteria serve two major purposes. First and most important, they help ensure that only schools likely to improve educational outcomes for students are granted a charter. They create a methodical and rigorous structure for reviewing academic, operational, and financial plans, and guide the authorizer towards rigorous yet fair judgments about each. When the criteria are clearly communicated to applicants, as they should be, they provide petitioners a clear sense of what is expected of them and what constitutes a strong proposal.

Strong, publicized evaluation criteria also help authorizers ensure consistency in application reviews. They are worthwhile in themselves, but also are a strong shield against questions of bias and favoritism that could form the basis for an appeal of any decision to deny a charter. Establishing common standards that all applicants must meet for approval, and making sure applicants and the authorizer both understand them, helps identify which schools will truly serve students best.

AUTHORIZER PUBLISHES APPLICATION TIMELINES AND MATERIALS.

*“A quality authorizer implements a charter application process that is open, well publicized, and transparent, and is organized around clear, realistic timelines.”*

A strong application process includes not only comprehensive reviews and sound decisions, but also a host of other steps that ensure fairness and transparency. It is critical that all stakeholders—prospective applicants, members of the public, parents, and policymakers—know that the process is underway, understand its procedures and requirements, and have the opportunity to offer input and feedback. Sufficient time must be allocated to each of these steps so that everyone has a realistic opportunity to participate.

Transparency is not just a civic duty; it is also a building block for quality. Comprehensive, detailed application questions and clear guidance will enable applicants to produce stronger proposals that contain the information authorizers need to make sound decisions, while encouraging applicants to undertake the rigorous planning needed to launch and sustain successful schools.

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#### AUTHORIZER INTERVIEWS ALL CHARTER APPLICANTS.

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*“A quality authorizer rigorously evaluates each application through... a substantive in-person interview with the applicant group.”*

No matter how thorough the paper process is, nothing takes the place of looking applicants in the eye and asking detailed questions about their plans and capacities. Without a detailed interview, a charter application review is only half-done. A substantive, in-depth, in-person interview with the entire applicant team is essential for the authorizer to vet applicants, follow up on questions raised by the written proposal, probe for detail, and evaluate an applicant's capacity to execute the school plan it describes.

Information from the interview can substantially change reviewer evaluations of a proposed school—in either direction. A conversation may reveal that a passage in the proposal was simply copied from another source, with little thought or understanding of the practice itself or the changed context. Sometimes an interview will reveal that an applicant actually has greater capacities than was conveyed in the written proposal. Both cases call for some reassessment.

While authorizers may screen out incomplete applications prior to interviews, it is a good idea to proceed with interviews for every applicant that has submitted a complete written application. Authorizers need to hear the full story—positive or negative—from every applicant who has met this threshold. The written proposal is similar to a cover letter and other written materials submitted by a job applicant. Just as authorizers would not hire a candidate for any important job without an interview, they should not grant the right to serve children and receive millions of dollars in public funding without conducting a detailed, probing interview.

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#### AUTHORIZER USES EXPERT PANELS THAT INCLUDE EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO REVIEW CHARTER APPLICATIONS.

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*“A quality authorizer engages, for both written application reviews and applicant interviews, highly competent teams of internal and external evaluators with relevant educational, organizational (governance and management), financial, and legal expertise, as well as a thorough understanding of the essential principles of charter school autonomy and accountability.”*

Strong charter school applications include a comprehensive educational program, a solid business plan, and a clear plan for effective governance and operations. They may also reflect an array of pedagogical philosophies and practices. To ensure each of these components is properly evaluated, a quality authorizer creates an application review team that possesses both knowledge of charter schooling and expertise in each specialized area that the team will see.

But it is the rare authorizer whose internal staff can cover all these bases, especially when dealing with more than a handful of applications at once. For this reason—and to minimize the likelihood of bias and limit any perception of undue influence—the evaluation team should also have at least some members who are independent of the authorizer. Well-qualified independent reviewers bolster the integrity of the application process and help ensure it remains focused on the quality of each application, independent of political connections or factors unrelated to the merit of the proposals. External experts should be trained prior to the evaluation and can often be recruited on a volunteer basis. Successful charter school operators often are excellent contributors to review teams, because they know intimately what it takes to launch and sustain high-performing schools and have a strong interest in safeguarding the good reputation of charter schools collectively.

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#### AUTHORIZER GRANTS CHARTERS WITH FIVE-YEAR TERMS.

