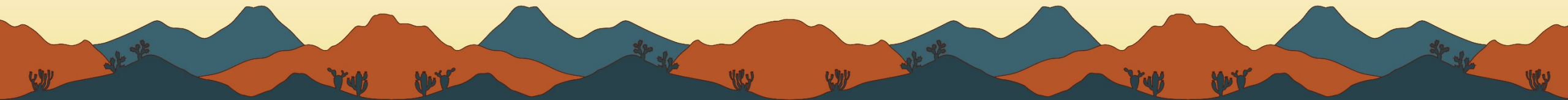


2017 NACSA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

OUR CHOICES MATTER



HOW CARSNet MODELS THE WAY FOR CONNECTING SMALL AUTHORIZERS

TERESA KAPELLAS, ACOE
DAVID PATTERSON, ACOE

DEBBY PEARSON, PRA
GAIL ANN GREELY, CCAP

SESSION OVERVIEW

- ✓ PURPOSE AND DESIGN OF THE CARSNET PROGRAM
- ✓ PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION
- ✓ SUCCESSES AND FAILURES TO DATE
- ✓ DISCUSSION OF THE CHALLENGES FACED
- ✓ PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTIONS – THE CARSNET TEAM

- Teresa Kapellas
- David Patterson
- Debby Pearson
- Gail Greely



WHO'S IN THE ROOM?

THE CALIFORNIA EXPERIENCE: BIG CHARTER IMPACT

Nationally (2014-15):

- 6,750 charter schools
- 7% of public schools are charters
- 2.7 million charter school pupils
- 5% of public school students are in charters

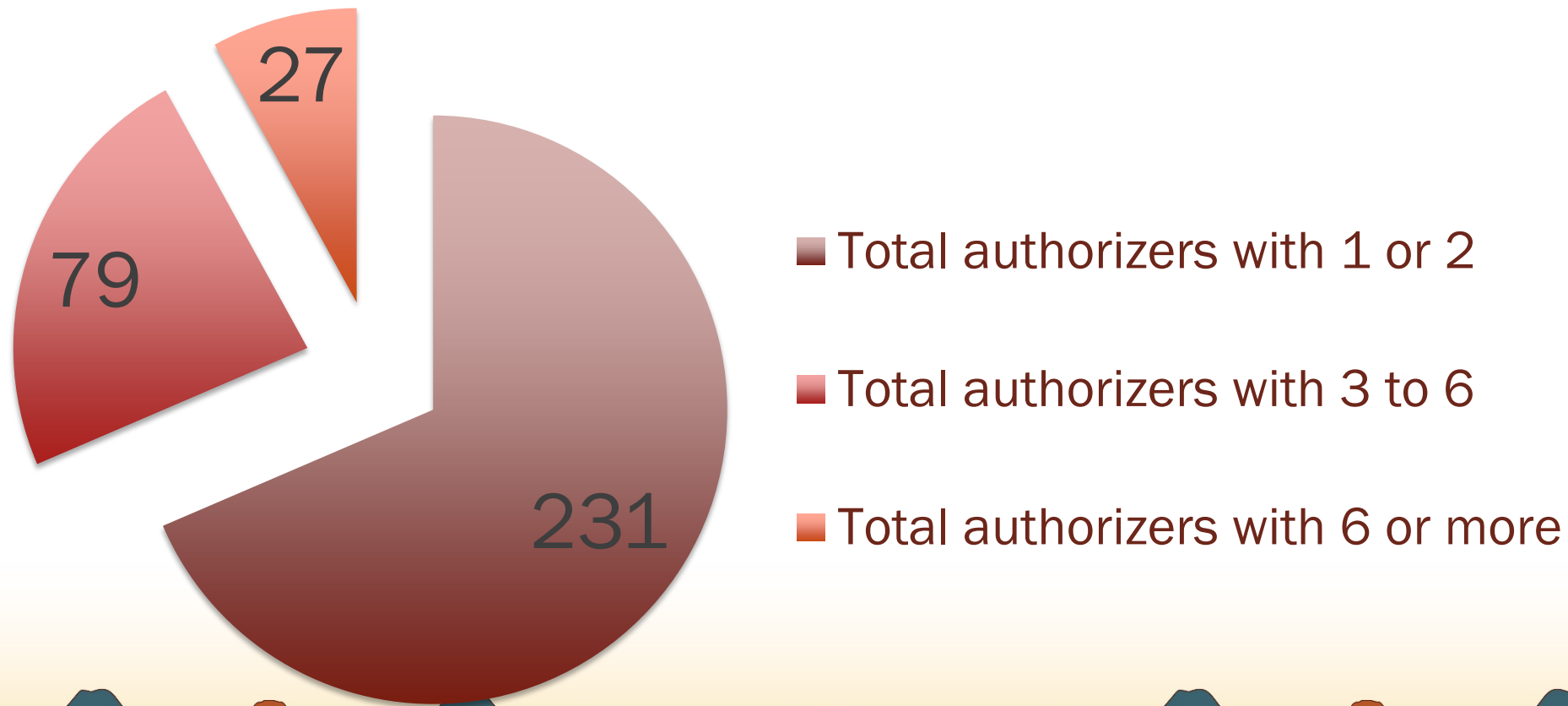
California (2015-16):

