



WELCOME

The Annual Conference of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers has rapidly become recognized as an essential resource for charter school authorizers and other interested leaders in the charter school movement. We are being greeted with record-breaking attendance this year, and are pleased to welcome you to San Diego, California.

This two-day meeting carries on NACSA's tradition for strong interactivity, deep content, and highly-relevant topics. We offer the only venue of its kind for authorizers to gather nationally to discuss fundamental and advanced authorizing practices, explore the many special challenges we face in the charter school movement, and to deepen our understanding of the impact of such leading reforms as the No Child Left Behind Act.

As you move through the schedule, you will have the opportunity to select from 25 highly-interactive and practice-oriented concurrent sessions as well as several more mini-sessions that highlight service advances of benefit to charter schools and authorizers. On top of this, our plenary sessions are highly topical and permit us to look critically at accountability issues and the current status of authorizing practices, with a particular eye to the seismic amount of charter activity going on in our host state. The perspective of our keynote speaker, Oakland Mayor and former California Governor Jerry Brown, should be especially illuminating.

What makes our approach to conference program content work so well is the blend of careful forethought and planning on the part of more than 90 session leaders with the active participation of those in the audience who are equally vested in sharing knowledge, challenging assumptions and gaining new insights.

This annual gathering goes to the heart of our mission as an association – to nurture the professional relationships and build the body of authorizer knowledge that serve to promote quality charter schools.

Thanks for joining us and best wishes for a most eventful conference experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg".

Greg Richmond
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark".

Mark Cannon
Executive Director

SCCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, November 13

	[AVENTINE D]	[AVENTINE E]	[AVENTINE F]	[DELPHI AB]	[PALATINE AB]	[PORTOFINO AB]
7:30 am-7:00 pm	EXHIBITS OPEN ALL DAY – EXHIBITORS PAVILION					
7:45 am-8:30 am	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
8:30 am-10:00 am	OPENING PLENARY: How Good is Good Enough? Accountability, Multiple Measures, and the No Child Left Behind Act [AVENTINE ABCG]					
10:00 am-10:15 am	BREAK – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
10:15 am-11:45 am A SESSIONS	Planning & Designing a Comprehensive Approach to Charter School Authorization	Federal Policy Issues of Interest to Authorizers	External Evaluation and Accreditation Models	Special Education: Resources and Problem-Solving Strategies	Making A Difference: The Authorizer-School Relationship	10:15-10:55 am Chartering Around the Globe 11:05-11:45 am White Hat Management*
11:45 am-1:00 pm	LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Hon. Jerry Brown, Mayor of Oakland, CA [AVENTINE ABCG]					
1:00 pm-1:15 pm	BREAK – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
1:15 pm-2:45 pm	PLENARY: Tremors in the Golden State: How Can the Nation’s Largest Charter Movement Really Shake Up the System? [AVENTINE ABCG]					
2:45 pm-3:00 pm	BREAK – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
3:00 pm-4:30 pm B SESSIONS	Evaluating Charter School Applications	Total Recall: Information and Data Management	Working Successfully with Education Service Providers	Getting What You Pay For: Rethinking Authorizer Funding Mechanisms	NCLB: How It Is Playing Out for Charter Schools and Authorizers	3:00-3:40 pm National Heritage Academies* 3:50-4:30 pm New American Schools*
5:00 pm-7:00 pm	NACSA RECEPTION – Sponsored by White Hat Management [EXHIBITORS PAVILION]					

**sponsor sessions*

New in 2003...

During the concurrent session time blocks, NACSA is featuring several mini-sessions of forty minutes in duration, many of which are being organized by our conference sponsors. All of these sessions are being held in Portofino AB. Please avail yourself of this opportunity to become better informed about a range of services of benefit to charter schools and authorizers. We also encourage you to browse the Exhibitors Pavilion especially during break times where additional products, programs and services are on display.

