From: National Association of Charter School Authorizers
To: Patrick Gavin
Subject: While Implementing ESSA, States Should Utilize the Expertise Developed Within The Charter School Community
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While Implementing ESSA, States Should Utilize the Expertise Developed Within The Charter School Community

Today, a U.S. Department of Education committee agreed on several issues that will have profound implications for student assessments and school accountability across the country. The Department's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) negotiated rulemaking committee outlined new provisions that will provide school districts with significant flexibility on student testing.

Now, as states determine how to design and implement their own student assessment and school accountability systems, they can learn valuable lessons from the nation's charter school community. For years, charter schools and their authorizers have used both statewide assessments and locally selected assessments to measure student progress

As a result, charter school authorizers have developed expertise implementing this type of locally driven assessments and accountability. At their best, quality assessments work in concert with accountability systems to ensure all public schools—charter or traditional—are working towards the high expectations for student success embodied in the ESSA.

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) encourages all states to utilize the assessment and accountability expertise developed within the charter school community.

As educators, we all share a common goal—a high quality public education for every child in America. Charter schools are not the only way to improve public education, but they can be one powerful way. As authorizers—one of the innovations of the charter sector—we look forward to sharing our expertise as we build a public education system for the 21st century.

About NACSA

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is an independent voice for effective charter school policy and thoughtful charter authorizing practices that lead to more great public schools. Our research, policy, and consultation work advances excellence and accountability in the charter school sector. With authorizers and other partners, we have built the gold standard for charter school authorizing. Through smart charter school growth, these authorizers will give hundreds of thousands of children an opportunity for a better education each year. More at www.qualitycharters.org.

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