- 1,246 charter schools; over 337 authorizers
- 12% of public schools are charters
- 572,752 charter school pupils
- 9% of public school students are in charters

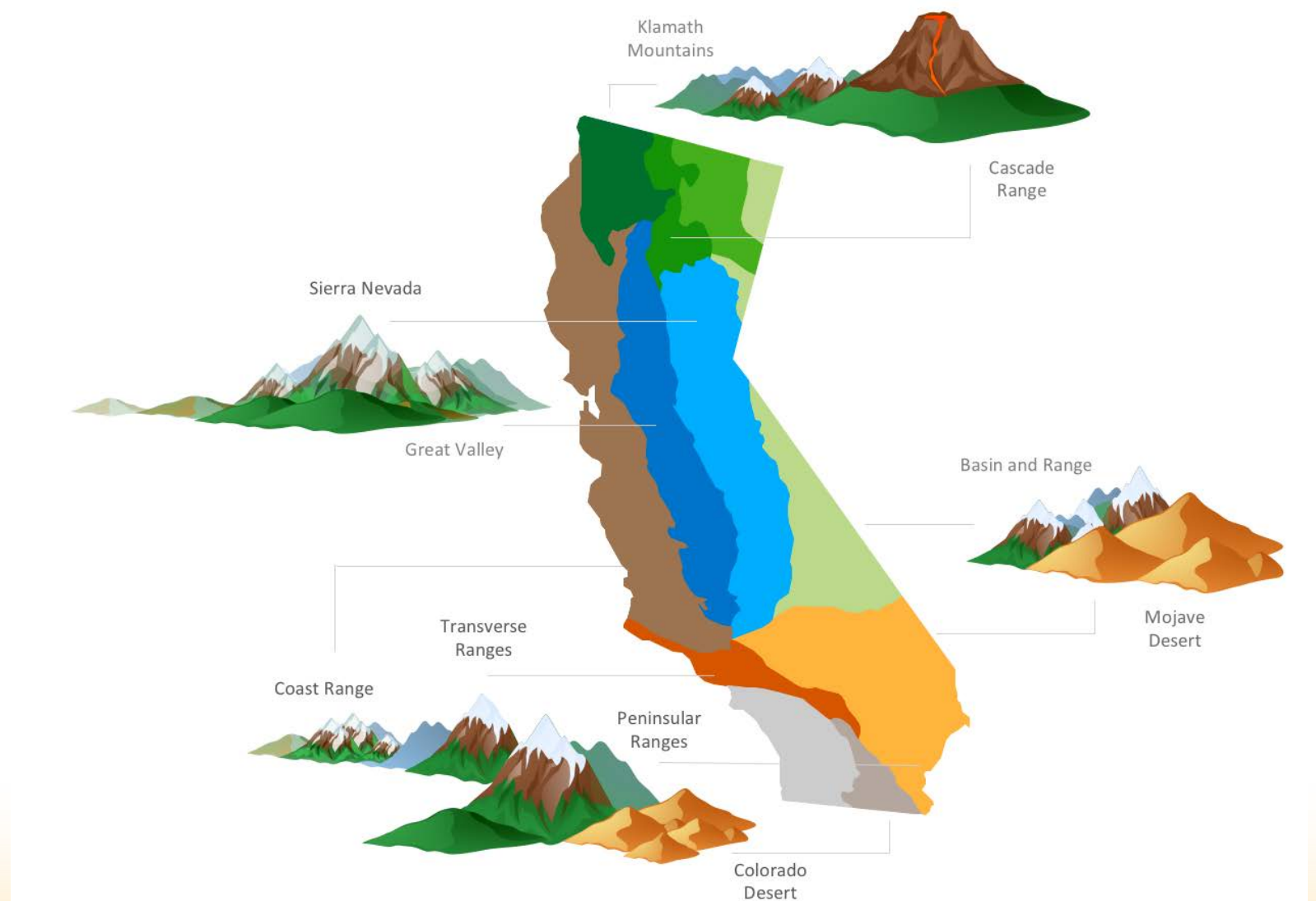
CALIFORNIA CHARTER STRUCTURE: DISTRICT FOCUS

