

**Founded in 2000, NACSA is the only leading national non-profit organization dedicated to improving public education through excellence in charter school authorizing.**

Have a question about authorizing, improving excellence in charter schools, or related topics? Talk with experts at NACSA by contacting our media relations department at (312) 376-2316. Comprehensive resources, including policy guides, principles and standards for authorizers, and a host of materials on advancing charter school excellence, are available on the NACSA website, [www.qualitycharters.org](http://www.qualitycharters.org).

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is committed to advancing excellence and accountability in the charter school sector and to increasing the number of high-quality charter schools across the nation. To accomplish this mission, NACSA works to improve the policies and practices of authorizers—the organizations designated to approve, monitor, renew, and, if necessary, close charter schools. NACSA provides professional development, practical resources, consulting, and policy guidance to authorizers. It also advocates for laws and policies that raise the bar for excellence among authorizers and the schools they charter.

### **Members**

NACSA members are some of the largest charter school authorizers in the country who oversee more than half of the nation's 5,600 charter schools. Non-authorizer members include state charter associations, charter management organizations, state departments of education, education reform groups, and independent charter school consultants.

### **Authorizer Services**

NACSA's experienced team of professionals has successfully assisted authorizers across the nation in advancing the quality of the schools they charter by improving authorizer practices. NACSA provides comprehensive authorizer evaluations, and supports authorizers in sound decision management and in designing comprehensive, clear, and effective contracts, policies, and protocols. Our work has increased the rigor of charter application decisions in cities such as New Orleans, Nashville, and Detroit, and NACSA is currently working in a dozen states to develop rigorous performance standards for all aspects of charter school operations. Among these projects, NACSA is providing a variety of services to the Tennessee Achievement School District and the Michigan Education Achievement Authority, two new entities whose mission is to turnaround failing district schools through high-performing charter schools.

### **Policy**

NACSA is non-partisan and works with agencies, reform organizations, and public officials to improve public education by passing strong state laws and related policies that support the growth of high quality schools, the closure of low performing schools, and hold authorizers themselves accountable for the quality of the schools they oversee. NACSA's policy work is also informed by its *Principles & Standards of Quality Charter School Authorizing*, which codify best practices in authorizing.

### **Practice**

A respected thought leader in the charter sector, NACSA produces an array of resources, as well as an Annual Leadership Conference to address critical charter school issues relevant to authorizers and other stakeholders. Currently in develop-