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*“A quality authorizer grants charter contracts for a term of five operating years, or longer only with periodic high-stakes reviews every five years.”*

Authorizers should grant an initial charter term of five years. If state law calls for 10- or 15-year terms, or permits longer terms after renewal, authorizers should undertake a high-stakes review at every five-year benchmark that is equal in scope and rigor to the review a school undergoes at the end of its charter term.

There are good reasons for this recommendation. Five-year terms allow a school to develop beyond its initial startup phase and to produce a record of performance needed for high-stakes decision making. Terms shorter than five years may appear to reflect greater school accountability, but they hinder a school’s ability to raise money, recruit students, attract strong teachers, and establish a performance record beyond the startup years. Shorter terms also may erode school autonomy by requiring more-frequent reporting—and may tempt authorizers to impose their own prescriptions for improvement. Terms longer than five years can allow low-performing charter schools to escape or unduly delay accountability for their performance.

AUTHORIZER REQUIRES AND EXAMINES ANNUAL, INDEPENDENT,  
EXTERNAL FINANCIAL AUDITS OF ITS CHARTER SCHOOLS.

*“A quality authorizer requires and reviews annual financial audits of schools, conducted by a qualified independent auditor.”*

Charter schools are entrusted with responsibility for millions of dollars of public funds, so they must be accountable for sound fiscal management and appropriate use of public resources.

Annual financial audits allow authorizers to assess whether a charter school is living up to its financial responsibilities and fulfilling the public trust. Annual audits help the authorizer evaluate a school's short- and long-term financial viability and the effectiveness of its internal controls. By collecting and reviewing annual audits, authorizers can be alerted to problems that otherwise would not be apparent and can be proactive in addressing them. Because an audit happens after the fiscal year closes, many authorizers supplement the audit requirement with regular review of financial statements throughout the year to get a clearer picture of month-to-month spending, cash balances, and other indicators of real-time financial health or stress.

AUTHORIZER HAS ESTABLISHED RENEWAL CRITERIA.

*“A quality authorizer clearly communicates to schools the criteria for charter revocation, renewal, and non-renewal decisions, consistent with the charter contract...”*

Charter schools should from the outset have a clear understanding of what it will take to earn renewal of their charter. The contract expresses a charter school's commitment to achieve certain academic and operational goals and outcomes; renewal criteria state the standards that will govern the renewal decision itself. They should answer the question, “How good is good enough for this school to continue?”

Renewal criteria should be just as transparent as those guiding the application process. Whether through a set of protocols applicable to all schools, or through specific criteria addressing a particular school's goals, they should be in place early enough for schools to plan a full charter term's worth of activities and instruction around the achievement of renewal targets. Renewal criteria should form the bases of authorizers' annual reporting to schools and the public on each charter school's performance and progress. There should be several years of relevant data in hand when the renewal decision-making process starts.

Renewal criteria don't paint a black-and-white picture; in addition to meeting academic performance thresholds, schools may have to show a positive trajectory, fulfillment of mission-specific objectives, and attainment of organizational and financial benchmarks. Authorizers still must exercise judgment about each case, but that judgment is far better informed when all parties agree about the location of the goal posts.



*“No school should be surprised going into a high-stakes renewal process. Performance frameworks should set objective measures that are used in an annual performance review so that, well ahead of a renewal decision, a school knows where it stands and has a chance to correct its course.”*

— John Carwell, Director, Charter Schools Office  
Delaware Department of Education

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**AUTHORIZER HAS ESTABLISHED REVOCATION CRITERIA.**

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*“A quality authorizer clearly communicates to schools the criteria for charter revocation, renewal, and non-renewal decisions, consistent with the charter contract.”*

Charter schools agree to accept greater accountability for outcomes in exchange for greater autonomy over inputs. When schools fail to meet the goals in their charter contracts, they risk non-renewal. When schools grievously abuse their autonomy by violating the law or the public trust, revocation is the ultimate accountability sanction.

Revocation and closure decisions are often highly contentious and put a spotlight on the soundness of an authorizer’s practice. Clear, objective, and rigorous standards for revocation, combined with a transparent public process, help parents and community leaders both to see the evidence of a school’s extreme underperformance or wrongdoing and to understand the necessity for urgent action to protect students.