2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, November 14

	[AVENTINE D]	[AVENTINE E]	[AVENTINE F]	[DELPHI AB]	[PALATINE AB]	[PORTOFINO AB]
7:30 am-4:00 pm	EXHIBITS OPEN ALL DAY – EXHIBITORS PAVILION					
7:30 am-8:45 am	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
7:45 am-8:30 am	2003 NACSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, including Board of Directors Election [AVENTINE ABCG]					
8:30 am-8:45 am	BREAK – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
8:45 am-10:15 am C SESSIONS	Charter School Responsibilities & Opportunities Under NCLB	Charter Schools Serving English Language Learners: The Authorizers' Role	Cyber and Non-Classroom-Based Charter Schools	Renewal Decisionmaking Simulation	Mission Accomplished? Practical Strategies for Developing Performance Agreements with Measurable Objectives	8:45-9:25 am Central Michigan University Charter Schools Office* 9:35 – 10:15 am Edison Schools*
10:15 am-10:30 pm	BREAK – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
10:30 am-12:00 pm D SESSIONS	From Still Frame to Motion Pictures: Gains Scores and Value-Added Assessment	Ongoing Oversight, Evaluation and Intervention	Embracing Reform From Within: Opportunities and Challenges for District and County Authorizers	Stepping Up Within the States: Authorizer Networks and State-Specific Best Practices	State Agency Roles in Chartering	10:30-11:10 am Mosaica Education* 11:20-Noon U.S. General Accounting Office
12:00 pm-1:30 pm	LUNCHEON PLENARY: What are Authorizers Doing . . . and What Should They Be Doing Anyway? [AVENTINE ABCG]					
1:30 pm-1:45 pm	BREAK – EXHIBITORS PAVILION (Visit with Exhibitors)					
1:45 pm-3:15 pm E SESSIONS	Getting Smarter About Charter Related Research	Measuring Success: Charter Renewal, Revocation and Closure Policies & Practices	Working with Charter Lenders	Authorizer as Catalyst for Innovation: Helping to Identify & Satisfy Community Needs	Encouraging and Overseeing Charter School Governance & Leadership	U.S. Department of Education's State Charter School Per-Pupil Facilities Aid Program
3:15 pm-3:30 pm	BREAK – PLAZA COURTYARD					
3:30 pm-4:30 pm	NACSA MEMBERSHIP FORUM: Open Discussion of Professional Issues & Concerns [PORTOFINO AB]					

**sponsor sessions*

Join us in 2004...

NACSA's 2004 Annual Conference will be held on **October 25-26, 2004** at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. This up-scale hotel is in the museum district within a short walk of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and convenient to other downtown attractions including historic Independence Hall and the new Constitution Center. Mark your calendars now and check back to our web site (www.charterauthorizers.org) next spring for registration information.

CONCURRENT SESSION STRANDS

Session Topic	Session Block
Authorizer Fundamentals	
Planning & Designing a Comprehensive Approach to Charter School Authorization	A
Evaluating Charter School Applications	B
Mission Accomplished? Practical Strategies for Developing Performance Agreements with Measurable Objectives	C
Renewal Decisionmaking Simulation.....	C
Ongoing Oversight, Evaluation & Intervention	D
Measuring Success: Charter Renewal, Revocation, and Closure Policies & Practices	E

Advanced Authorizing Issues	
Making a Difference: The Authorizer-School Relationship	A
Total Recall: Information and Data Management.....	B
Authorizer as Catalyst for Innovation: Helping to Identify & Satisfy Community Needs	E
Encouraging and Overseeing Charter School Leadership.....	E

Special School-Related Challenges	
Special Education: Resources and Problem-Solving Strategies for Charter School Authorizers.....	A
Working Successfully with Education Service Providers	B
Cyber and Non-Classroom-Based Charter Schools.....	C
Charter Schools Serving English Language Learners: The Authorizer's Role	C
Working with Charter Lenders.....	E

Advanced Accountability Issues	
External Evaluation and Accreditation Models.....	A
No Child Left Behind: How It Is Playing Out for Charter Schools and Authorizers.....	B
Charter School Opportunities and Responsibilities Under NCLB	C
From Still Frame to Motion Pictures: Gains Scores and Value Added Assessment.....	D

Perspectives on Chartering	
Chartering Around the Globe.....	A
State Agency Roles in Chartering	D
Embracing Reform from Within: Opportunities and Challenges for District and County Authorizers.....	D
Stepping Up Within the States: Authorizer Networks and State-Specific Best Practices.....	D