- District authorizer / local control state
 - Some county or state-wide options
 - No non—profit or special purpose authorizers
- Two layers of appeal
 - From district to county
 - ALSO county to state
- **Preference in the law for approval – “approve UNLESS”**

MOST CALIFORNIA AUTHORIZERS HAVE SMALL PORTFOLIOS



CHALLENGES OF GEOGRAPHY



CALIFORNIA'S CHARTER LAW HAS CHANGED LITTLE

- 1992 – 2nd charter law enacted in the US
- Major revisions (AB 544–1998)
 - Take off a cap on number of charter schools
 - Improve funding model for charters

However:

- Law has been locked in due to political conflict
- Minimal implementing regulations / No clarity in grey areas
- No authorizer accountability or support

BACKGROUND OF CARSNET

- Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) and other COEs recognized a need years earlier, but had limited resources
- Opportunity arose to apply for a National Leadership Activities grant from the federal DOE (part of CSP)
- 3-year program of support and training, focusing on “small” authorizers (6 or fewer operating charter schools)

**“At many districts, authorizers lack the tools
and the resources to do an effective job.”**

Little Hoover Commission, 2010

RESEARCH HAD DEFINED THE “NEED”

- Varying interpretations of standard for petition denial (restrictive to permissive)
- Lack of resources for oversight, especially among authorizers with small portfolios
- Impact of district and county board politics on chartering decisions; unpredictability
- “Fractional” staffing; high turnover

MAJOR COMPONENTS OF CARSNET

- Annual Conference
- Regional Authorizers Networks
- Training
 - Boot Camp
 - Master Class
- Website with Authorizers Forum
- Web Based Support System for Authorizers (Epicenter)