Revocation criteria should be clearly articulated in the charter contract, and authorizers should create and publicize protocols that spell out the grounds for revocation and the procedures of revocation actions. These will help the authorizer defend and explain its actions to the school community if the authorizer must make the tough decision to terminate a charter prior to the end of its term.

*“A quality authorizer provides an annual written report to each school, summarizing its performance and compliance to date and identifying areas of strength and areas needing improvement.”*

Full 360-degree transparency promotes school quality. While charter schools keep track of their own performance, they also need to know how their authorizers are viewing their progress. When contracts contain explicit goals and authorizers create performance frameworks showing what acceptable progress looks like, it becomes relatively easy to give schools detailed annual feedback based on data the authorizer has collected over the past year. These annual reports should also give schools the opportunity to respond to, correct, or supplement the data to ensure a comprehensive, accurate record.

At the same time, the authorizer’s annual report to each school is more than data. It can also provide a shout-out for a school that is ahead of the curve, or a timely reminder that a tune-up is needed. And because they are publicly available, these reports give parents, taxpayers, and policymakers good information for their own views and decisions about charter schools.

Most important, annual performance reports mean that authorizers are taking a routinely scheduled look at each school’s status, accumulating the evidence needed to make sound decisions at renewal time, communicating clearly and regularly with schools on their performance, and keeping the public in the loop about how their public charter schools are doing.

*“When we looked hard at what we monitor, 98 percent of all items reside in the ‘organizational’ performance framework—the universe of compliance, steps, and processes. Now we’ve learned a great deal about performance frameworks that get at the two other aspects of accountability: academic and financial outcomes.”*

— Steve Canavero, Executive Director  
Nevada Public Charter School Authority

AUTHORIZER HAS STAFF ASSIGNED TO AUTHORIZING WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION OR BY CONTRACT.

*“A quality authorizer employs competent personnel at a staffing level appropriate and sufficient to carry out all authorizing responsibilities in accordance with national standards, and commensurate with the scale of the charter school portfolio.”*

Quality charter school authorizing requires an unusually broad skill set: everything from academic knowledge to statistics and community relations. Every authorizer has to find ways of finding and deploying that expertise, especially at peak times such as application or renewal season. The job may involve few or many FTEs on the core staff, depending on the size of the portfolio, and these may be supplemented by on-demand resources through contract. For authorizers located in school districts and universities, additional talent can be borrowed from other offices.

But there must be enough designated, full-time staff to build and maintain expertise in authorizing; to conduct consistent, ongoing quality assurance; to manage oversight; and to maintain institutional knowledge and stability. This is serious business and a public responsibility, and policymakers need to invest the resources needed for authorizers to do it correctly.

AUTHORIZER HAS A PUBLISHED AND AVAILABLE MISSION FOR QUALITY AUTHORIZING.

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

Every effective organization needs a clearly articulated mission statement to guide its work. For charter authorizers, often inundated by the nuts and bolts of their daily work, a strong mission statement helps remind them why they are in the business: not to process paper but to expand educational opportunity for students—and to change lives. A simple, memorable mission statement functions as an authorizer’s North Star, guiding decisions by keeping minds focused on the real goal. In addition, a mission statement focused on quality authorizing can be especially important in prioritizing this work for the vast majority of authorizers that are part of agencies with a broader purpose than charter authorizing alone.

A quality authorizer not only creates but also communicates its mission through public statements and reports—and perhaps most important, in staff meetings and conversations at the water cooler. More than a slogan, the mission communicates the authorizer’s chartering purposes and commitment to the public, guides the way the authorizer does business and makes decisions, and sets a standard by which its own performance can be assessed.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## *for Policy Leaders and Funders*

*“We’re a lean authorizing shop and always have been, funded by limited city resources. We couldn’t have done the work as quickly by ourselves. We would still be in the R&D phase on all components if we had proceeded without NACSA as our partner.”*

— Beth Bray, former Director of Charter Schools, Indianapolis Mayor’s Office




While this Index is intended for authorizers primarily, it should also encourage action from all stakeholders who support development of high-quality public charter schools. To do the work described here, and to do it well, authorizers need resources, cooperation from other public agencies, and help from policymakers with a commitment to strong accountability.


