

California Charter Authorizing Professionals

*Webinar: Renewals During COVID-19:
Update for Authorizers with Renewals
in 2020- 2021 and 2021-22*

Speakers



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Zoom Functionality

The image shows a screenshot of the Zoom meeting control bar at the bottom of a screen. A large black box in the center contains the text "User Name". Below this, a yellow arrow labeled "CHAT" points to the "Chat" icon in the control bar. To the left, a yellow box contains the text "Keep microphone on **MUTE** during presentation portions of the meeting." with a yellow arrow pointing to the "Mute" icon. To the right, another yellow box contains the text "Use **Chat** feature to ask questions during the presentation. CCAP team members will be monitoring chat and will respond after each portion of the presentation." with a yellow arrow pointing to the "Chat" icon. Below the "Chat" icon, a yellow arrow labeled "TYPE HERE" points to the chat input field in the bottom right corner.

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Zoom Group Chat

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About CCAP

- Founded by a group of **committed authorizers** with a mission to **advance quality public education for all students**
- **National Dissemination Grant** recipient from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation to improve charter school authorizing best practices, partnering with **Colorado and Florida** in the **Tri-State Alliance for Improving District-Led Authorizing**

Outcomes From this Webinar: An Update and a Plan

- ▶ Update for authorizers with renewals in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years
 - ▶ AB 1505 and other new considerations
 - ▶ Impact of COVID-19 on renewal planning
- ▶ Planning for authorizers to meet their oversight responsibilities
 - ▶ A start on planning for renewals in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Today's roadmap

Informational discussion – recorded

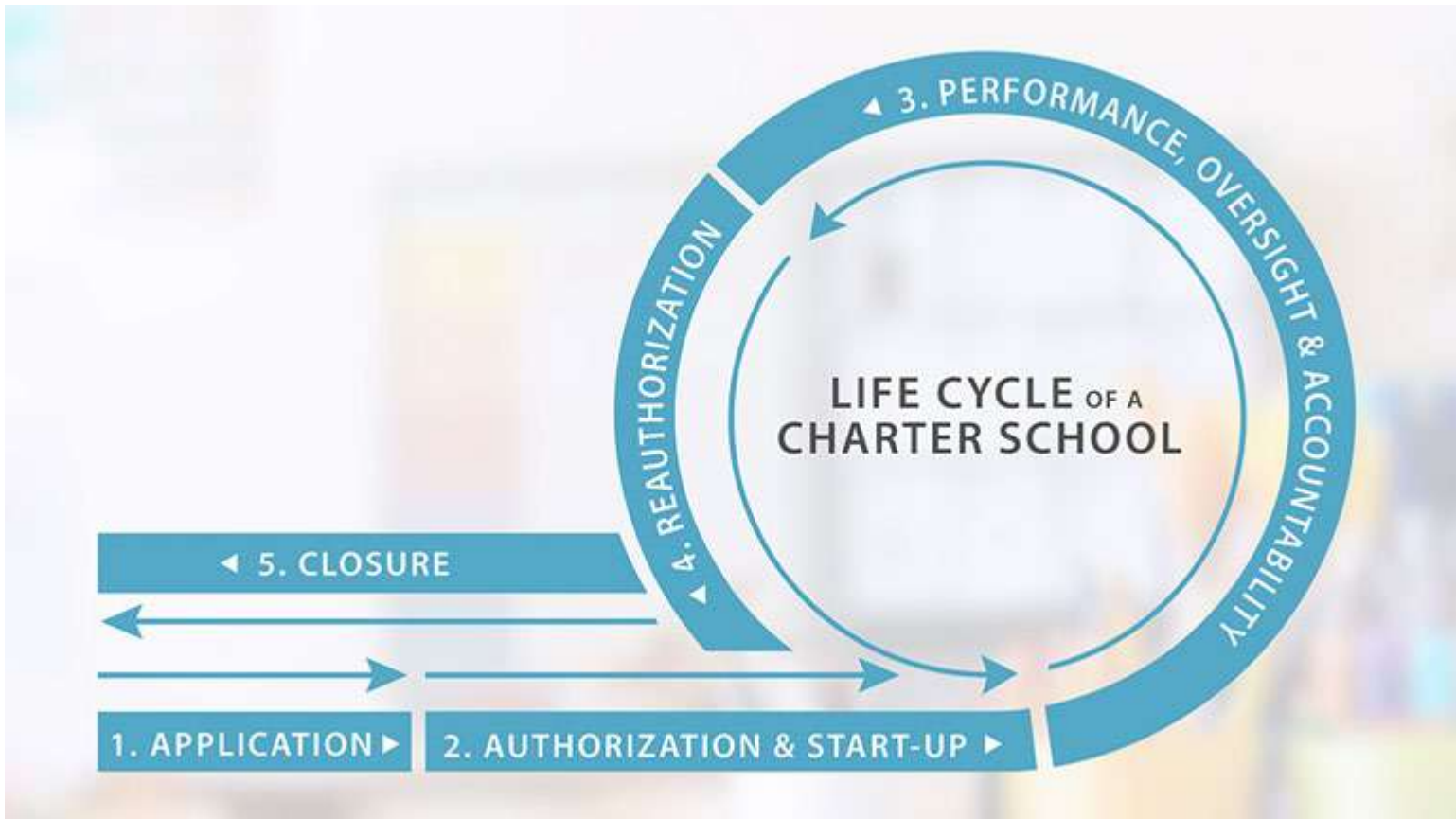
- ▶ You and your situation with renewals
- ▶ Renewal fundamentals & legislative changes
- ▶ Clarifying Q&A
- ▶ Renewals during the pandemic
- ▶ Clarifying Q&A

