

California Charter Authorizing Professionals

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

Speakers



Tom Hutton
Executive Director
CCAP



Dr. David Patterson
President, CCAP
Placer County Board
of Education Trustee



Dr. Corey Loomis,
Charter Schools Unit Director
Riverside County Office of Educ.
CCAP Vice President

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 labeled "TYPE HERE" pointing to the chat input field.

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Zoom Group Chat

User Name

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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

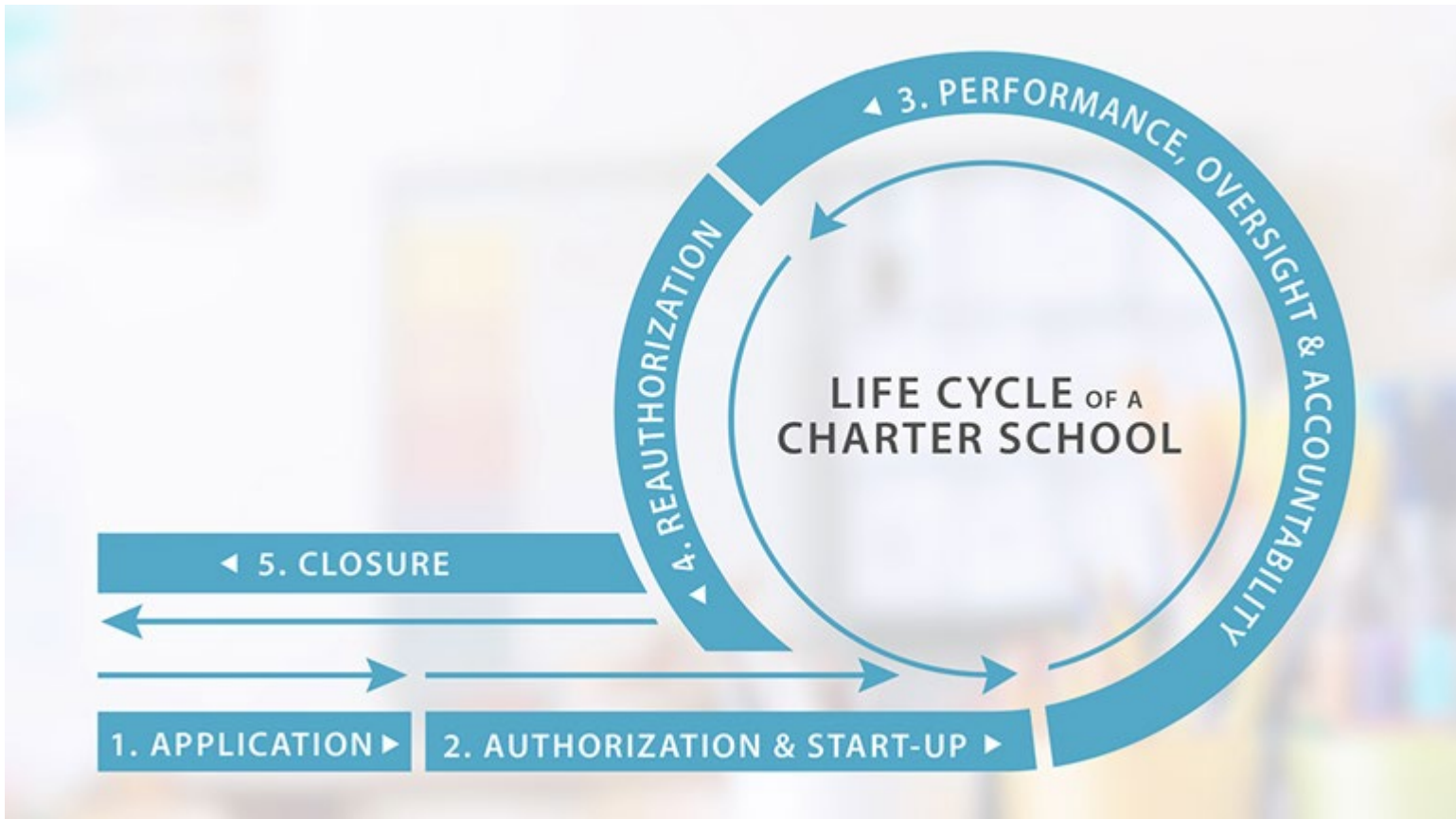
- ▶ You and your situation with renewals
- ▶ Renewal fundamentals & legislative changes
- ▶ Clarifying Q&A
- ▶ Renewals during the pandemic
- ▶ Clarifying Q&A