NACSA suggests the following for those who want to help authorizers build stronger professional practice:


- **Commit to adequate authorizer capacity.** While the practices described in this Index can be implemented by all types and sizes of authorizers, they are not cost-free. Sound contracting, data analysis, public communications, and other essential functions require people with keen skills backed by first-rate technology. Authorizers must have reliable funding that allows them to maintain and expand capacity to match the demands of overseeing a growing portfolio of schools.
- **Review state policies and align them with Index practices.** Does the state charter law call for an application timetable that discourages thoughtful startups and invites “pre-fab” proposals? Does the law require authorizers to take action on failing schools and to do it through transparent proceedings? Is there any effective state-level accountability for authorizers’ own performance? Reviewing this Index should prompt state policymakers to ask these kinds of questions. If the answers are unsatisfactory, officials should engage the charter-school community in dialogue about how laws and regulations can be changed for the better.
- **Call on us.** Along with partner organizations at the national and state levels, NACSA works to improve charter law and policy across the country. Our advocacy is grounded not in ideology or partisanship, but in knowledge about the professional practice of charter school authorizing. With charter laws on the books in 42 states and the District of Columbia, it is no longer a question of whether to have charter schools; it is a question of whether they will be done well. Promoting quality authorizing is the only way to ensure a positive response to that question, and NACSA is the single national organization devoted to that mission.

# Authorizer Index of Essential Practices

Responding authorizers not active during the 2012-2013 school year were omitted from the tables provided. Data on changes in authorizer Index scores from 2011 to 2012 are only available for authorizers with complete survey responses for both years.

<div>ALASKA</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 8					
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW	
No authorizers in Alaska submitted responses to the NACSA survey		—	—	—	—	—		

<div>ARIZONA</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA, ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 7					
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW	
Arizona State Board for Charter Schools		ICB	515	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

<div>ARKANSAS</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1					
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW	
Arkansas State Board of Education		SEA	36	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

### Eligible Authorizer Types

<b>HEI</b>	Higher Education Institutions	<b>NEG</b>	Non-Educational Government entities
<b>ICB</b>	Independent Chartering Boards	<b>NFP</b>	Not-For-Profit organizations
<b>LEA</b>	Local school districts or Regional Education Agencies	<b>SEA</b>	State Education Agencies

**CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 22**

**CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 6,208**

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
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**CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 561**

**CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 144,802**

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
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Yes No Yes No Yes Yes Yes Yes 10 1

**CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 36**

**CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 12,435**

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
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No No Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes 10 0

<div>CALIFORNIA</div> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 314				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
Los Angeles Unified School District	LEA	232	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
San Diego Unified School District	LEA	45	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oakland Unified School District	LEA	35	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
California Department of Education	SEA	33	–	–	–	–	–
Santa Clara County Office of Education	LEA	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sacramento City Unified School District	LEA	13	–	–	–	–	–
San Bernadino Unified School District	LEA	12	–	–	–	–	–
San Francisco Unified School District	LEA	12	–	–	–	–	–
Stockton Unified School District	LEA	12	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Campbell Union Elementary School District	LEA	11	–	–	–	–	–
San Juan Unified School District	LEA	11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fresno Unified School District	LEA	10	–	–	–	–	–
Mountain Empire Unified School District	LEA	10	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Alameda County Office of Education	LEA	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Nevada County Office of Education	LEA	8	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Chico Unified School District	LEA	7	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
East Side Union High School District	LEA	7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Twin Rivers Unified School District	LEA	6	–	–	–	–	–
Santa Ana Unified School District	LEA	5	–	–	–	–	–
Visalia Unified School District	LEA	5	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Lennox Elementary School District	LEA	4	No	No	No	No	No
Tulare County Office of Education	LEA	4	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Armona Union Elementary School District	LEA	3	Yes	No	NR*	Yes	Yes
Dehesa Elementary School District	LEA	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Redding Elementary School District	LEA	3	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Butte County Office of Education	LEA	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Sacramento County Office of Education	LEA	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
El Dorado Union High School District	LEA	1	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Forestville Union Elementary School District	LEA	1	No	No	No	No	Yes
Petaluma Joint Union High School District	LEA	1	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Round Valley Unified School District	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*No Response



CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 1,067

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 484,083


EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10	3
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	0
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	0
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7	-1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	1
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Unable to calculate	
Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8	
No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	2	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	
No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Unable to calculate	
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	
No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7	-1
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	-2
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	5	
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	7	
NR*	NR*	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	