REGIONAL NETWORKING

6 Regions:

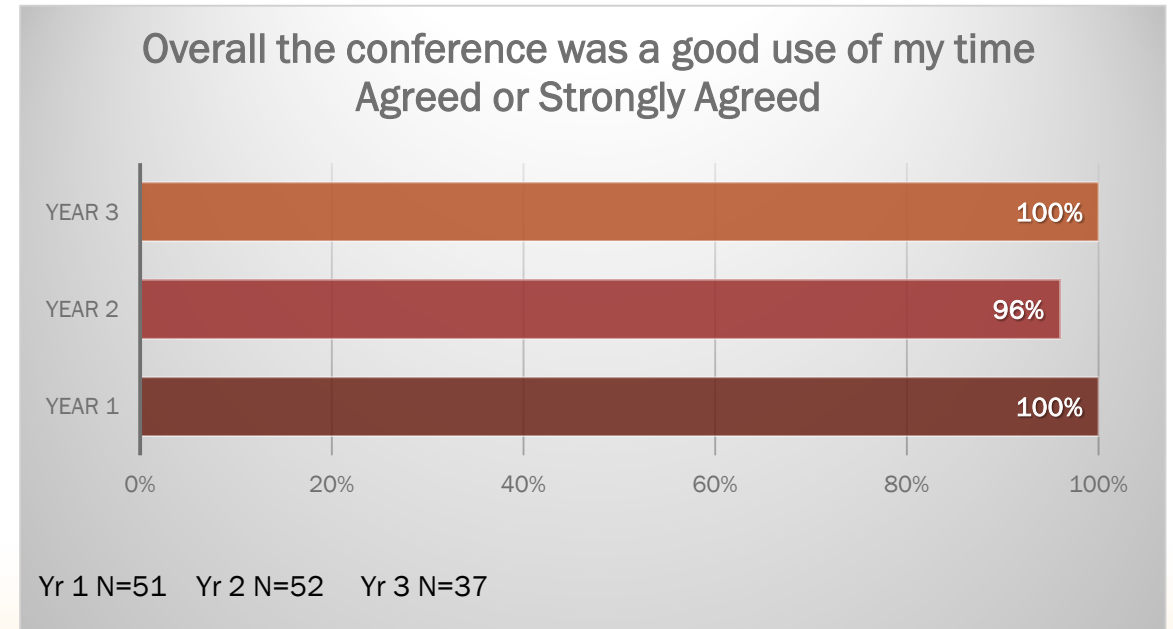
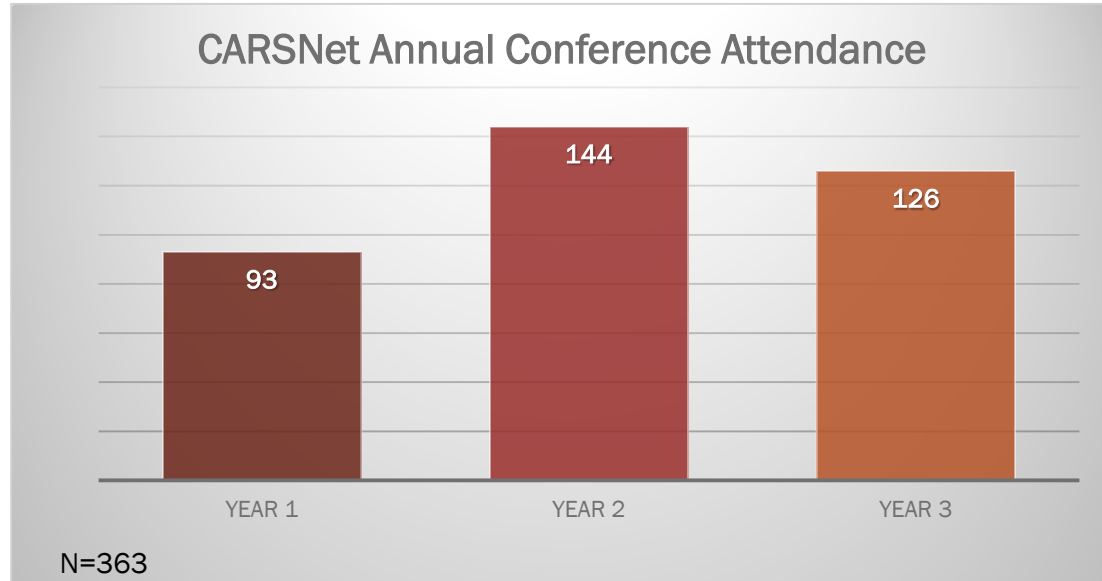
- North
- Sacramento Valley
- Central
- Bay Area
- South Coast
- South



COMPONENTS ADDED/ALTERED ALONG THE WAY

- Additional delivery modes
 - Mini-boot camps
 - “Combo” meetings with other groups
- Extra outreach and training for Epicenter: the “intensives”
- Research: survey of small authorizer practice
- Big picture guidance: Values, Principles & Expectations

