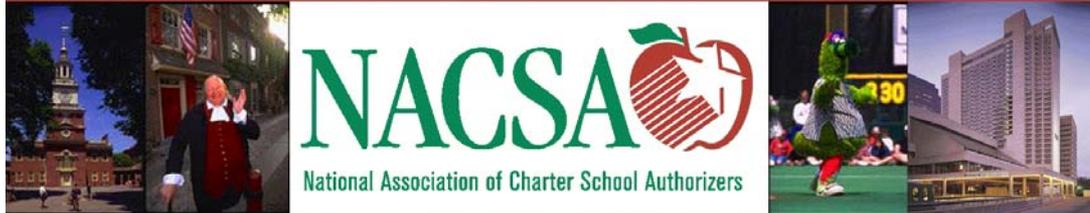


# Concurrent Session A

## Quality Authorizing and Quality Charter Schools: What's the Connection?

Annual Conference • October 25-26, 2004



Wyndham Franklin Plaza • Philadelphia, PA

# **Quality Authorizing and Quality Charter Schools: *What's the Connection?***

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**2004 Annual NACSA Conference**

October 25, 2004 – Philadelphia, PA

# Session Purpose

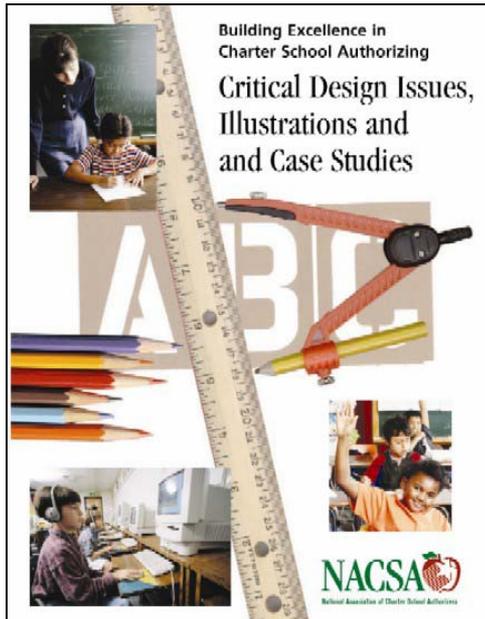
- To introduce the *Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing*.
- To explore how the quality and quantity of charter schools is affected by how authorizers fulfill their chartering responsibilities.

# NACSA's Mission

... to promote the establishment and operation of quality charter schools through responsible oversight in the public interest.

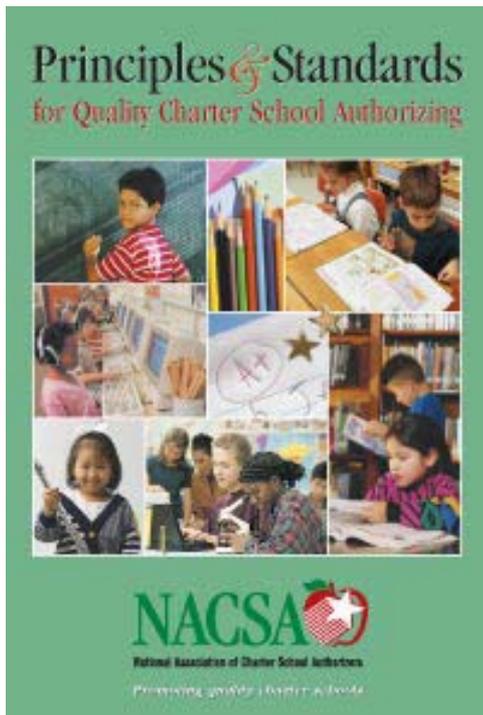


# Critical Design Issues



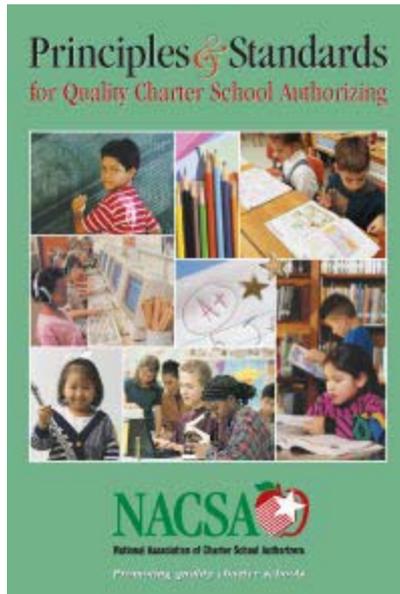
- Identifies a core set of activities and practical choice options associated with a comprehensive approach to charter school authorizing.
- The accompanying illustrations and case studies document practices used by experienced authorizers.

# Principles and Standards For Quality Charter School Authorizing



- Drafted by a cadre of practitioners and leaders in the authorizer, charter school, and accountability arenas.
- Officially ratified by the NACSA member in May 2004.
- Highlight the importance of effective authorizing for quality charter schools.

# Principles and Standards: What They Are and What They Are Not



- They Are:
  - A guide to understanding and fulfilling the critical responsibilities of a charter school authorizer.
- They are **not**:
  - Prescribing an exclusive approach to charter school authorizing.

# Principles and Standards Defined

- Principles
  - Articulate a set of beliefs about quality charter school authorizing.
- Standards
  - Identify the core authorizer responsibilities.
  - Describe how the principles are upheld within each core responsibility.

# Core Authorizer Responsibilities

Capacity and Infrastructure

Application Process

Performance Contracting

Ongoing Oversight

Renewal Decisionmaking

# How the Pieces Fit

Application Process and  
Performance contracting

Ongoing oversight

Renewal decisionmaking

Clear expectations for  
school performance

Evidence about progress  
toward goals

Decisions based on  
expectations & evidence

# Putting it All Together

**Clear Expectations  
for  
Performance**

**Evaluate  
Performance Using  
Multiple Sources of  
Data**



**High-Quality Charter Schools**

# Discussion Question:

- What is quality authorizing?
- How do authorizers know if their practices are promoting quality schools?

# Group Exercise- What Makes for Quality Authorizing Anyhow?

- Complete Self-Evaluation exercise Individually based either on your own practices or an authorizer with whom you are most familiar.
- Discussion questions for your group:
  - What are your reactions to the self-evaluation?
  - How useful are such tools in thinking about your own practice?
  - Could you improve your current contracting process based on the self-evaluation results?
  - Does this tell you anything about the importance of authorizing in light of the goal of having quality charter schools?

# Where's the Hard Proof?

- Data Is On the Way from the Fordham Institute
  - *Charter School Authorizing: Are States Making the Grade?*
  - Next step will attempt to identify specific authorizer characteristics/policies/practices that lead to quality authorizing.