<div>COLORADO</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 47				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Denver Public Schools	LEA	36	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Colorado Charter School Institute	ICB	23	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Jefferson County Public School District R-1	LEA	14	–	–	–	–
	Douglas County School District RE 1	LEA	11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	LEA	7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Colorado Springs School District 11	LEA	7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Aurora Public Schools	LEA	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Brighton 27J School District	LEA	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Falcon School District	LEA	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Thompson School District R-2J	LEA	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Aspen School District	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Eagle County School District	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Gunnison Watershed School District	LEA	1	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Strasburg School District 31J	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

\*No Response


CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 185CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 94,033

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	0
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	2
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	9	2
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	9	3
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10	1
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	
No	No	Yes	NR*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	
No	No	Yes	No	NR*	NR*	Yes	NR*	Unable to calculate	
No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	5	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1

<div>CONNECTICUT</div> <div></div> <div>Connecticut Department of Education</div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
		SEA	17	–	–	–	–

<div>DELAWARE</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 2			
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE
Delaware Department of Education	SEA	19	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Red Clay Consolidated School District	LEA	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*No Response

<div>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	District of Columbia Public Charter School Board	ICB	101	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 17

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 6,808

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 22

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 11,047

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	5	0
No	Yes	Yes	NR*	NR*	NR*	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 101

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 35,000

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	0



<div>FLORIDA</div> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, HEI		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 44			
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE
Miami Dade County Public Schools - Charter School Operations	LEA	107	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Broward County Public Schools	LEA	90	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hillsborough County Public Schools	LEA	44	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
School District of Palm Beach County	LEA	42	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Orange County Public Schools	LEA	36	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Polk County Public Schools	LEA	33	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
School District of Lee County	LEA	25	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pinellas County School District	LEA	22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duval County Public Schools	LEA	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Alachua County Public Schools	LEA	16	–	–	–	–
Osceola County School District	LEA	13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lake County Public Schools	LEA	11	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Bay District Schools	LEA	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manatee County School District	LEA	10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sarasota County School District	LEA	9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Escambia County School District	LEA	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pasco County School District	LEA	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leon County Public Schools	LEA	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Okaloosa County School District	LEA	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Florida State University LAB LEON	HEI	2	–	–	–	–
Hernando County Schools	LEA	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Martin County School District	LEA	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sumter County Public Schools	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*No Response


CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 582


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 213,651

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	2
No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	3
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	0
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10	-1
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	0
No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8	-1
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	0
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	-1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8	0
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	11	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	9	-1
No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10	
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Unable to calculate	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	8	
No	No	Yes	Yes	NR*	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	

<div> <div>GEORGIA</div>  </div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 38				
AUTHORIZER NAME		AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
Georgia Department of Education		SEA	117 <sup>3</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Atlanta City School District		LEA	15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DeKalb County School District		LEA	13	–	–	–	–
Fulton County School District		LEA	8	–	–	–	–
Cobb County School District		LEA	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clarke County School District		LEA	2	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Webster County Schools		LEA	1	No	No	No	No

\*No Response

<div> <div>HAWAII</div>  </div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: ICB, HEI, NFP, NEG		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
AUTHORIZER NAME		AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission		ICB	32	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

<div> <div>IDAHO</div>  </div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 13				
AUTHORIZER NAME		AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
Idaho Public Charter School Commission		ICB	45	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

<sup>3</sup> The Georgia Department of Education includes all charter schools in the state of Georgia in their school count.

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 92

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 60,547

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	8	
No	NR*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unable to calculate	

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 32

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 9,933

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	6	-2

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 47

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 20,133

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	6	1

ILLINOIS	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA, ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 11				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Chicago Public Schools	LEA	117	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

INDIANA	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, ICB, HEI, NEG		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 8				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Ball State University, Office of Charter Schools	HEI	41	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Indianapolis Mayor's Office	NEG	27	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Indiana Charter School Board	ICB	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

IOWA	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 4				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	No authorizers in Iowa submitted responses to the NACSA survey	—	—	—	—	—	—



CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 129

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 57,112

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	-1

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 77


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 35,118


EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	2
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	10	-1
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12	

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 4

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 295

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>KANSAS</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 12				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
No authorizers in Kansas submitted responses to the NACSA survey							
		—	—	—	—	—	

<b>LOUISIANA</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA, HEI, NFP, NEG		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 8				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education							
		SEA	82	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Orleans Parish School District							
		LEA	14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

<b>MAINE</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
Maine State Charter School Commission							
		ICB	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*No Response

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 14

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 3,247

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
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CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 111

