



2016 NACSA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Putting the Charter Bargain into Practice: Effective Contracting for Autonomy and Accountability

In this practice-oriented session, you will explore the structure and role of the charter contract in providing the framework to uphold the charter bargain of autonomy for accountability. Our discussion will cover common challenges such as how to incorporate performance standards; how to define expectations for the educational program; and options for executing a set of new contracts across schools in a way that is consistent and fair.

Session Title: Putting the Charter Bargain into Practice: Effective Contracting for Autonomy and Accountability

Session speakers: Robert Fortson (McGuireWoods Consulting)
Gregg Stevens (State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia)

Context: *(In what context was this information presented? Workshop? Panel discussion? What were the goals of the session?)*

This session provided a brief presentation of key best practices and pitfalls followed by an audience activity. The activity focused on diagnosing characteristics of a model contract.

Key Takeaways: *(Please provide 3 key takeaways from your session. What points do you want to reinforce with attendees? If they learned 3 things from the session, what should they be?)*

1. The charter contract is always going to cause conflict between the authorizer and the school party because of the unique interests and needs and the struggle to find the right balance between autonomy and accountability. While they often mirror the law, they are often also used as a tool to implement authorizer practices and to highlight weaknesses in state policy, law or practice. This provides for a challenging dialogue and negotiating standpoint.
2. As a sector, we should explore how we can all use the charter contract to conquer some prevailing myths or bad practices that we've seen challenge our success and integrity.
3. Revising contracts is not a simple practice. Aligning the need for revisions with timelines, charter terms, and accessible levers is key to implementation success.



Additional Resources: *(Where can attendees receive additional information? Resources on the Knowledge Core? Other publications? NACSA consulting services or other member benefits? These will be published on the website alongside the PowerPoint and any handouts you send me, so no need to attach those resources. However, feel free to share links to pages on the NACSA website, contact information for speakers/facilitators, links to topical news articles or videos you may have shared, etc.)*