

The Tri-State Alliance For Improving District-Led Charter School Authorizing



A Project of the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI), in partnership with:

1. The California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP)
2. The Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA)
3. The Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers (FACSA)



The Alliance will improve the quality of the charter school sector by addressing the current gap in best practice resources, training and professional development for district and small/rural authorizers.

-Grant Application

An Overview

Source: Federal Charter Schools Program (CSP)

Recipient: CSI is grant recipient and fiscal agent

Grant Period: Three-Year

Total Funding: \$2,669,053

Primary Partnership: State-Based Authorizing Associations:

- CCAP
- CACSA
- FACSA

Additional Partners



Why District Authorizers?

- ▷ They are the entities that do most of the authorizing
- ▷ They need support, but their individual needs may be different
- ▷ They are too-often misunderstood and over-simplified

District Authorizers are the Norm Nationally

- ▷ Established by law in 33 charter states
- ▷ 90 percent of all authorizers are districts
- ▷ Districts oversee 53 percent of charter schools
- ▷ Also more than half of large authorizers

Why These Three States?



Impact on the Sector

Tri-State Alliance states represent:

- ▷ 41 percent of the nation's authorizers
- ▷ 30 percent of the nation's charter schools

Impact on the Sector

	Authorizers	Charter Schools
California	327	1257
Colorado	46	238
Florida	46	654
	419	2149

Project Goals

1

Strengthen authorizing states with district authorizers

2

Educate districts and stakeholders about authorizing responsibilities

3

Engage and provide support to more authorizers in CA, CO, and FL

4

Support states outside the Tri-State Alliance

Goal 1

Strengthen authorizing in states with predominately district authorizers.

Goal 2

Educate districts and other key stakeholders about districts' ongoing authorizing and oversight responsibilities under state law:

- As an effective way to expand options for all students
- Thereby improving access and services for disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English Learners

Goal 3

Engage and provide support to a larger proportion of district authorizers in Colorado, Florida, and California, including:

- ▷ Small and rural districts
- ▷ Districts authorizing charter schools with:
 - low performance or
 - problems with academics, finance, governance, or operations

Goal 4

Support states outside the Tri-State Alliance that seek to establish statewide associations for charter authorizers.

Funding

Budget Period	Funding
Year 1 10/1/18 - 9/30/2019	\$1,033,869
Year 2 10/1/19 - 9/30/2020	\$749,305
Year 3 10/1/19—9/30/2021	\$915,879
	TOTAL \$2,669,053

Most Work is Housed with Our Partners

Most funding passed through to CCAP; CACSA; and FACSA

- CACSA is currently funded as a project of CSI because of informal status
- FACSA and CCAP are incorporated entities capable of contracting with CSI

Expand state groups to influence and support more authorizers in each state

- ▷ Engage districts not yet involved in state-based groups
- ▷ Specialized programs for rural and small districts
- ▷ Focus on helping districts that authorize struggling charter schools

Create Material

- ▷ Each state partner assemble a wish list of documents and material
- ▷ Compare across states for efficiency
- ▷ Create model materials based on each state's needs
- ▷ Cross-state sharing to accelerate and increase range of materials available

Host Convenings

- ▷ Each state association to hold in-person and remote meetings
- ▷ Focused meetings with small and rural authorizers
- ▷ Peer-to-peer networking and outreach
- ▷ Annual national meeting of all partners

Expand Access and Improve Services for All Students

- ▷ Focus on district-level practices that ensure access and quality services for all students, including:
 - Students with disabilities
 - English learners