Authorizer-to-authorizer discussion– not recorded

- ▶ Planning considerations and tools
- ▶ Q&A

Getting to know you

- ▶ Name
- ▶ Position and organization
- ▶ If authorizer, portfolio size and how many, if any, up for renewal this year and next year
- ▶ How far along are you in planning for renewal process:
 - ▶ In progress;
 - ▶ Planning; or
 - ▶ Starting to think about it.



The Fundamentals of Renewal/Non-Renewal

- ▶ The role of charter schools in California
- ▶ Self-governed and self-managed public schools of choice
 - ▶ Although note: "dependent" charter schools
- ▶ Purposes: improve learning; expand learning experiences for students who are behind; provide options for students, families; teachers; innovate; improve all public schools
- ▶ Students attending are members of your community

Oversight and Renewal

- ▶ Statutory Oversight Requirements (EC 47604.32)
 - ▶ Identify at least one staff member as contact person for charter school
 - ▶ Visit each charter school at least annually
 - ▶ Ensure each charter school complies with all reports required of charter schools by law, including local control and accountability plan and annual update
 - ▶ Monitor fiscal condition of each charter school
 - ▶ Provide timely notification to CDE of renewal, revocation, or a charter school that ceases operations

Renewal Law and Regulations

- ▶ Overall Approach – Similar to initial approval, but some important differences because the school has a track record
- ▶ **Approve unless....** Default in the law is approval (*uncommon legal language, but clearly stated in law for new petitions and renewals*)

Renewal Criteria – Previous Law

Criteria that was in place:

- ▶ The authorizer makes findings that:
 - ▶ The charter school has failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards that provide a benefit to the pupils;
 - ▶ Closure of the charter school is in the best interest of pupils; and
 - ▶ Decision provides greater weight to academic performance.

Renewal Criteria – New Law

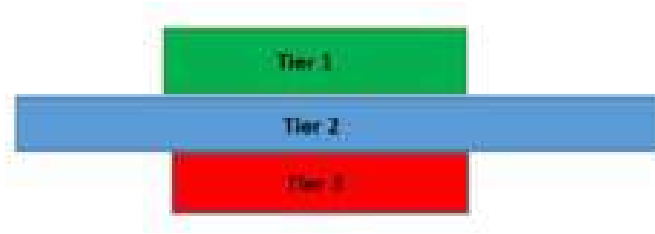
- ▶ New and additional criteria:
 - ▶ Demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the petition due to substantial fiscal or governance factors; OR
 - ▶ Not serving all pupils who wish to attend.

