

# Helping Every County Board of Education be a High-Quality Authorizer

**CCBE Conference  
September 10 – 12, 2021**



[www.calauthorizers.org](http://www.calauthorizers.org)

# Presenters



**Tom Hutton**  
Executive Director  
CCAP



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



**Tim Taylor**  
Executive Director  
SSDA



**Steve Canavero**  
Director, School Choice  
WestEd

# California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP)

- Founded by group of **committed authorizers to advance quality public education for all students**
  - Started CARNet as an entity to implement an earlier grant
- Now **National Dissemination Grant** from U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program to improve authorizing
  - Partnering with **Colorado and Florida** in **Tri-State Alliance for Improving District-Led Authorizing**
  - Has formed **National Network for District Authorizing (NN4DA)**
- **Charter Authorizing 2.0: Advancing Equity and Access Through Quality Authorizing**

## Small School Districts' Association (SSDA)



**Tim Taylor**  
Executive Director  
SSDA



## WestEd



**Steve Canavero**  
Director, School Choice  
WestEd



# Outcomes From this Workshop: Key Takeaway for County Board Members

- What has changed – what County Board Members need to know
  - Key legislative changes
  - Two-year extension of renewals
- New tools and support system
  - NEW Authorizer Toolkits
- Helping you and your county
  - Renewal Planning - Make Use of the Renewal Extension
  - NEW Professional Development Opportunities
  - CCAP Resource Library for Authorizers

# Getting to Know You

- Your name
- What county office?
- How long have you been on the board?
- How many charter schools does your office oversee?
- How does your office support district authorizing?
- Your personal experience with charter schools
- **What is one thing you want from this session?**



# Why Your Action is Needed Now

- A3 Charter School Fraud – It is impacting all authorizers
- Needs of small authorizers
  - Some authorizing realities
- Impact of COVID and lack of statewide academic data
- Gift of the two-year extension on renewals

# County Board's Role

- Decision-maker
- Collaboration with superintendent and staff
- Making sure you get the information you need to make high quality decisions
- Oversight - create clear and positive relationships
- Ongoing review of the performance of the charter school(s)
- Key considerations:
  - Working with the County Superintendent
  - Appeals from district boards
  - “De novo” review



# County Boards and Superintendents - Collaboration & Cooperation Essential!

- County Board Members are elected officials (typically)
- County Superintendents of Schools are elected officials (typically)
- Boards approve or deny charters or renewals
- Superintendents have direct responsibility for the staff of County Offices of Education -- and typically for the oversight of charter schools approved by the Board
  - Staff expertise and greater level of detail than Board

# Your Special Role: Appeals from Denial of a Petition

- From school district to COE
- From COE to SBE (except countywide)
- COE Now Has Final Substantive Appeal
- District role:
  - Provide documentation of denial
  - Offered an opportunity to speak; can provide public comment
- Not judging the district's decision – *de novo review*
- Often difficult role for the board AND staff

# 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!)

# Changes in Law

- SB 126, AB 1505, AB 1507, SB 130 and AB/SB 167
- Charter School Approval
- Charter (Oversite and) Renewal
- Continued Pandemic "Fixes"

# Discussion of Legislative Changes - Charter Approval

- District/County has 30 more days to consider charter petition or renewal
  - Clock starts on date petition submitted
  - **Staff findings must be published 15 days before public hearing**
  - Equal time for petitioners at public hearing

# Discussion of Legislative Changes - Charter Approval

- New criteria for denial of a new petition (not renewal)
  - **Not serve the interest of the entire community**
    - Would substantially undermine existing district services
  - Is the district not able absorb the fiscal impact of the proposed charter school
    - **Qualified interim certification, negative certification or is under receivership**