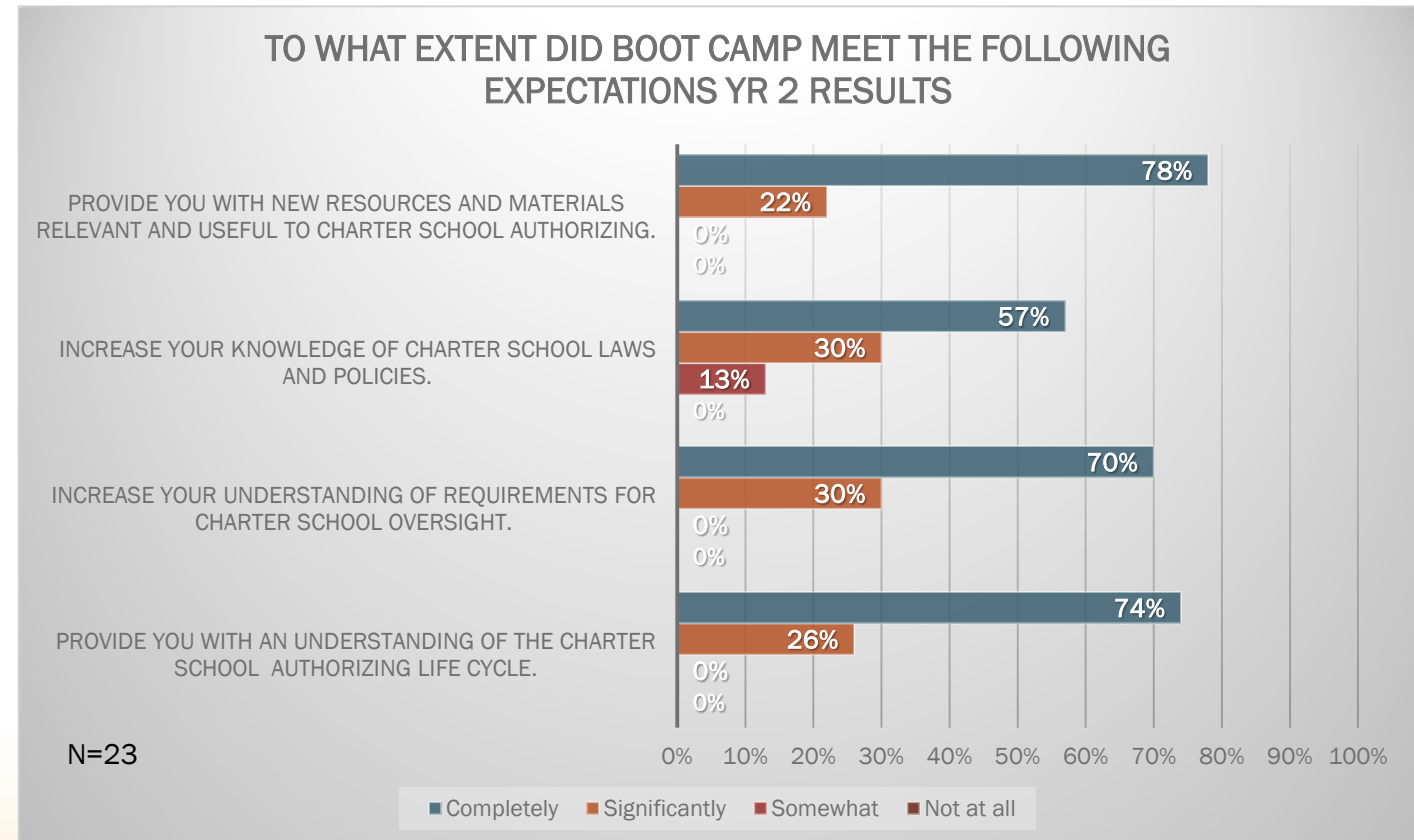
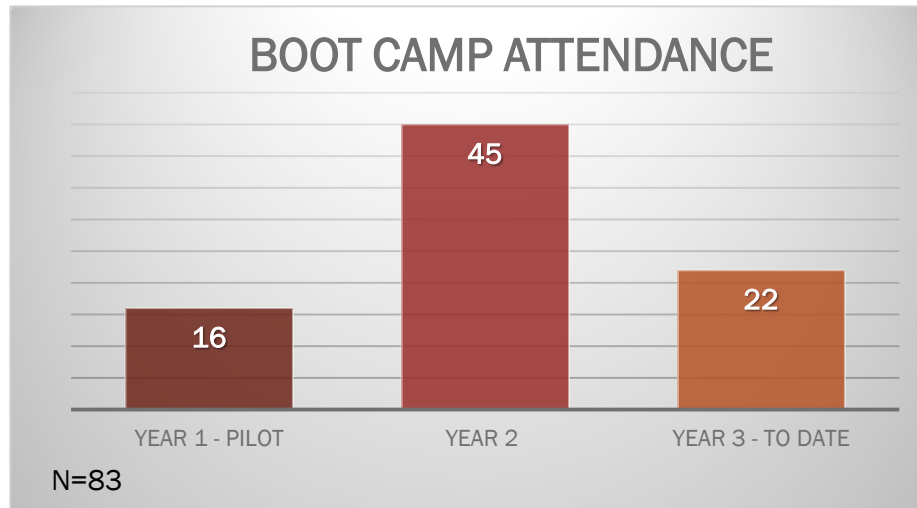
WHO WE REACHED - CONFERENCES



