



# Working Effectively with Coalitions to Promote Policy Change

NACSA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
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Speakers: Jenna Hodgens, Sam Duell, Paul O'Neill, Duncan Kirkwood  
October 20, 3:15pm-4:30pm

## **The Role(s) of the Authorizer in Policy:** *Different ways authorizers can contribute to coalitions*

### **1. Technical Content Expert**

Hallmarks of this role:

- You are asked your opinion on policy proposals.
- You are asked to provide observations on the effectiveness of previous policies/legislation.
- You are asked to provide or conduct research.

Types of activities this role entails:

- Interpreting proposed or existing statute or rules, especially on the ground implementation.
- Tracking on the ground implementation- what is working and what isn't and sharing that information.
- Provide analysis of the impacts of a certain policy, bill, or rule.

### **2. Representative of Your Organization**

Hallmarks of this role:

- You have authority from your organization to speak on their behalf.
  - Generally there is still a process for organization approval/buy in.
- You are asked your organization's opinion on proposed bills.
- You are asked to provide observations on the effectiveness of previous policies/legislation.
- You are asked to speak to the impact on your organizations activities and, sometimes, your charter schools.

Types of activities this role entails:

- Preparing analysis and information for your board.
- Taking positions on legislation or proposed regulations.
- Submitting comments, letters or testimony on behalf of your organization.
- Signing on to coalition/other letters.
- Maintaining relationships with local legislators.
- Communicating with local legislators on the priorities of your organization- policy, implementation, etc.

### **3. Advocate for Authorizing Policies**

Hallmarks of this role:

- You proactively get involved in legislation and/or rulemaking- comment, sponsor, amend.
- Work with other authorizers in your state or community or country.
- Coalitions of stakeholders in the charter school/authorizer community.
- Public- op-eds, blogs, press statements, etc.

Types of activities this role entails:

- Bring legislative solutions to the legislature.
- Annual or regular events with legislators.
- Comment and advocate on bills, legislative proposals, etc.
- Work with coalitions to broaden the reach/impact of the advocacy activities.
- Regularly inform local legislators and influential legislators of your position.