Policy and Research	
Federal Policy Issues of Interest to Authorizers	A
Getting What You Pay For: Rethinking Authorizer Funding Mechanisms	B
Getting Smarter About Charter-Related Research	E

Special Focus Groups	
Organization	Session Block
U.S. General Accounting Office.....	D (Fri., 11:20 am-12:00 pm)
U.S. Dept. of Education (Per-Pupil Facilities Aid)	E (Fri., 1:45-2:25 pm)

A Word from Our Sponsors — Mini-Sessions	
Organization	Session Block
White Hat Management	A (Thurs., 11:05-11:45 am)
National Heritage Academies	B (Thurs., 3:00-3:40 pm)
New American Schools	B (Thurs., 3:50-4:30 pm)
Central Michigan University Charter Schools Office.....	C (Fri., 8:45-9:25 am)
Edison Schools	C (Fri., 9:35-10:15 am)
Mosaica Education	D (Fri., 10:30-11:10 am)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE & SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2003

7:30 am – 4:30 pm

REGISTRATION Foyer II
EXHIBITS OPEN ALL DAY Pavilion

7:30 am – 8:30 am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Pavilion

8:30 am – 10:00 am

WELCOME & OPENING PLENARY Aventine ABCG

How Good is Good Enough? Accountability, Multiple Measures, and the No Child Left Behind Act

Michael Feinberg, Founder & CEO, Knowledge is Power Program

Nina Shokraii Rees, Deputy Undersecretary for Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education

Greg Richmond, Director, New Schools Development, Chicago Public Schools

Andrew Rotherham (Moderator), Director, 21st Century Schools Project, Progressive Policy Institute

10:00 am – 10:15 am

BREAK Pavilion

10:15 am – 10:55 am

MINI-SESSION No. 1 Portofino AB

Chartering Around the Globe

Whether they are called charter schools or site-based management programs or some other name, the concept of public schools operating independently yet having accountability under a performance agreement is an international education reform. Argentina, Canada, Chile, England, and New Zealand are just some of the countries applying these principles. Another is Qatar. The Government of Qatar has approved a reform plan to establish a new K-12 education system. As part of this reform, the newly created Education Institute is undertaking the chartering of schools, and will provide these schools with necessary resources to successfully educate students. Representatives of the Education Institute will present on how chartering is playing an essential role in restructuring that country's public education system.

Darwish Al-Emadi (Qatar Education Institute),
Mohammad Eftekhari (Qatar Education Institute),
William Haft (NACSA)

10:15 am – 11:45 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – A

Planning and Designing a Comprehensive Approach to Charter School Authorization Aventine D

This interactive session presents an opportunity to explore the scope of responsibilities and the range of practices associated with a comprehensive charter school authorizing program. Final release of the federally-funded *Critical Design Issues for Charter School Authorizers* will be an appropriate backdrop for practice-based discussions centered around the following critical design areas of charter school authorizing: (1) Roles and Responsibilities; (2) Agency Capacity and Infrastructure; (3) the Charter Application Process; (4) Charter Contracts and Performance Agreements; (5) Ongoing Oversight; and (6) Renewal Decisionmaking.

Mark Cannon (NACSA), **Sejal Doshi** (Public Impact), **John Rothwell** (Ohio Charter School Sponsor Institute)

Federal Policy Issues Aventine E

The contract a charter school signs with an authorizer formalizes the exchange of autonomy for accountability. Through its statutes, regulations, and grant programs, the federal government, in various ways, supports and complicates this relationship. What does the federal government require of authorizers? What flexibility do authorizers have? What changes would authorizers like to see?

Checker Finn (Thomas B. Fordham Foundation),
Nina Rees (U.S. Department of Education),
Andy Rotherham (Progressive Policy Institute),
Andy Smarick (Charter School Leadership Council),
Todd Ziebarth (Education Commission of the States)

External Evaluation and Accreditation Models Aventine F

How can external school evaluation and accreditation help authorizers conduct more effective, objective oversight of charter schools? This session will introduce participants to four distinct evaluation and accreditation models that are in use and will provide an opportunity to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using such models. Relevant discussion topics may include the nature and scope of each external evaluation or accreditation program, the relationship each model has with authorizers, the roles they play in accountability systems, and the impact of NCLB on these models.