WHO WE REACHED – REGIONAL NETWORKING

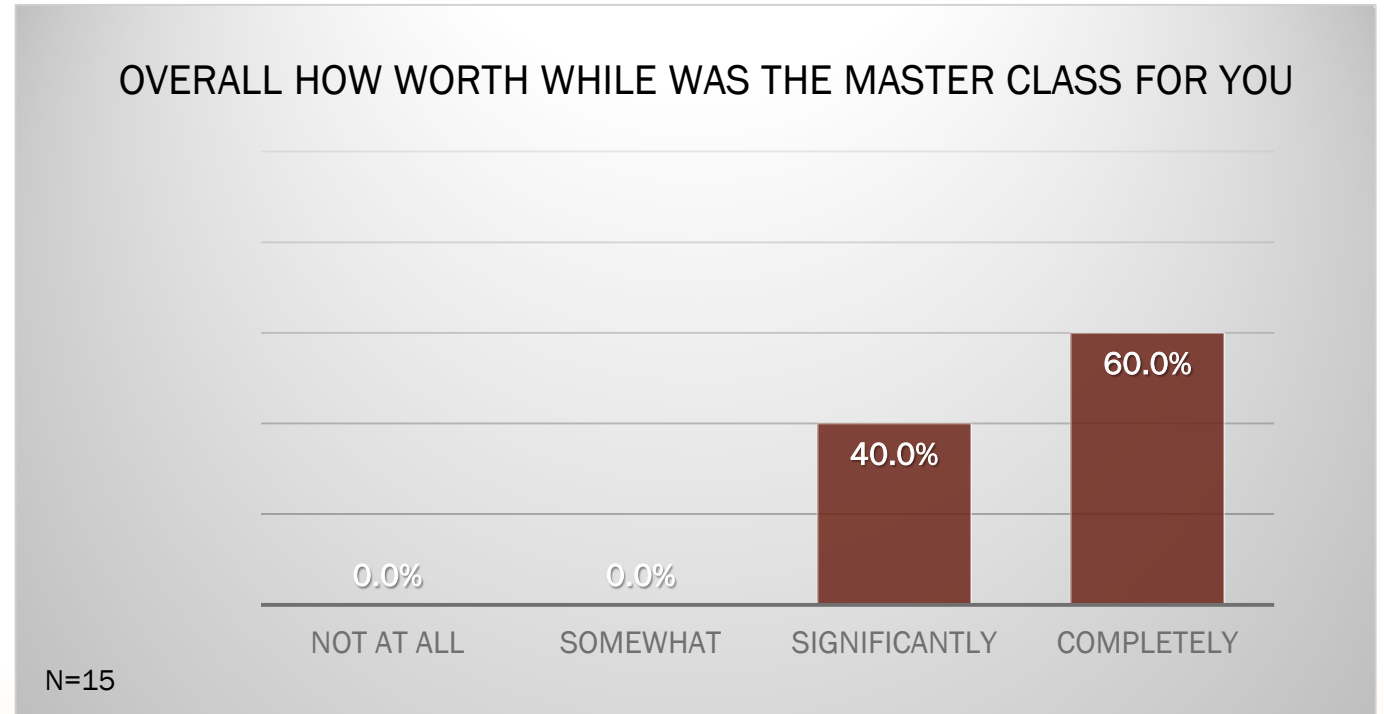
REGION	Small Authorizers	Contacts and support given by Regional Leads Year 2
North	48	48
Sac Valley	37	30
Bay Area	59	59
Central	58	58
South Coast	32	30
South	54	27
TOTAL	288	252