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 49,946

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
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Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		10	0
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	9	


CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 2


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 110

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
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Yes	NR*	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR*	No	Yes	Unable to calculate	
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<div>MARYLAND</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 6				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Baltimore City Public Schools	LEA	33	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Prince George’s County Public Schools	LEA	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Anne Arundel County Public Schools	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	St. Mary’s County Public Schools	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

<div>MASSACHUSETTS</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1			
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	SEA	79	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

<div>MICHIGAN</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, HEI		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 33				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools, Central Michigan University	HEI	79	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Grand Valley State University, Charter Schools Office	HEI	53	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Bay Mills Community College, Charter Schools Office	HEI	43	–	–	–	–
	Ferris State University	HEI	19	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Detroit Public Schools	LEA	18	–	–	–	–
	Saginaw Valley State University	HEI	17	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Lake Superior State University, Charter School Office	HEI	14	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	St. Clair County RESA	LEA	8	Yes	No	No	Yes
Northern Michigan University, Charter Schools Office	HEI	6	Yes	No	Yes	No	

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 46

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 20,717

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	2
No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	9	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 79

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 33,897


EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 275

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 134,896

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	-1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	0
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	-1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	8	0
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7	
No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	6	



<div>MINNESOTA</div> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, HEI, NFP		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 29				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Audubon Center of the North Woods	NFP	35	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Pillsbury United Communities	NFP	20	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Friends of Education - Minnesota	NFP	17	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Innovative Quality Schools	NFP	16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Volunteers of America - Minnesota	NFP	16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Bethel University	HEI	6	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	University of St. Thomas	HEI	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Minneapolis Public School District #1	LEA	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Student Achievement Minnesota	NFP	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Northfield Public Schools	LEA	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Winona Area Public Schools	LEA	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Chisago Lakes School District 2144	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Fraser	NFP	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Germanic-American Institute	NFP	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Ordway Center for the Performing Arts	HEI	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Rushford-Peterson Independent School District 239	LEA	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	St. Catherine University, Education Department	HEI	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center	NFP	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

\*No Response

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 173

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 41,777

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	-1
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	11	0
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	0
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NR*	Unable to calculate	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	0
NR*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	7	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	0

MISSOURI	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA, ICB, HEI			NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 12			
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	University of Central Missouri	HEI	16	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	University of Missouri-Kansas City	HEI	13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Missouri University of Science and Technology	HEI	5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	University of Missouri-Columbia	HEI	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Saint Louis University	HEI	3	Yes	No	No	Yes
	Lindenwood University	HEI	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley	HEI	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Washington University	HEI	1	Yes	No	No	No

\*No Response

NEVADA	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, ICB, HEI			NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 4			
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Nevada State Public Charter School Authority	ICB	20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Washoe County School District	LEA	10	NR*	Yes	Yes	NR*

\*No Response

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 65


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 18,059


EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10	0
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	1
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	3
No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	5	-1
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	10	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	9	0
No	No	Yes	No	NR*	NR*	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	


CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 38

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 22,542

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	9	-1
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	

<div>NEW HAMPSHIRE</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
New Hampshire Department of Education		SEA	18	–	–	–	–

<div>NEW JERSEY</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
New Jersey Department of Education		SEA	86	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

<div>NEW MEXICO</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 19				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
New Mexico Public Education Commission		SEA	52	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Albuquerque Public Schools		LEA	20	–	–	–	–



CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 18

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 1,507

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 86


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 31,000

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No		8	

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 95

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 19,772

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	

<div>NEW YORK</div> <div></div>	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA, HEI		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 4				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	State University of New York, Charter Schools Institute	HEI	102	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	New York City Chancellor's Office	LEA	69	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	New York State Board of Regents	SEA	45	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

NORTH CAROLINA		ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA, HEI		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
AUTHORIZER NAME		AUTHORIZER TYPE		ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
North Carolina Department of Education		SEA		109	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 218

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 79,128

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	-1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	-1

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 109

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 50,215

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1

OHIO	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA, HEI, NFP		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 67				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW

Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West	LEA	62	–	–	–	–
St. Aloysius Orphanage	NFP	54	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ohio Council of Community Schools	HEI	47	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Buckeye Community Hope Foundation	NFP	46	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Educational Resource Consultants of Ohio, Inc.	NFP	26	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Richland Academy	NFP	11	–	–	–	–
Thomas B. Fordham Foundation	NFP	11	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Educational Service Center of Central Ohio	LEA	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Kids Count of Dayton, Inc.	NFP	8	–	–	–	–
North Central Ohio Educational Service Center	LEA	7	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Reynoldsburg City School District	LEA	6	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*No Response