# Discussion of Legislative Changes - Charter Approval

- Additional Charter Petition Elements
  - Tighter alignment to the goals and outcomes of the state dashboard priorities
  - Expand the means to achieve a racial and ethnic balance to include English Learners and students with disabilities
  - As supplemental information, the names and qualifications for the charter's nonprofit governing board
  - **Requires a charter school that seeks to add additional grade levels to submit this as a material change**
  - **Removes charter school flexibility for teachers, requiring the same credentialing (exemption until June 30, 2025 of existing staff)**

# Discussion of Legislative Changes - Charter Approval

## ➤ Charter Appeals

- Appeals must be submitted within 30 days
- The new timelines for considering new petitions also apply to appeals
- Two new criteria for denial of new petitions also apply to appeals
- Clarifies what updated information can be submitted with an appeal
- **Includes a remand to the district if substantive changes are made**
- **Continues de novo review by the county (but must review fiscal impact)**



# Discussion of Legislative Changes - Charter Approval

- Charter Appeals
  - **State Board Appeals have changed significantly**
    - **New standard of review is “abuse of discretion”**
    - Exception is for districts that are also counties
- County-wide Benefit Charters
  - No substantive changes except to conform with the procedural changes made for petitions submitted to district



California School

**DASHBOARD**



Blue (Highest) Green Yellow Orange Red (Lowest)







California School  
DASHBOARD



Blue (Highest) Green =  "Shall not deny"

- Any major issues/ concerns must follow NOV
- 5-7 years



Orange Red =  →  "Shall deny"

- "Clear and convincing evidence": Strong plan and growth = 2 years

# Authorizer Priorities COVID Recovery

- Recognize these are extraordinary times; be flexible and supportive
- School's Focus on learning acceleration/recovery and student equity issues
- If schools have serious problems, deal with them; especially in the fiscal and governance/management areas
- Renewal Planning – Valid Academic Measures – DO NOW!

# CA2.0 - Authorizer Toolkits

- Development: Meetings with CCAP and authorizing staff from across CA
- Intended as foundation and resource for district and county authorizers, to be adjusted to own context and practices
- Incorporate legal requirements as well as best and promising practices
- Focus on equity and access: particular focus on English language learners

<https://calauthorizers.org/>

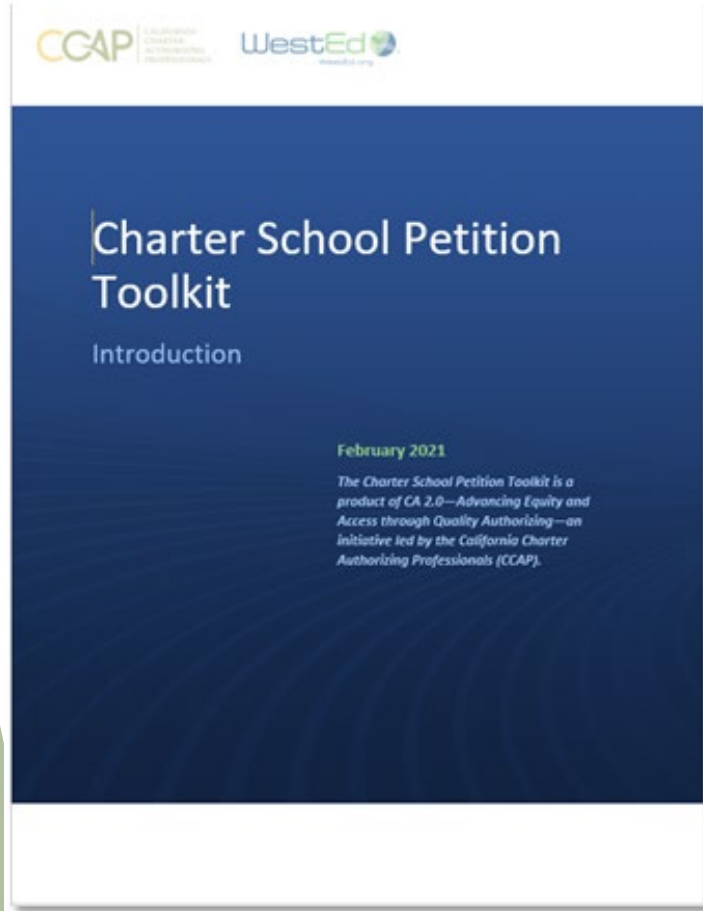
## New Toolkits Available!