RENEWALS





RENEWALS



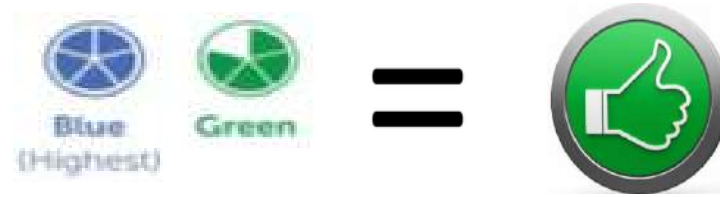
- Three “tier” approach
- Any new law
- Enrollment data: cumulative, Yr – Yr, w/i Yr (to be provided by state)
- Proposed facility and, or grade level expansion = material revision
- Reasons for denial #7 and #8 shall not be used to deny renewal of an existing charter school, but may be used to deny a proposed expansion constituting a material revision

Ed Codes 47607 and 47607.2

RENEWAL CRITERIA

- Two years prior to end of charter term:
 - CDE will provide future enrollment data (cumulative, beginning of the year census, year to year)
 - Other state data (i.e. CAASPP)
 - Substantiated complaints regarding unlawful suspension/expulsion/involuntary removals
- May make a finding that charter school is not serving all students who wish to attend (specifically identify evidence)
- “Verifiable data” (nationally recognized, valid, peer-reviewed, reliable, externally produced) approved by SBE
- Shall include measures of postsecondary outcomes

TOP TIER



- "Shall not deny" if either:
 1. Blue and Green on all the state indicators; OR
 2. A) Schoolwide performance levels are same or higher than the state average; AND
B) Majority of subgroups must perform higher than the state average (i.e. unduplicated)
- 5 - 7 year renewal
- If the Dashboard indicators are not yet available, shall consider verifiable data provided by the charter school (i.e., CAASPP)

TOP TIER DENIAL



- Substantial fiscal or governance factors, or is not serving all students who wish to attend (i.e. unlawful suspensions, expulsions or dismissals)
- Must issue Notice of Violation (Board action, 30 days to cure/ correct)
- May deny only by either finding:
 - A. Corrective action has been unsuccessful; OR
 - B. Violations are severe and pervasive (i.e criminal activity, unsafe)

BOTTOM TIER



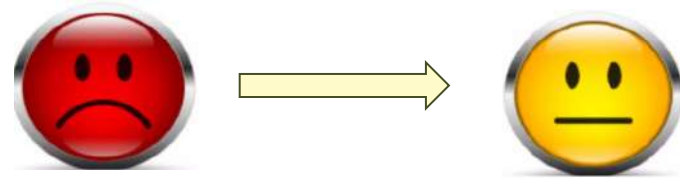
- *"Shall not renew"* if Red/ Orange on all state indicators OR
 - A) All measurements of academic performance are the same or lower than the state average;
AND
 - B) Majority of subgroups that are performing below state average (i.e.unduplicated)



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BOTTOM TIER RENEWAL



- "May renew" only upon making both written findings:
 - 1) School is taking meaningful steps to address underlying cause of low performance, reflected in written plan adopted by the charter school Board AND
 - 2) "Clear and convincing evidence" showing either:
 - A) Achieve measurable increases in academic achievement (1:1 yr progress); OR
 - B) Strong postsecondary outcomes (college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers)
- Two-year renewal

MIDDLE TIER



- "Shall grant" renewal
- Authorizer shall consider the schoolwide and subgroup performance on state and local indicators
- Shall provide greater weight to performance on measurements of academic performance in deciding whether to renew
- Shall have clear and convincing evidence showing either:
 - A) Charter school achieved measurable increases in academic achievement (1:1 growth) OR
 - B) Strong postsecondary outcomes (college enrollment, persistence, and completion rates equal to similar peers)

MIDDLE TIER DENIAL

- May deny only upon making written findings of the following:
 - School failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward meeting standards; AND
 - Closure is in the best interest of students; AND
 - Its decision placed greater weight on performance on academic measures
- 5 year renewal

Renewal of DASS Schools

- ▶ Presumption is renewal
- ▶ May deny renewal by finding the closure of the school is in the best interest of students
- ▶ Authorizer and charter school should have mutually agreed upon alternative metrics defined
- ▶ Academic performance

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COVID-19 Has Changed EVERYTHING

- ▶ Hard to overstate how much COVID-19 has disrupted K-12 education
- ▶ Widespread and deep learning loss
- ▶ State and federal priorities
- ▶ Charter school oversight (Job 1? – NOT!)

