



AUTHORIZER ACCOUNTABILITY

HOW SHOULD QUALITY AUTHORIZING BE MEASURED

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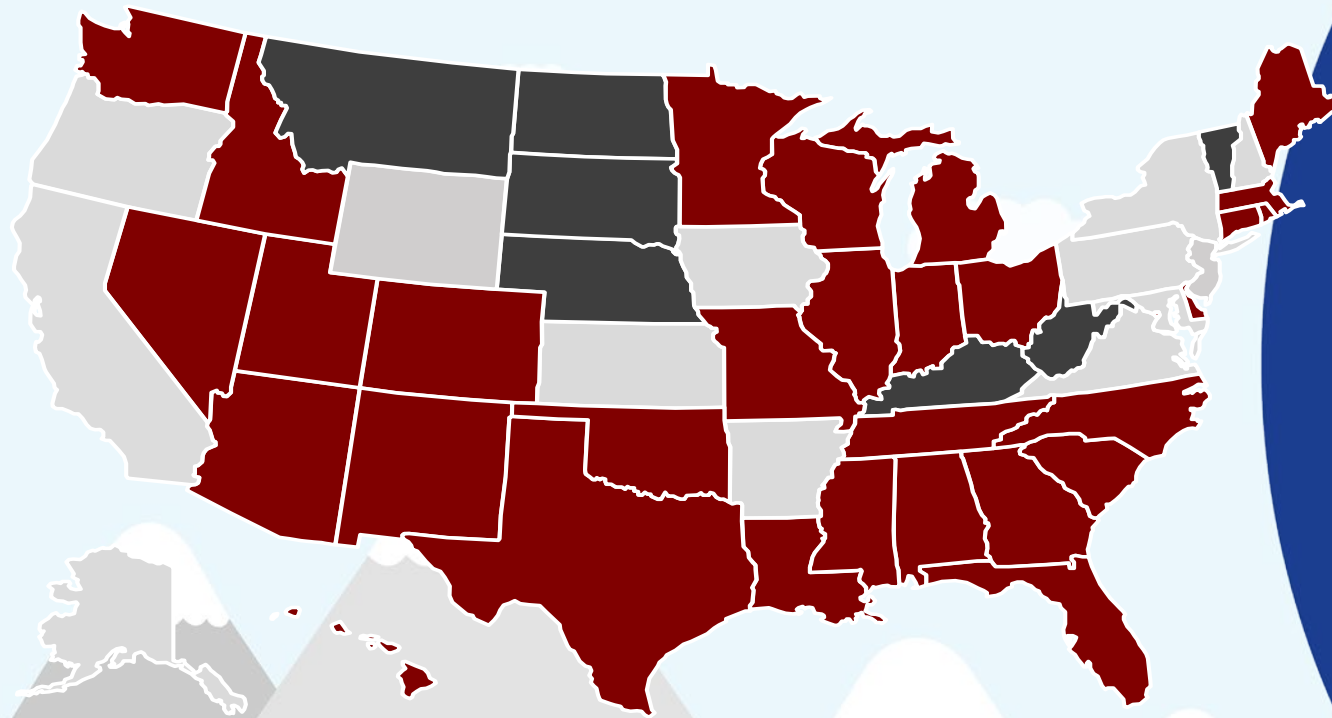
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AUTHORIZER ACCOUNTABILITY: AN EMERGING ISSUE TO DISCUSS

- National Context
- What's The Problem
- Inside Look at Two Accountability Systems
- Controversial and Difficult Issues
 - School Performance
 - Sanctions
 - Who Creates, Executes & Participates

STATES WITH AUTHORIZER ACCOUNTABILITY IN STATUTE: 2015



By 2015, 70% of states/ areas had some form of authorizer accountability* in statute

*Authorizer standards, evaluations, performance reporting, and/or sanctions



« Changes to Federal Poverty Aid Dollars for Indiana Charter Schools Under Scrutiny | Main | Indiana Officials Say They Will Follow Title I Charter School Funding Rules »

Education Dept. to Charter Schools: Here's Millions in Grants, Be More Responsible

By Arianna Prothero on September 28, 2015 6:25 PM | 4 Comments

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The U.S. Department of Education announced the latest round of Charter School Program grants to **fund new charters and expand high-performing networks**.

However, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan says despite what he calls some impressive recent progress by charters, he continues to be concerned about fiscal oversight within the charter sector.

"We still see too many reports of unscrupulous behavior of charter schools and their authorizers," Duncan said in a press call with reporters.

Along with the \$157 million in grant dollars, the Education Department is also asking recipients to closely monitor school quality, both on fiscal and academic issues. And states will be required to reevaluate charter schools at least every five years. To further underscore its focus on oversight, the Education Department released an open letter to all states urging them to improve oversight and outlining ways to do it (see below).

“We still see too many reports of unscrupulous behavior of charter schools and their authorizers” Duncan said in a press call with reporters.



What's the Problem Sparking This Activity?

