



STATE *of* CHARTER AUTHORIZING

2015 State of Charter Authorizing Report



nacsa
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

School Discipline

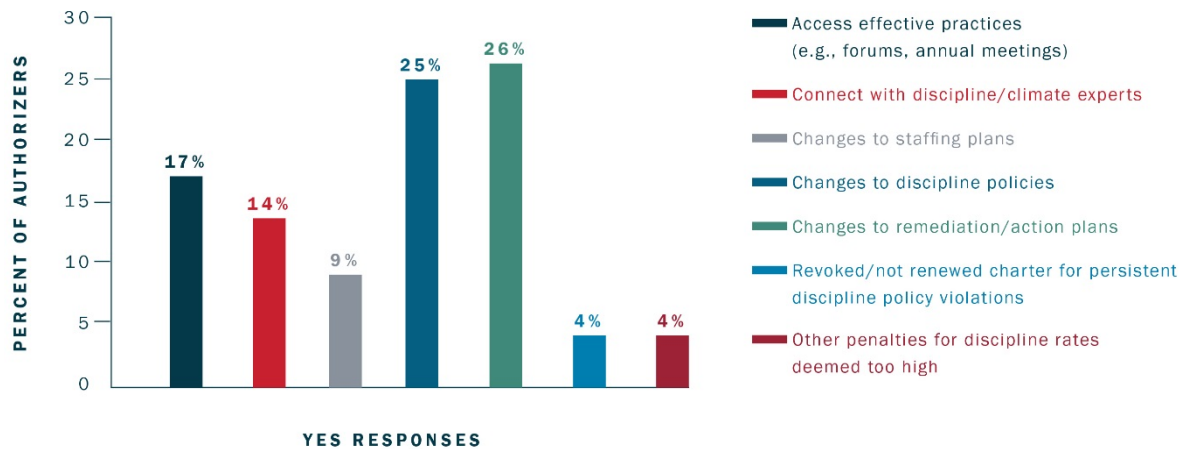
What role should authorizers play in overseeing and holding charter schools accountable for school discipline policies and practices?

School discipline and charter schools continues to be a “hot topic” in education reform, receiving continuous national and local media attention. In order to begin understanding authorizer perspectives and actions, NACSA surveyed the nation’s authorizers on a number of topics related to school discipline. Here is what survey respondents told NACSA.

For a further examination of authorizer practices and perspectives on school discipline, read our report “[Authorizers Are Not Monolithic on School Discipline.](#)”

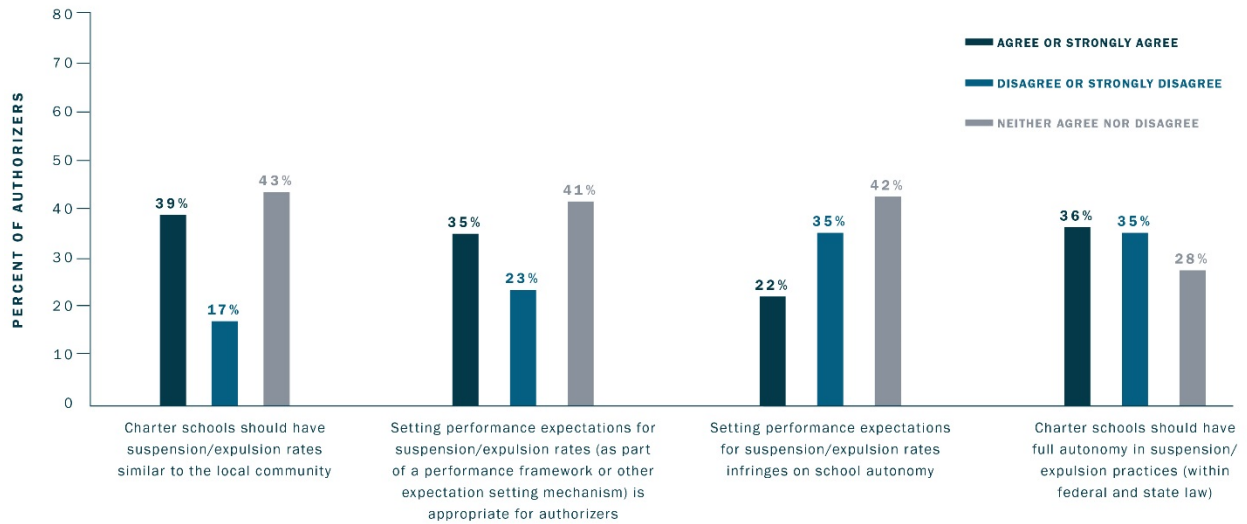
	YES	NO
Require applications to include comprehensive discipline plans that include suspension and expulsion practices	72%	24%
Collect or receive suspension and expulsion data	77%	20%
Monitor school suspension and expulsion rates	70%	27%
Publicly report suspension and expulsion rates	42%	52%
Publicly report disaggregated suspension and expulsion rates (by race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, special education status)	26%	67%
Set performance expectations for suspension and expulsion rates, beyond what is required in federal or state law	10%	85%

- NACSA asked authorizers if they use certain application, oversight, and accountability practices for school discipline, either currently, or at least once over the last two years.
- Authorizer use of these specific practices varies markedly. Seventy percent or more require applicants to submit discipline plans and collect and monitor suspension and expulsion rates. Far fewer publicly report suspension and expulsion rates, and very few set expectations for suspension and expulsion rates.



- Authorizers were asked which practices addressing school discipline challenges they would require of authorized schools. “Yes” responses mean either the practice was used over the last two years, the practice is currently in place, or the authorizer would consider using this practice in the future.
- A very low percent of authorizers have, are, or will consider requiring schools to use a range of interventions. The most frequently cited practice was requiring schools to change their remediation/action plans (26%), and the least frequently mentioned practice was revoking or not renewing a charter for persistent school discipline policy violations (4%).

Authorizer Perspectives on School Discipline



- Authorizers were asked about their perspectives on school discipline rates, performance expectations, and autonomy on a scale from 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree), with 3 being “neither agree nor disagree.”
- For these questions, a relatively high percentage of authorizers appear to be “neutral.” In all but one response, the percentage of authorizers who neither agreed nor disagreed was higher than the proportion of authorizers who agreed or strongly agreed and the proportion of authorizers who disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- Authorizers appear to be split on the degree to which charter schools should have full autonomy in suspension and expulsion practices, with 36% indicating they agree or strongly agree, 35% disagree or strongly disagree, and 28 percent neither agree nor disagree.