From: Karega Rausch, Vice President of Research and Evaluation at NACSA
To: Patrick Gavin
Subject: State of Charter Authorizing Report Released, Includes Largest Amount of Data in NACSA History
Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016 7:02:53 AM

2015 State of Charter Authorizing
Thursday, February 18, 2016

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Dear Patrick,

We are thrilled to share that today, NACSA releases the largest amount of data from the State of Charter Authorizing (SOCA) report in its history. The data is now available for you to explore in-depth. Highlights include trend data over a five-year period, as well as select state data on applications, closures and staffing.

Notably, the data finds authorizers that manage ten or more charter schools are increasingly using tools to ensure quality existing charter school operators are expanding:

- 70 percent have explicit and different criteria for applications that have a network or are affiliated with a management organization.
- 50 percent have policies promoting the replication/expansion of quality operators.
- 76 percent use external experts to evaluate each application they receive.
- 92 percent interview all qualified applicants.

The report also finds closures outside of the renewal process are increasingly overtaking the planned accountability schedule, a finding that bears watching and merits further research. This increase could be a signal that authorizers are taking more aggressive, early action to close underperforming schools before or between renewal timeframes (typically once every five years) or that state closure laws are forcing the closure of academically failing schools outside that process. The increase could also signal a growing number of schools should not have been allowed to open in the first place.

Other extensive trend data is available online including charter school approval and closure rates by state, demographics of the field, and authorizer portfolio size.

Over the next two months, NACSA will release issue briefs with new data on critical topics such as special education and school discipline policies within the charter school sector, and we will alert you to these publications as they become available.

Sincerely,
Karega Rausch, Vice President of Research and Evaluation

An independent voice for effective charter school policy and thoughtful charter authorizing practices that lead to great public schools.

National Association of Charter School Authorizers
105 West Adams Street
Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60603

Add us to your address book

Ph: 312.376.2300

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