...

Charter School Oversight (Job 1 – NOT!)

- Overwhelming press of other district priorities
- Charter schools struggling to cope with dramatic change too – that has been their focus
- No statewide assessments, no Dashboard, No LCAP

Returning to the Basics: Core Charter Performance Questions

1. Is the charter school's educational program a success?
2. Is the charter school financially viable?
3. Is the charter school operating and governed effectively?
4. Is the charter school serving public policy purposes?

Authorizer Discussion – Appropriate Oversight During COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- National discussion – pivot to more support, modify accountability – varies by state, Bellwether, NACSA, others
- California discussion:
 - Overall state approach – provide support to all schools to get through this crisis
 - Emerging guiding principles during the pandemic – ongoing discussion among CCAP members

The Challenges of High-Stakes Accountability in California

- The challenges caused by COVID-19
 - For all schools
 - For charter schools
- The responsible use of high-stakes accountability requires that the measurements to be used are valid and reliable FOR THE PURPOSE THE MEASUREMENTS ARE BEING USED

Where schools are coming from now

- ▶ What we are hearing
- ▶ District schools and charter schools

Five-Minute Break

2nd part: Authorizers to authorizers

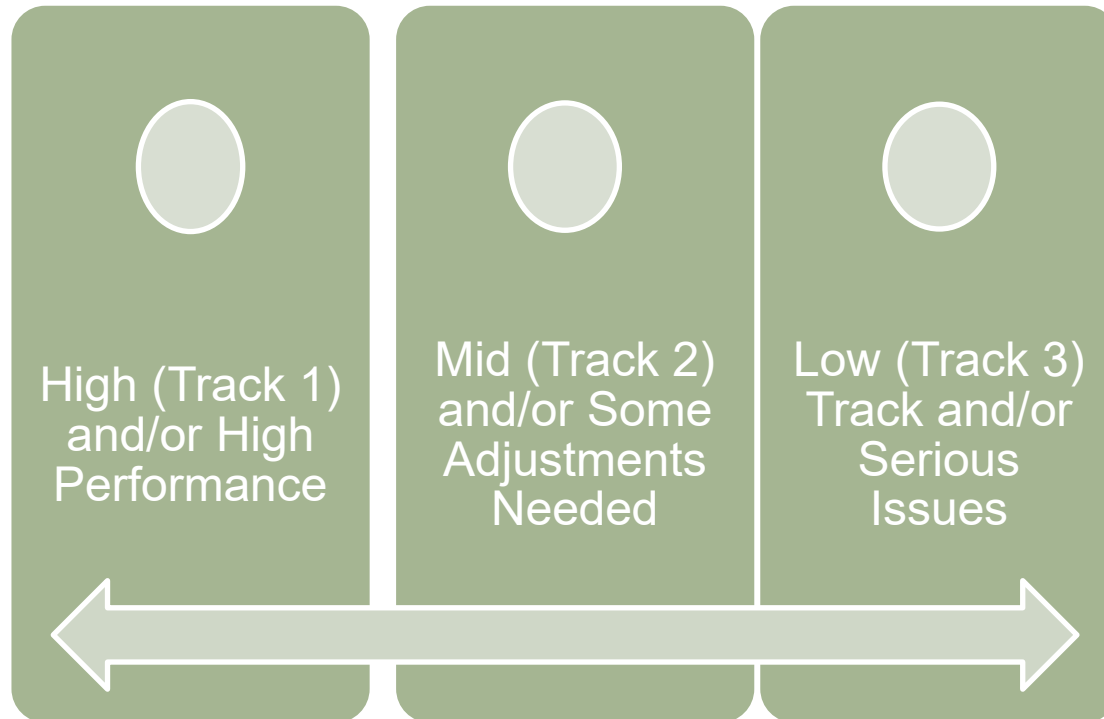
Authorizer-to-authorizer part of the program