Ledyard McFadden (SchoolWorks), **Kristin McIntosh** (Massachusetts Department of Education), **William Rice** (American Academy for Liberal Education), **Patricia Rufo** (Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services), **Richard Wenning** (Colorado League of Charter Schools)

Special Education: Resources and Problem-Solving Strategies for Charter School Authorizers **Delphi AB**

Special education is an area of potential vulnerability for charter schools—yet the role of authorizers in promoting high-quality services for students with disabilities is often poorly defined. Participants in this interactive session will identify the most critical or troubling special education challenges they have encountered, discuss existing approaches, then brainstorm about strategies and resources enabling authorizers to play a more constructive role in improving special education compliance and program quality.

Eileen Ahearn (National Association of State Directors of Special Education), **Ron Hage** (Colorado Springs (CO) Public Schools), **Deborah Havens** (Austin Area Charter School Cooperative), **Lauren Morando Rhim** (U. of MD. Dept. of Special Education)

Making a Difference: The Authorizer-School Relationship **Palatine AB**

Authorizer-charter school rapport is critical to the dual authorizer role of encouraging school success and satisfying oversight and accountability obligations. This new relationship generates inevitable testing and signaling, with chartering agencies sometimes finding themselves in an unfamiliar teaching role vis-à-vis a new public school. In this session, school leaders and authorizers discuss ways they seek to develop and sustain a constructive relationship. Participants will have the opportunity to assess and discuss their own authorizer-school relationships and how those might be strengthened.

John Ayers (Leadership for Quality Education), **Lowell Billings** (Chula Vista (CA) Elementary School District), **Francisco Escobedo** (Feaster-Edison School), **Angela Irwin** (Central Michigan University), **Marta Reyes** (El Dorado County (CA) Office of Education), **Melvin Smith** (Old Redford Academy, MI)

11:05 am – 11:45 am

MINI-SESSION No. 2 **Portofino AB**
White Hat Management

White Hat Management's full complement of education management and school operation services includes general operations management, human resources, financial reporting, and student data reporting. This session will address ways that White

Hat uses technology in the classroom to provide individualized vocational, social, and life skills support services to at-risk and/or drop-out, urban student populations.

11:45 am – 1:00 pm

LUNCHEON KEYNOTE **Aventine ABCG**
The Honorable Jerry Brown, Mayor of the City of Oakland, CA

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm

BREAK **Pavilion**

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

PLENARY SESSION **Aventine ABCG**

Tremors in the Golden State: How Can the Nation's Largest Charter Movement Really Shake Up the System?

Mark Kushner, Chair, California Advisory Commission on Charter Schools and CEO, Leadership Public Schools

Eric Premack, Co-Director, Charter Schools Development Center

Marta Reyes, Executive Director, Charter Community Schools, El Dorado County (CA) Office of Education

Don Shalvey, Ed.D., CEO, Aspire Public Schools

Nelson Smith (Moderator), Vice President for Policy & Governance, New American Schools

Caprice Young, CEO, California Charter Schools Association

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

BREAK **Pavilion**

3:00 pm – 3:40 pm

MINI-SESSION No. 3 **Portofino AB**

National Heritage Academies "Operation Breakthrough"

National Heritage Academies works with 39 schools with 21,000 students. Its students averaged 1.25 years of academic growth in each of the past five years. However, NHA saw the need to do more and in the fall of 2002 launched Operation Breakthrough. You are invited to learn what we did and how students achieved tremendous gains in just one year.

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – B

Evaluating Charter School Applications

Aventine D

There is no one right way to evaluate an application for a charter school. Every authorizer works within certain parameters and under specific constraints. However, there are some fundamental keys to determining the potential for an applicant to be successful in establishing and operating a high performing charter school. Using the *Critical Design Issues for Charter School Authorizers* as a springboard, this session is designed to broaden participants' thinking about evaluating charter school applications.

