

Areas of Expertise

State charter school laws

State and federal charter
school policy

Implementation of No Child
Left Behind

Special education, cyber
education, and early childhood
education in charter schools

Authorizer and school
accountability

Charter school research

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Alex Medler, Ph.D.

Alex Medler, Ph.D., is Vice President, Policy and Advocacy for the National Association of Charter Schools (NACSA). Medler has been a national expert on charter school policy since early in the movement, analyzing the first laws in 1992 and advising the U.S. Department of Education and the White House on charter schools. He has worked in multiple leadership roles in the charter sector over the last two decades, including in policy, advocacy, research and oversight.

Before coming to NACSA in 2009, Medler held senior management roles in research and policy at the Colorado Children's Campaign, a children's advocacy organization in Colorado that strives to improve the lives of children in the state by addressing a broad array of policy issues. He was also a founding board member and in 2006 was appointed board chair of the Colorado Charter School Institute, a statewide charter authorizing entity. In that capacity, Medler developed policies and procedures, built partnerships and advocated for best practices in authorizing across Colorado.

Medler received an Expert Appointment to the U.S. Department of Education in 1997, where he served until 2001 in a variety of capacities including directing the Public Charter School Program. At the Department, Medler led a national research and technical assistance effort and served as the Department's principal expert on charter schools, providing guidance to the White House, the U.S. Secretary of Education, and other senior leadership within the Department. He began his work with charter schools in 1992 at the Education Commission of the States (ECS), where he worked with state policymakers and researched major education reforms. At ECS, Medler studied the first charter school laws that were proposed, and documented the political and programmatic implementation issues that were occurring across the nation.

Medler has written extensively on education reform and has worked with policymakers at the local, state and national levels to improve public education. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a B.A. in Politics from the University of California Santa Cruz.

