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**December 2024**



# CCAP Newsletter



**Season's Greetings from CCAP!**

*The California Charter Authorizing Professionals wish you a joyful and relaxing holiday and looks forward to great things from and for our profession in 2025!*



**Celebrating Excellence in  
Charter School Authorizing**



Congratulations to **Indra Ciccarelli**, Director of the Los Angeles County Office of Education’s (**LACOE**) Charter School Office and CCAP board member, on receiving the **Local Authorizing Exemplar Award** from the National Network for District Authorizing (**NN4DA**). Recognized by his peers for his vision, technical expertise, and leadership, Indra has been instrumental in strengthening authorizing practices at LACOE, across California, and nationally. With nearly a decade of service at LACOE and extensive contributions to CCAP’s initiatives, Indra is a model for impactful authorizing. This marks his second major recognition in 2024, following CCAP’s inaugural **Authorizing Exemplar Award** in June.

[Read More Here](#)



## Submit Your Nominee for a CCAP Authorizer Award at the 2025 Conference!

CCAP bestows up to two awards annually to celebrate notable contributions to the profession of charter school authorizing in California! Submit your nomination(s) for:

1. **The Authorizing Exemplar Award:** For an individual authorizer who has helped develop and implement one or more particularly promising and/or excellent authorizing practices.
2. **The Authorizing Community Contributor Award:** For an individual who has made significant contributions to the California authorizing field and/or who has gone above and beyond to help other California authorizers improve their work and thrive as professionals.

The nomination form is short: no more than 300 words! Nominations are due by **Monday, May 5, 2025**. The award process is not open to self-nomination. Award recipients need not be present at the Conference -- but of course it's highly encouraged!

[Submit Nomination](#)



# TOOLBOX ESSENTIALS

[www.calauthorizers.org/authorizer-toolkits](http://www.calauthorizers.org/authorizer-toolkits)

**CCAP's Authorizer Toolkits** are comprehensive, user-friendly resources that support authorizers with key aspects of the charter school lifecycle, from initial charter petition review to renewal. These multi-part Toolkits incorporate state legal requirements and provide best practices and processes, templates, and rubrics that support high-quality, data-driven authorizing and oversight. The Toolkits are also customizable, allowing authorizers to address the unique needs of their school district or county office of education.

CCAP has released several new tools, including an updated Annual Report Toolkit, a separate Site Visit resource, and several "Grab and Go" tools, among them a Charter Renewal Initial Action Plan form. Click below!

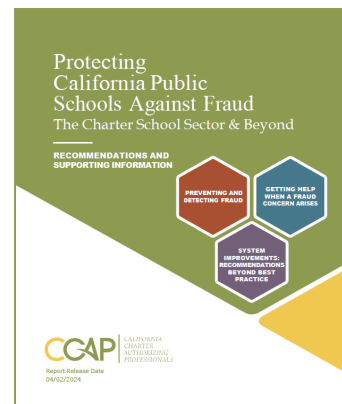
[Annual Report Toolkit 2.0](#)

[Grab and Go Tools](#)

## Anti-Fraud Efforts Moving From Recommendation to Implementation

CCAP has moved into the next phase of its fraud prevention initiative since releasing the report of its Anti-Fraud Task Force, "Protecting California Public Schools Against Fraud," in April.

While disseminating the report and its recommendations at conferences, meetings, and webinars, in California and nationally, CCAP also is assembling eight Implementation Working Groups to help put the recommendations into practice. While some recommendations would require legislative or regulatory changes, most do not. But small authorizers and small charter schools will need support, help, and models to facilitate their implementation.



CCAP is looking for volunteers to serve on the working groups to draft effective policies, create

templates, design review systems, and develop models and samples that charter schools, authorizers, and other stakeholders can easily put into place.

By implementing these measures to prevent and detect fraud, together we can safeguard the integrity of the entire public school system in California. Thanks to those who already have stepped forward, and please consider volunteering by completing our brief survey.

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)



**Fraud Prevention Resources:**

CCAP’s report is one of three prominent reports released in 2024 to address lessons learned from the A3 and other fraud cases:

**Review of the Funding Determination Process on Nonclassroom-Based Charter Schools**

Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and California Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO), February 2024: Addresses charter oversight concerns as part of its review of funding nonclassroom-based schools.

