

Quality authorizers are dedicated to excellence, proficient in their jobs, and able to lead the change necessary to ensure that the schools they charter deliver a great education. Indeed, skilled authorizing is vital to the future of charter schools. The Institute for Leadership in Charter School Authorizing is designed to provide both resources and education in best practices, advance the leadership and substantive expertise of current authorizers, and cultivate future leaders to meet the demand for trained authorizers.

INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP
IN CHARTER SCHOOL
AUTHORIZING

FELLOWS PROGRAM

As part of an ongoing effort to develop the authorizing profession and build a pipeline of talent, NACSA established the Fellows Program for young professionals who have a strong interest in contributing to education reform. The program gives each Fellow a year-long paid placement in the office of a large and very active authorizer that has demonstrated a commitment to quality and to NACSA's *Principles & Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*.

The Fellows Program begins with an orientation providing Fellows with an overview of the charter sector and the role of authorizers. Fellows receive a foundation in NACSA's *Principles & Standards* as well as an introduction to best practices in all areas of the life-cycle of authorizing: applications, contracting, oversight and renewal/revocation. Over the course of the year, each Fellow will be responsible for a specific project that is designed to improve the authorizer's practices related to the selection and oversight of charter schools. NACSA provides ongoing support and guidance to each Fellow throughout the year, as well as quarterly professional development opportunities that combine classroom learning with practical application of knowledge. At the conclusion of the year-long program, NACSA will actively work to identify opportunities for the Fellows and place them in available authorizing positions.

Authorizer partners who host a Fellow receive subsidized talent to assist with critical needs and strengthen their work in improving the overall quality of their charter school portfolios -- ultimately increasing the number of high-quality public school options.

LEADERS PROGRAM

The Leaders Program is a unique professional development opportunity for new leaders of authorizing offices. Led by industry experts and limited to small cohorts, this rigorous and selective program focuses on leadership training and advanced authorizing. From intensive in-person sessions to ongoing virtual dialogue, coaching and mentoring, participants learn important new skills to advance their careers as they are challenged to make a positive difference in their own offices and throughout the charter sector.

The program is designed to strengthen the skills and support for those who have recently taken over leadership of an authorizing office, and to develop authorizing leaders who will individually and as a group have a significant impact on the quality of the charter sector for years to come. The size of the cohort and the intensity of the shared program experience allow participants to build meaningful relationships with one another and insure access to an ongoing network of support.

Participants will take part in four intensive in-person sessions covering authorizing, leadership and management, and special topics – timely issues that deserve particular attention. The curriculum design combines pre-reading, in-person training, and self-study materials to reinforce the lessons and opportunities for their practical application. A capstone project requires each participant to design and implement an improvement in a specific functional area of his or her office. In addition, each participant is provided with executive coaching support from an experienced, successful authorizer with advanced knowledge of high-quality authorizing.

By cultivating the leaders of active authorizing offices and making significant investments in their personal and professional development, NACSA is working to advance the quality of the authorizing profession, the quality of the overall charter sector, and the quality of education for millions of children across the country.