

NEWS RELEASE



California Charter Authorizing Professionals and Santa Clara County Office of Education Awarded State Grants to Strengthen Charter School Authorizing

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The California Department of Education (CDE) has selected the California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP) and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) to expand and strengthen support for charter school authorizing and oversight by school districts and county offices of education (COE).

The program, funded by subgrants of CDE's federal Charter Schools Program grant, is called the [Charter Authorizer Support Initiative](#) (CASI). CCAP and SCCOE are working collaboratively to develop and implement an action plan for providing professional development and resources to the state's 329 school district and COE charter school authorizers through workshops, regional meetings, and toolkits. There is a special emphasis on building networks among small and rural authorizers.

SCCOE Charter Schools Director, Mefula Fairley said, "Through our work with school districts in our county, we know how much authorizers need up-to-date information and support on financial oversight, new state laws and regulations, and academic accountability during and after the pandemic."

Outreach is a key component of the work, and CCAP and SCCOE will be working with regional networks hosted by participating COEs throughout the state to provide direct technical assistance tailored to specific needs and challenges. This is particularly important for small and rural authorizers, which comprise nearly 60 percent of California authorizers and generally have fewer staff members, resources and time to dedicate to charter authorizing and monitoring. So far, the participating COEs include Contra Costa, El Dorado, Los Angeles, Mono, Riverside, Shasta, and Sutter. Other key collaborators include the Small School Districts' Association (SSDA) and the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT).

CCAP Executive Director Tom Hutton said, "We're grateful to the Charter Schools Division of CDE for recognizing the importance of authorizer support. And we're excited to work with SCCOE and our other partners to take the effort to support high-quality charter authorizing to a new level."

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