OKLAHOMA	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, HEI, NEG		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 7				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW

Oklahoma City Public Schools	LEA	13	–	–	–	–
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CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 372


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 113,105

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	0
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	2
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	-1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	0
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
NR*	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	


CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 22


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 11,116

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	

<b>OREGON</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 73				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Portland Public Schools, Education Options Program	LEA	8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Eugene School District	LEA	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	North Clackamas Schools	LEA	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Oregon Department of Education	SEA	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

\*No Response

<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 44				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	The School District of Philadelphia	LEA	83	–	–	–	–
	Pennsylvania Department of Education	SEA	16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Harrisburg School District	LEA	1	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

<b>RHODE ISLAND</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 1				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Rhode Island State Department of Education	SEA	19	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 120

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 27,909

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	0
No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	7	
No	NR*	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8	0

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 171


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 118,414


EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	8	
Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	6	

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 19


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 5,132

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	2

<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 18				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	South Carolina Public Charter School District	ICB	16	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Charleston County School District	LEA	7	Yes	Yes	No	No

<b>TENNESSEE</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 5				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Memphis City Schools	LEA	29	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools	LEA	14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Hamilton County Department of Education	LEA	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Tennessee Achievement School District	ICB	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*No Response

<b>TEXAS</b> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, SEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 15				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Texas Education Agency	SEA	504	–	–	–	–
	Houston Independent School District	LEA	40	Yes	No	No	Yes
	San Antonio Independent School District	LEA	15	–	–	–	–

\*No Response

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 52

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 23,900

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	0
No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	5	

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 50


CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 12,308

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9	1
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	1
No	NR*	NR*	No	NR*	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	

CHARTER SCHOOLS<sup>\*\*</sup>: 571

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS<sup>†</sup>: 221,137

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
No	No	Yes	NR*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Unable to calculate	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	

<div>UTAH</div> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, ICB		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 5				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Utah State Charter School Board	ICB	84	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

<div>VIRGINIA</div> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 3				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	No authorizers in Virginia submitted responses to the NACSA survey						
		–	–	–	–	–	–

<div>WISCONSIN</div> 	ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA, HEI, NEG		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 39				
	AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
	Milwaukee Public Schools	LEA	29	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Appleton Area School District	LEA	15	–	–	–	–
	Sheboygan Area School District	LEA	11	–	–	–	–
	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	HEI	11	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Common Council of the City of Milwaukee	NEG	9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Wausau School District	LEA	3	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	University of Wisconsin-Parkside	HEI	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 91

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 50,785

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	8	1

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 4

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 444

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

CHARTER SCHOOLS\*\*: 235

CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS†: 43,951

EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Did not return survey	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	0
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	0
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	9	
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11	

WYOMING		ELIGIBLE AUTHORIZERS: LEA		NUMBER OF AUTHORIZERS: 3				
		AUTHORIZER NAME	AUTHORIZER TYPE	ESTIMATED CAMPUSES IN 2012-13	CONTRACT	APPLICATION CRITERIA	APPLICATION TIMELINE	APPLICANT INTERVIEW
No authorizers in Wyoming submitted responses to the NACSA survey		—	—	—	—	—	—	

CHARTER SCHOOLS <sup>**</sup> : 4					CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS <sup>†</sup> : 323				
EXTERNAL EXPERT PANEL	FIVE-YEAR TERM LENGTH	FINANCIAL AUDIT	ANNUAL REPORT TO SCHOOLS	REVOCATION CRITERIA	RENEWAL CRITERIA	AUTHORIZING STAFF	MISSION	2012 INDEX TOTAL	2011-12 CHANGE IN SCORE
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

<sup>\*\*</sup> NACSA would like to acknowledge its ongoing collaboration with the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. This collaboration has helped both organizations generate up-to-date and increasingly accurate counts of authorizers and schools. These calculations are based on NACSA's most recent data that links each charter school to its authorizer and modified from the National Alliance's data on charter schools (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. [2012]. Public charter schools dashboard [[www.publiccharters.org/dashboard](http://www.publiccharters.org/dashboard)]. Washington, D.C. Author.). Precise figures depend on the time of reporting. Any minor variation due to reporting is unlikely to change the findings of this report substantively.