Principles to Consider

- ▶ Recognize these are extraordinary times; be flexible and supportive
- ▶ Focus on student equity issues and service to these students during the pandemic
- ▶ If schools that are up for renewal do have serious problems, deal with them; especially in the fiscal and governance/management areas
- ▶ Transparency
- ▶ Use prior years' academic data, data for 2019-2020, if available; counts as positive (only)
- ▶ Continue focus on oversight on fiscal, compliance, and governance – these are higher risk during pandemic

Renewal Continuum During COVID-19

Where is the School?



Decide on a Path/Approach

- ▶ Board AND Staff Decision
- ▶ Make a tentative determination of where a school fits on the continuum and use it to guide the approach to the renewal process

Other Key Considerations

- ▶ Fiscally sound
- ▶ Realistic projections
- ▶ Effective Governance
- ▶ Mitigated complaints/ issues

Getting Started

- ▶ What renewals are occurring for you, and what track are they on?
 - ▶ DASS School(s) – No Track
 - ▶ High Track – presumption of approval
 - ▶ Low Track – presumption of denial, second look process
 - ▶ Middle Track – majority of charter schools, full review

Renewal Action Plan

- ▶ What staff is assigned?
- ▶ Calendar planning for the renewal(s)
 - ▶ Communication with charter and agreement on a schedule
- ▶ What agreements, reports and tools do you have in place now
 - ▶ Current Petition
 - ▶ Formal agreements and performance standards/goals agreed to with the charter school(s), along with metrics to measure (e.g., MOU)
 - ▶ Relationships and informal accountability

What Data Do You Have?

- ▶ Renewal Petition from Petitioners
- ▶ Prior CASSAP and Dashboard info (No Spring 2020 data, may not have good data in 2021)
- ▶ Annual Performance Reports (*that include performance via goals – see prior item*)
- ▶ Renewal Site Visit Reports
- ▶ Annual audits and other fiscal and governance reports/data
- ▶ Other correspondence with or about the charter school

What Data Does the School Have?

- ▶ LCAP
- ▶ New LCAP – Local Continuity and Attendance Plan
- ▶ School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)
- ▶ Externally Validated Data
 - ▶ SBE adopted list
- ▶ Other external tools used by CS for assessing academic performance – from CSDC, CCSA, CORE and other sources
- ▶ *(look at slides 15 – 18 of CSDC presentation)*
- ▶ If a renewal is 2021-2022 – What data can you agree with the CS will be used for renewal submission (and what metrics)

Board Member Webinar



Board member webinar on renewals:

- Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020, 10:00 am - 12 noon
- Somewhat less detailed on technical aspects

Discussion question:

From your standpoint as staff, what would be helpful for CCAP to help your board understand about the renewal process?

Resources

Resources:

- ▶ PDF version of this PowerPoint
- ▶ PROCESSING CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWALS IN THE 2020-21 AND 2021-22 SCHOOL YEARS: A PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR THE COVID-19 ERA
- ▶ California School Dashboard Technical Guide:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/documents/dashboardguide19.pdf>
- ▶ COVID-19 Resources - CCAP -
<https://calauthorizers.org/category/covid-19-resources/>
- ▶ COVID-19 Resources - CDE -
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>
- ▶ COVID-19 Resources - NACSA -
<https://www.qualitycharters.org/covid19/>

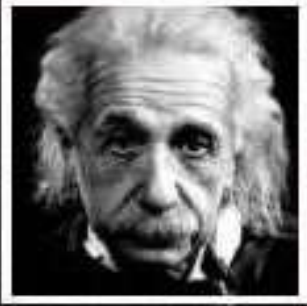

Contact info

Office hours: CCAP/SSDA members, look for an announcement about office hours very soon.

Questions?

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- Corey Loomis: corey.loomis@calauthorizers.org
- David Patterson: david.patterson@calauthorizers.org
- OR info@calauthorizers.org

Thank you!



**In the midst of every
crisis, lies great
opportunity.**