WHO WE REACHED – BOOT CAMPS



WHO WE REACHED – MASTER CLASS

- Year 2 Pilot Master Class
 - 29 participants



WHAT WE THINK WORKED AND WHY

Reinforced authorizer professionalism & strengthened school-level accountability

- Conference
- Boot Camp
- Website Resources / Tools



AREAS THAT CHALLENGED US



- Regional networks
- On-line forum
- Capacity of authorizers to effectively implement the web based support system for authorizers (Epicenter)

BIG LESSONS LEARNED

- *Some authorizers don't understand the impact of poor oversight*
- Research shows most authorizers do perform the minimal and basic oversight and monitoring function as outlined in the law
- Authorizing boards and staff are “hungry” for the information and tools CARSNet provides
- Constant marketing to multiple contacts in each organization is required to combat significant turnover
- Until authorizing districts are faced with a petition (application), they don't see the value of learning about charter authorizing
- Need tools and trainings appropriate for “need to know now” situations

BIG LESSONS LEARNED

- Significant Structural Challenges
 - The deficiencies in law that impact authorizers also impacted CARSNet ability to effectively support authorizers
 - Vague and contradictory elements of California's charter school law
 - Inadequate funding for authorizing activities
- The Challenges Small Authorizer Face are Even Greater than we Thought
 - Inadequate Staffing – part time and competing priorities
 - Transitory Staffing, no institutional authorizing capacity/expertise
 - Lack of Standardized Policies and Procedures
 - No or Very Limited resources for the authorizing function (i.e. technology support)

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS AND EXPERIENCES?

WHAT WE'RE CONTINUING TO DO AS CARSNET COMPLETES ITS WORK

- Additional outreach to others beyond the authorizing staff person
- New forms and methods of training and support including webinars, video conferencing, combine hot topic trainings/discussions by outside agencies with meetings
- Epicenter outreach, “intensives”

CALIFORNIA MAY BE ON THE EDGE OF MAJOR PRACTICE AND POLICY IMPROVEMENT

- Communicate what we've learned to statewide leadership
 - Powerful in changing practice
 - Recognize the changes in regulation and law to push practice forward
- State policy leadership – legislature, SBE, etc.
- Funding opportunities
- Policy change
- Values, Principles & Expectations

WHEN THE GRANT ENDS: SUSTAINABILITY

- Transition to non-profit California Charter Authorizing Professionals
 - Membership dues for basic operations
 - Fees to cover costs of trainings & conference
 - Seeking foundation grants for outreach and expansion
- Change of funding may add some flexibility

WHEN THE GRANT ENDS: SUSTAINABILITY

- Strengthening – not just continuing
 - Options for custom training and other services
 - Restructure networks
- Continue to rely on expertise at county offices
- More partnering with other education groups for board members and administrators

QUESTIONS?

CARSNET AT
WWW.CARSNET.ORG

CCAP AT
WWW.CALAUTHORIZERS.ORG