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



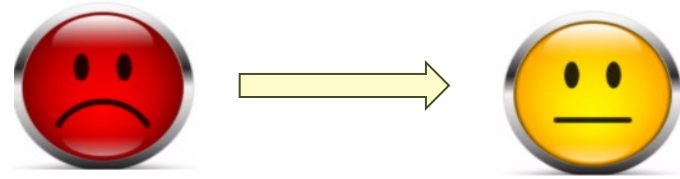
- *"Shall not renew"* if Red/ Orange on all state indicators OR
 - A) All measurements of academic performance are the same or lower than the state average;
AND
 - B) Majority of subgroups that are performing below state average (i.e.unduplicated)



=



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

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!)

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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

When? Why? How? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? What? HOW? Why? WHAT? When? When? WHO? WHERE? WHEN? Why? When? WHAT? WHO? WHERE? What? HOW? When? WHERE? What? HOW? Why? WHERE? When? What? WHEN? Why? WHERE? What? WHEN? HOW? Why? WHAT? Why?

Five-Minute Break

2nd part: Authorizers to authorizers

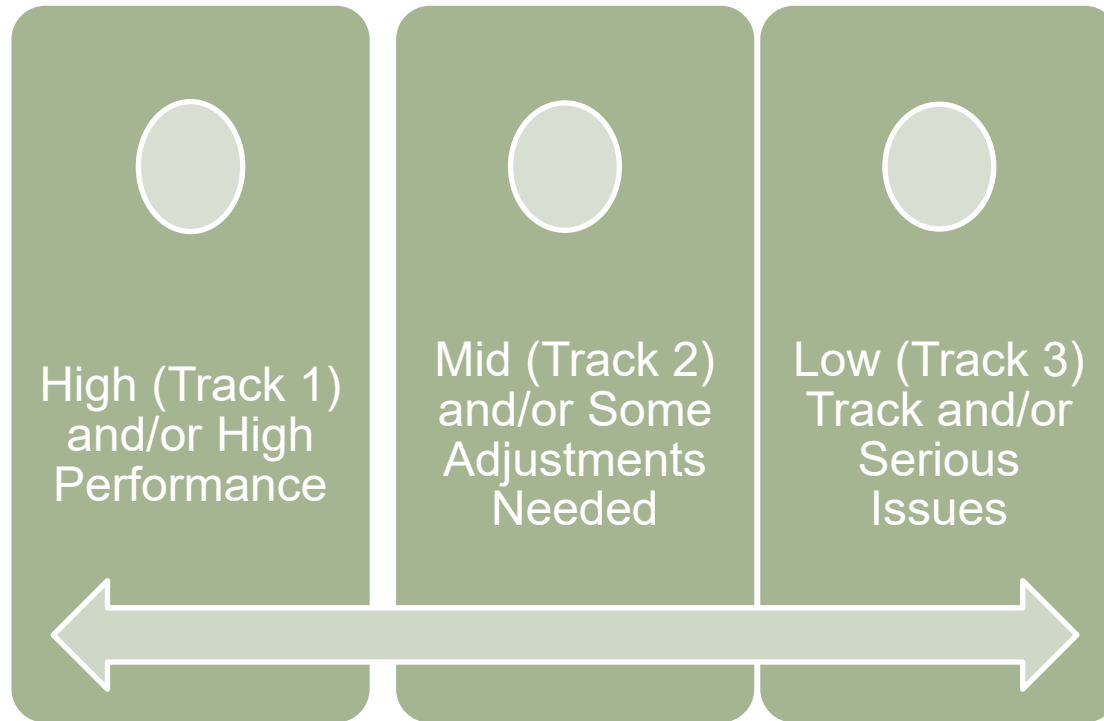
Authorizer-to-authorizer part of the program

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

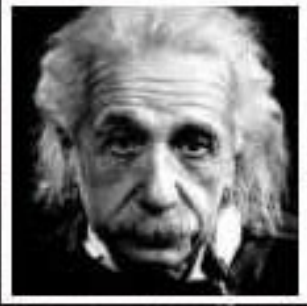

Office hours: CCAP/SSDA members, look for an announcement about office hours very soon.

Questions?

- Tom Hutton: tom.hutton@calauthorizers.org
- 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.**