



cacsa Colorado Association of
Charter School Authorizers

Action Plan Summary

September 5, 2019

CACSA's Mission: to promote and support best practices in charter school authorizing and to help all Colorado charter school authorizers develop, adopt, and implement practices that improve results for all students.

CACSA does not take positions on the decisions of authorizers. CACSA is an independent non-profit Colorado organization, governed by a board comprised of professional leaders who oversee charter authorizing activity for Colorado authorizers. It is independently governed and operated and not a part of, or affiliated with, the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Charter School Institute, the Colorado League of Charter Schools or any other Colorado or national organization.



Goal 1. Authorizer Support

Table 1. CACSA Created Model Materials

Item	Timeline	Format	Notes
Annual evaluation rubric and report	Year 2, first product	Package including rubric and report	Consider national collaboration, and previous Colorado models, explore technology applications
Model contract	Year 2, second product	Annotated contract	Based on recent examples from lawyers and districts
Renewal package	Year 3, first product	Package including guidance, standards, and tools	Consider national collaboration
Year Zero Guide	Year 3, second product	Guide with timelines and guidance on what must be accomplished and when	Explore predictions of enrollment and accommodate policy and legal issues

Table 2. Leveraged Materials Created by Districts & Partners

Topic/Material	Partner or Leverage Strategy	CACSA Role
DAC guidance	CDE production with districts	Provide input and conduct trainings after developed
List of expert reviewers	Solicit names from CACSA members and districts	Solicit lists from districts, recruit CACSA members, and share a list (with members); consider paying directly to reduce cost and burden on districts initiating this step
Model district policies and resolutions	CASB and CASE	Provide input and promote after developed
Capacity interview support	NACSA and districts, including observations and videos	Share videos or coordinate observations
Tiered interventions	NACSA materials and district examples	Incorporate into other materials, and include in learning opportunities

Table 3. CACSA Professional Learning Opportunities

Event	Frequency /Number	Audience	Format
CDE SOC/CACSA Quarterly Meetings	Quarterly	All authorizers statewide	All-day forum on broad agenda, including topical workshops and panels
CACSA Workshops	2/year	CACSA members and recruits	Half-day and full-day workshops on a single topic
Regional Authorizer Meetings	1/year/region	Local authorizers, and other stakeholders as appropriate	Varied, from two-hour meetings to half-day workshops
Webinars and On-line Consultancies on Issues of Practice	6/year	All authorizers statewide, focus on topics of interest to small and rural authorizers (available to national partners)	Online forums, including interactive webinars, and consultancies
Observations and Authorizer Visits	Depending on exemplars' availability	Smaller groups of authorizers, including individual authorizers	Facilitating opportunities to observe work or meet with colleagues

Group
Colorado Stakeholder Groups:
1. CSI
1. CASE
1. CASB
1. CASBO
1. CLCS
1. Colorado Rural Schools Association
1. Colorado BOCES Association
1. Colorado AEC Association
CDE:
1. CDE.SOC: Regional meetings
1. CDE.SOC: Business leaders of the charter school not district
1. CDE.SCO: Grantee cycle meetings
1. CDE EASI grant forums
National Forums
1. NACSA
1. Florida Charter Conference
1. California Charter Conference
1. Carsnet California Boot Camps

Table 4. Leveraged Group's Events

Goal 2. Special Education

Special Education Action Plan: Six Recommendations

1. Strengthen application review
2. Strengthen renewal processes
3. Educate charter operators and boards
4. Research charter school recruitment, outreach, and admissions and use research to improve application and enrollment process (including districts and schools)

Students with Moderate to Severe Needs

5. Study services for students with moderate to severe needs and provide guidance based on research
6. Support district- and system-level changes to support students with moderate to severe needs.

Goal 3. Membership and Outreach

Big Authorizers

Reach out individually and leverage leaders in other large authorizers. Seven districts should be targeted:

1. Saint Vrain Valley School District
2. Boulder Valley School District
3. Brighton 27J School District
4. Greeley-Evans Weld County School District 6
5. Harrison 2 School District
6. Poudre School District
7. Pueblo County Rural Schools District 70

Rural and Non-Front Range Authorizers:

Develop services and programs that are accessible and useful, including:

- Technology

- Regional meetings and leverage other groups'

- Resources for in-state travel

Small Authorizers:

- Materials easily applied by limited staff
- Consider how technology can help
- Emphasize things that don't require customization
- Continued outreach (CACSA members with small portfolios encouraged to network with peers)

Authorizers with Problematic Schools:

- Engaged CACSA members already working with problematic schools
- Requires additional research
- Possible opportunity in federally-identified schools, including funding support

Contact

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