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Contact:

Tom Hutton

Tom.Hutton@calauthorizers.org

916-244-3520 ext. 101

New Charter Authorizing Toolkits Provide Roadmap to Equity, Access & Quality

Sacramento, CA: May 5, 2021 — The California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP) has released the first two authorizer [toolkits](#) in a series designed to give the state's school districts and county offices of education coherent and systematic guidance to best practices in charter school authorization and oversight.

The toolkits released today provide guidance for authorizers on (1) how to evaluate [Initial Charter Petitions](#) to determine if they adequately address the fundamental conditions necessary for a successful charter school, and (2) what goes into an [Annual Report](#) of a charter school's performance.

CCAP developed the toolkits in collaboration with WestEd and a group of district and county office authorizers from across the state. Part of CCAP's overall program, [Charter Authorizing 2.0 Advancing Equity and Access Through Quality Authorizing](#) (CA2.0), the toolkits provide a roadmap of processes and practices to enable **all** authorizers, regardless of size, location, and finances, to achieve high standards in charter school authorizing.

"Recent [events](#) have shown how much we need consistently strong charter school authorizing throughout California," said CCAP Executive Director Tom Hutton. "But many of our authorizers could use more guidance and support to do the job right, instead of having to figure it all out on their own while juggling other duties. Toolkits like these are part of how we can fill that gap."

In California, 294 school districts and 41 county offices serve as the authorizers for more than 1,300 charter schools enrolling over 600,000 kids, about 10 percent of public school students. Most California authorizers, 92 percent, oversee six or fewer charters, while two-thirds have only one or two.

Upcoming toolkits developed through CA2.0 will include one on charter renewals and one on authorizer-charter school Memoranda of Understanding.

The mission of California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP) is to advance quality public education for all students by providing charter school authorizing professionals with the support, resources, and collective voice necessary to foster high-performing, fiscally sound, autonomous, and accountable charter schools. For more information, visit <http://www.calauthorizers.org>.

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