**Protecting California Public Schools Against Fraud**

California Charter Authorizing Professionals, April 2024: Proposes 20 actionable recommendations focused on preventing, detecting, and prosecuting fraud in California’s charter schools and in the larger public school system.

**Audit Best Practices for Detecting and Curtailing Charter School Fraud**

Multi-Agency Charter School Task Force, led by the State Controller’s Office (SCO), September 2024: Makes 20 recommendations concerning auditor qualifications and conflicts of interest.

CCAP has compiled news coverage of the issue and these reports [here](#).



Nathan Fairchild, director of science programs and charter school authorization at the Shasta County Office of Education (SCOE) in Redding, California, exemplifies dynamic leadership in rural education. Aside from overseeing the Schreder Planetarium to managing the Whiskeytown Environmental School, he also supports 15 charter schools across the county.



[Read More Here](#)

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Marlo Harsuyker**



Marlo Harsuyker, a CCAP board member and Director of Charter School Support and Oversight for the Ventura County Office of Education, brings a unique perspective shaped by her journey as a parent, attorney, and charter school advocate. Harsuyker's path began in 2008 when her local district closed her children's beloved arts-focused school. This sparked her involvement in the creation of Meadows Arts and Technology Elementary School (MATES), a charter school providing a creative, alternative learning environment. Now, at the Ventura County Office of Education, Harsuyker oversees and supports charter schools, championing educational options for families and creating a collaborative charter school community. As a CCAP board member, she aims to ensure authorizers statewide have tailored resources to support diverse educational needs.

[Read More Here](#)

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# Plans Under Way for 4th Annual Charter School Authorizers Conference!

CCAP's **California Charter School Authorizers Conference** is a unique opportunity to meet, learn, and share with a diverse community of people with a common passion: excellence in charter schools through excellence in authorizing. The 2024 conference in Irvine was the best attended yet, and planning is in high gear for the next one.

The 2025 conference will take place June 16-18 at the back-by-popular-demand Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa in Palm Springs (Rancho Mirage). Join authorizing staff and board members from large, small, urban, and rural school districts and county offices of education throughout the state, as well as attorneys, charter school leaders, researchers, back office providers, consultants, other experts, and sponsors and exhibitors for three reinvigorating days.

New to authorizing, or up for a refresher? **Monday, June 16**, will be the optional Preconference on "Charter Authorizing & Oversight 101." This year's Preconference will be more hands-on and designed to prepare attendees to get the most of the rest of full conference.

Another change this year is that the final lunchtime plenary session on **Wednesday, June 18**, will be followed by optional afternoon opportunities for some deeper dives and hands-on collaboration. There will be no additional charges for these workshops.

Be sure to reserve your hotel room at **Omni Rancho Las Palmas** by **Friday, May 23**, to receive the discounted conference rate of \$184 per night!



**California Charter School Authorizers Conference 2025**  
**Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa**  
**June 16-18, 2025**

Conference registration this year is \$750. CCAP membership has benefits! Contact CCAP at [info@calauthorizers.org](mailto:info@calauthorizers.org) or 916-244-3520 to obtain the CCAP Member Access Code for the member discounted rate of \$600. Then when registering, click on "Have an Access Code?" to enter the code. Members of the Small School Districts' Association ([SSDA](#)) are automatically CCAP members as well. Please contact CCAP if you are unsure of your membership.

Although the Preconference this year will be geared toward preparing attendees for the full conference, attendees still have the option of registering only for the Preconference, for just \$50. Please select "Preconference Only" on the registration form if you will not be staying for the rest of the conference. Or to attend both, select "Preconference" as an Add-On.

[Register Here](#)



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We know that this is not the first authorizing rodeo for many of you, and we invite you to share your expertise by submitting a proposal for one of the concurrent presentations at the 2025 conference. Presentations will be 60 minutes in length and will be held on Tuesday, June 17, and on the morning of Wednesday, June 18. Please submit proposals by President's Day, **Monday, February 17**.

[Submit Proposal](#)

## Conference Sponsorship Options!

The size and structure of the conference afford excellent opportunities for sponsorship and exhibiting, with prominent recognition and meaningful attendee interaction. For details on

opportunities, benefits, rates, click here:

### Sponsorship Page

We are grateful for our generous 2024 sponsors and hope to see them all again in June!



DANNIS WOLIVER KELLEY  


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