New Toolkits on Charter Petitions and Annual Reports are now ready for use.

[View Charter Petition Toolkit](#)

[View Annual Report Toolkit](#)

# New Authorizer Toolkits: Petition



Overview of Petition Review Process



Petition Template



Charter Petition Evaluation Rubric



Findings of Fact Document

# New Authorizer Toolkits: Annual Report



CA2.0 Core Performance Question	Specific Toolkit Resource
Is the education program a success?	Academic Framework
Is the school financially viable?	Financial Health Framework
Is the school operating and governed effectively?	Operations and Governance Framework
Is the school advancing equity and access through serving public policy purposes?	Frameworks and narrative in the Annual Performance Report

# Highlight: Annual Report

- Purpose
  - Convey the charter school's annual performance and performance trend over time
  - Assess the charter school's performance in light of renewal
  - Initiate a conversation with charter school, differentiate oversight, install a plan if necessary
- Annual Performance Report: Ingredients
  - Summary of school and school performance
    - Academic, Operations, and Financial
  - Inclusion of non-rated narrative addressing the fourth Core Performance Question
  - LCAP summary and overall Strengths/Areas for Improvement
- Detailed attachments include
  - Completed Academic, Operations and Governance, and Financial Health frameworks
  - Site visit report



## Academic Performance: Is the charter school's education program a success?

This section provides an overview of the school's performance in the year reviewed on a variety of academic measures the school is accountable for achieving. Notably, the academic expectations are aligned with the standards for renewal pursuant to state law.

Indicator and Measure	Performance
<b>Is the school's academic performance on track for renewal?</b>	
State and Federal Accountability	
CA Dashboard: All Students	Math
	ELA
CA Dashboard: Subgroups	Math
	ELA
English Learner Progress (comparison with state)	
College and Career	
Academic Engagement	
Academic Growth: Measurable Increases	
Postsecondary Success	
School-Specific Academic Measure(s)	

### Example: ACME Charter School

Indicator and Measure	Performance
<b>Is the school's academic performance on track for renewal?</b>	Trend: Middle Track
State and Federal Accountability	
CA Dashboard: All Students	Math
	ELA
CA Dashboard: Subgroups	Math
	ELA

Summary of performance (Template) and Example (note the use of CA Dashboard color)

# Using the Toolkits

- Quality authorizing practices are known
  - National -> California Context
- Applicable use: large and small authorizers
- Provides a board with efficient access to all relevant data
  - Detail is included, summary provided
- Two-year pause is a great opportunity to review practices
- Toolkits are resource for your staff

# Professional Development, Workshops and Resources for Your Board and COE

- Webinars - Recent CCBE CS 101 and 201 Webinars
- In-person workshops
- Joint CCAP/SSDA renewal work
- SSDA Conference with CCAP Preconference
- CCAP Authorizing Support Conference – Spring 2022
- Collaboration on Community Interest / District Impact
- CCAP Resource Library
  - Intro workshops
  - Advanced/Subject Specific (e.g., using the Toolkits)
- CCAP E-Alerts and Newsletter/SSDA Updates

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

# CCBE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2021 KEY RESOURCES

- ▶ [The PowerPoint for Helping Every County Board of Education be a High-Quality Authorizer, CCBE Conference September 2021](#)
- ▶ [Charter Authorizing 2.0: Advancing Equity and Access Through Quality Authorizing](#)
- ▶ [CCAP Charter School Authorizing Conference](#)
- ▶ [Upcoming CCAP Professional Development Webinar Schedule](#)
- ▶ [Initial Charter Petition Toolkit](#)
- ▶ [Annual Report Toolkit](#)
- ▶ [CCAP Newsletters](#) and [News & Updates](#)

# Contact info

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

Questions?

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