<sup>†</sup> Based on estimates made by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. [2012]. Public charter schools dashboard [[www.publiccharters.org/dashboard](http://www.publiccharters.org/dashboard)]. Washington, D.C. Author.)



# Survey Methodology

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) tracks the number, size, and types of charter school authorizers through reviews of state statutes, ongoing cooperation with partners such as the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, and frequent contact with state education departments and state charter school support organizations.

Drawing on these sources of information, NACSA identified 374 charter school authorizers in the country during the 2011–2012 school year to survey. NACSA contacted all surveyed authorizers via mail and email to solicit their participation in the survey.

All surveyed authorizers were asked to complete a 19-page, 176-item survey of authorizer practices, designed by NACSA. Participants were asked to answer questions across a range of topics related to charter school authorizing. Fifteen (15) of the 176 survey items form the basis of the *Index of Essential Practices*.

Of the 374 charter school authorizers contacted, 67 of 90 authorizers with 10 or more schools (response rate: 74 percent) and 90 of 284 authorizers with fewer than 10 schools (response rate: 32 percent) completed and returned an online version of the survey or a hard copy version via mail. A final email was sent to each respondent, sharing with them their own survey responses to each of the 12 points and asking respondents to confirm their responses and provide corrections if anything was reported inaccurately. Responses to this email were received, and recommended changes and comments were considered, before adjusting final scores.

Questions regarding survey design and implementation should be directed to Sean Conlan, Ph.D., NACSA's director of research and evaluation. Email [seanc@qualitycharters.org](mailto:seanc@qualitycharters.org) or phone 817.841.9035.

# NACSA Resources for Authorizers

NACSA is committed to changing the lives of one million children by building a pipeline of experienced talent in authorizing, by advocating for policy that supports smart charter school growth and strong accountability, and by providing authorizers with practical resources and tools to foster high-quality authorizing practice.

## PEOPLE

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NACSA's *Institute for Leadership in Charter School Authorizing* includes two professional development and training programs designed to advance quality authorizing. The [Leaders Program](#) develops leadership skills and substantive expertise of new leaders of authorizing offices. The [Fellows Program](#), which offers young professionals a year-long placement in the office of a large and active authorizer, cultivates future leaders to meet the demand for trained authorizers.

## POLICY

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NACSA is non-partisan and works with agencies, reform organizations, and public officials to improve public education by passing strong state laws and related policies that support the growth of high-quality schools and the closure of low-performing schools, and hold authorizers themselves accountable for the quality of the schools they oversee. NACSA's policy work is also informed by its [Principles & Standards of Quality Charter School Authorizing](#), which codifies best practices in authorizing.

# NACSA Resources for Authorizers

## PRACTICE

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The experienced team of professionals in NACSA's [Authorizer Services](#) division has successfully assisted authorizers across the nation in advancing the quality of the schools they charter by improving authorizer practices. NACSA provides comprehensive authorizer evaluations, and supports authorizers in sound decision management and the design of comprehensive, clear, and effective contracts, policies, and protocols.

The breadth of NACSA's practical resources for authorizers is now available on the NACSA [Knowledge Core](#), a new interactive Web-based knowledge and learning portal designed to serve the professional needs of both novice and experienced charter school authorizers in carrying out their complex work. From the basics of authorizing to advanced topics, NACSA's Knowledge Core provides a rich array of core authorizing resources; interactive courses; self-paced, multimedia learning modules; guidance; practical tools; and professional networking opportunities to deepen NACSA members' knowledge and help them fulfill NACSA's *Principles & Standards*.

NACSA's regularly updated [Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing](#) is the foundational resource used to guide authorizing practices across the country. In addition, NACSA also conducts research and data analysis of authorizer practices and performance nationwide, delivered in its annual [State of Charter School Authorizing Report](#) and [Index of Essential Practices](#). NACSA's website, weekly *Member Notes* newsletter, and special announcements provide regular updates on important authorizing issues and opportunities.

NACSA's [Annual Leadership Conference](#) brings together hundreds of charter school authorizers and leaders in the education reform movement to learn about the latest trends, challenges, and issues in authorizing, to explore best practices, and to share insights with colleagues.

**For further information on these and other NACSA resources, visit [www.qualitycharters.org](http://www.qualitycharters.org).**

# Acknowledgments

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