**One of the Nation's Most
Comprehensive Authorizer
Accountability Systems From an
Authorizer's Perspective: Minnesota**



Minnesota Authorizer Performance Evaluation System MAPES



MAPES

Stated Objectives:

- Set clear expectations
- Ensure authorizer accountability
- Promote high-quality schools and authorizer excellence
- Promote national principles and standards
- Use lens of continuous improvement

MAPES

Part A: Capacity and Infrastructure–25%

- Mission and Vision
- Capacity and Infrastructure

Part B: Decision- Making and Processes–75%

- Process and Decision-making
- Performance Contracting
- Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation
- Renewal and Decision-Making

MAPES

Data Sources:

- Authorizer Narrative and Document Upload and additional evidence
- Internal Verification
- External Verification

Ratings:

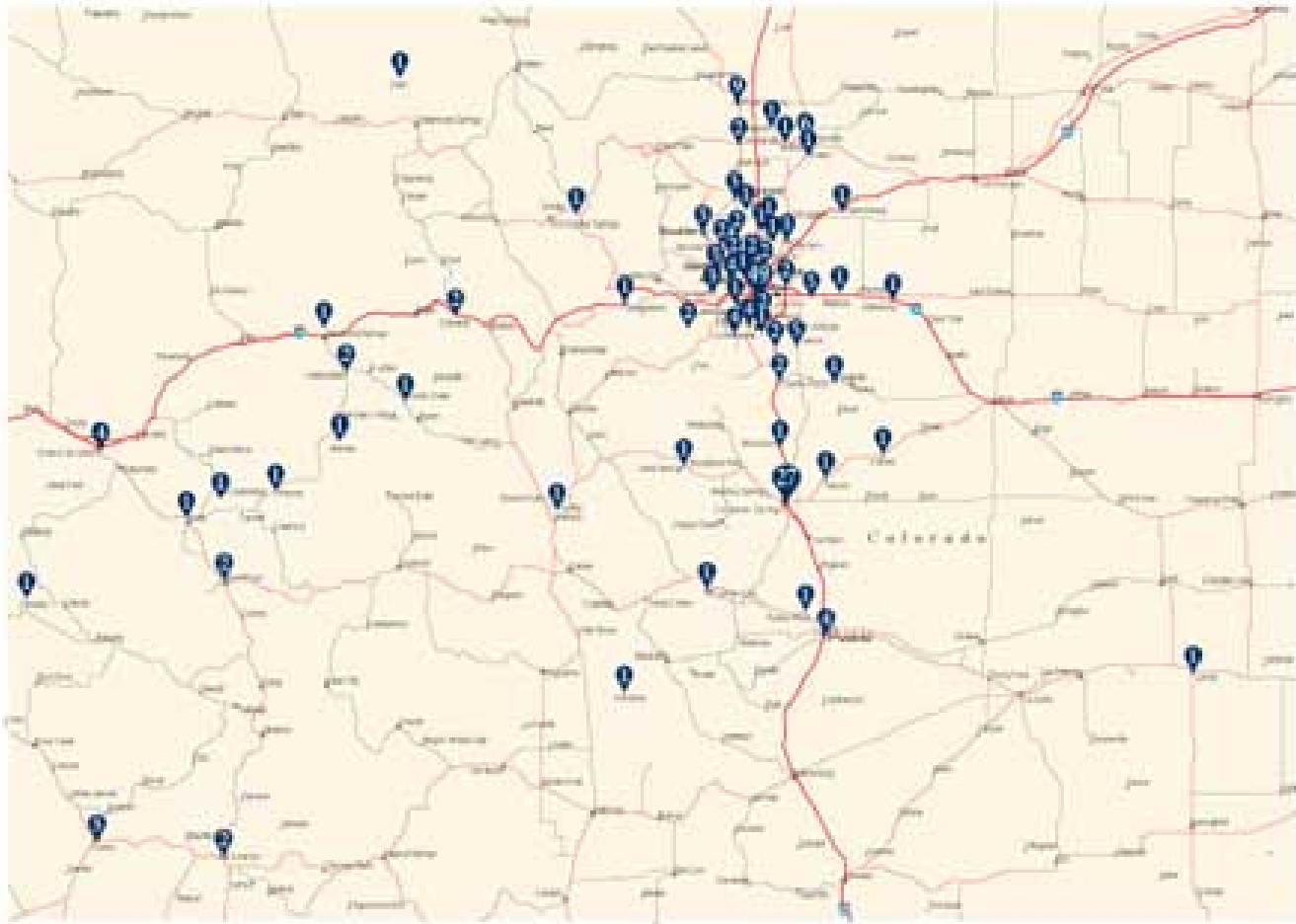
- Level 4: Exemplary
- Level 3: Commendable
- Level 2: Satisfactory
- Level 1: Approaching Satisfactory
- Level O: Unsatisfactory or Incomplete

A Different Kind of Authorizer Accountability System: Colorado



Colorado's 214 charter schools are distributed across 64 cities and towns statewide (Plus 11 online schools)

📍 Number of Schools in Each City or Town



What Colorado Has...

- 178 School Districts
- Charter School Institute
- Exclusive Chartering Authority
- Rigorous Charter Application Process
- Strong State Accountability System
- Appeal Process to the State Board of Education
- Required Annual Report from Authorizers
- Tools and Resources for Authorizers



What Colorado Does Not Have...

- Statewide Authorizer Available to All
- Adequate K-12 Funding
- Mandatory Facilities Sharing
- Mandatory Mil Levy and Bond Sharing
- Authorizer Evaluation or Accreditation
- Automatic Closure Law

Controversial Issue #1:

Should School Performance (Especially Student Outcomes) Be A Part of Authorizer Accountability?



Controversial Issue #2:
Are Sanctions Appropriate?
If So, What Sanctions are Appropriate?

SANCTIONS IN STATUTE VARY WIDELY

Types

- Unable to authorize new schools
- Order transfer of schools to other higher performing authorizers
- Withhold, reduce, or eliminate authorizer oversight fee
- “Other Corrective Action”
- Authorizer Closure

Factors Taken Into Account

- Professional authorizing practices (nearly all)
- Portfolio Performance (very few)

Controversial Issue #2:
Are Sanctions Appropriate?
If So, What Sanctions are Appropriate?

Controversial Issue #3:

Who Should Create Accountability Systems?

Who Should Administer Them?

Who Needs to Be Part of Creating Good Systems in States?