Rebecca Drendel (NACSA), **Onnie Shekerjian** (Arizona State Charter School Board), **Jennifer Sneed** (Charter Schools Institute, SUNY)

Total Recall: Information and Data Management

Aventine E

How can authorizers collect, manage, and interpret the data needed to justify high-stakes accountability decisions? Drawing on field experience and extensive market research, this session will review how leading-edge authorizers are managing and reporting complex performance data; translate into layman's language some of the "techno-speak" that creates barriers between authorizers and data-management vendors; and provide criteria for selecting firms in this booming but confusing marketplace.

Cindy Schumacher (Central Michigan University), **Brian Bennett** (San Diego (CA) Unified School District), **Richard Wenning** (Colorado League of Charter Schools)

Working Successfully with Educational Service Providers

Aventine F

The charter school movement has fostered a robust variety of educational service providers (ESPs) that help build the capacities and success of charter schools at scale. This session will consider how authorizers can promote successful partnerships between charter schools and a range of educational service providers. Participants will discuss common questions and practical scenarios that authorizers encounter in overseeing these contracts. The session will also present a variety of resources and tools that can help build solid, lasting relationships between charter schools and ESPs.

Gene Eidelman (Mosaica), **Rebecca (Holmes) Cass** (Massachusetts Department of Education), **Angelete Melhado** (Consultant), **Len Wolfe** (Dykema Gossett PLLC)

Getting What You Pay For: Rethinking Authorizer Funding Mechanisms **Delphi AB**

Running a high-quality authorizing system costs money. Where should the money come from to pay for the work of authorizers? And how much is enough? Should the answer vary according to the roles authorizers take on, the number, size, and age of schools they charter, and other factors? Though this session won't promise any easy answers, it will give authorizers and others the chance to hash through the issues surrounding these tough questions. Participants will discuss the pros and cons of a whole range of options, from per-pupil formulas to state and federal line items. And they will brainstorm about how the community of authorizers can go about ensuring that funding for authorizing work is adequate.

Bryan Hassel (Public Impact), **James Merriman** (Charter Schools Institute, SUNY), **Bob Wedl** (Charter School Sponsors Project, MN)

No Child Left Behind: How It Is Playing Out for Charter Schools and Authorizers

Palatine AB

All public schools are subject to the "Adequate Yearly Progress" and other accountability provisions of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), though non-regulatory Department of Education guidance encourages states to "respect the unique nature of charter schools." What is the reality of how NCLB is being implemented? Through a participatory, case-study approach, this session will examine some of the resources being developed by authorizers to help schools comply with NCLB and discuss how authorizers and charter school operators are navigating this new terrain.

Josephine Baker (DC Public Charter School Board), **Joe Keeney** (Edison Schools), **Laurie Gardner** (Charter Schools Development Center), **Paul Herdman** (New American Schools), **Kimberly Wells** (Central Michigan University)

3:50 pm – 4:30 pm

MINI-SESSION No. 4

Portofino AB

New American Schools: Authorizers, the Leading Edge of Systemic Reform?

In New Jersey, California, and elsewhere, New American Schools is helping to build "break-the-mold" delivery systems for 21st century public education. Authorizers are breaking new ground in governance of public-school portfolios. Come join this dialogue on how chartering can bring about widespread system change.

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

NACSA RECEPTION

Pavilion

Sponsored by White Hat Management

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003

7:30 am – 4:00 pm

EXHIBITS OPEN ALL DAY **Pavilion**

7:30 am – 8:45 am

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST **Pavilion**

7:45 am – 8:30 am

NACSA ANNUAL MEETING **Aventine ABCG**
Board Nominations & Elections

8:45 am – 9:25 am

MINI-SESSION No. 5 **Portofino AB**

**Central Michigan University
Charter Schools Office**

The gold standard authorizer of charter school oversight, Central Michigan University will be presenting their internet-based application—Authorizer’s Oversight Information System (AOIS). Researched and developed by CMU, AOIS is a compliance tracking and document management application containing an active database storage system that generates timely, accurate reports to assist in efficient and effective oversight.

8:45 am – 10:15 am

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – C

Charter School Opportunities and Responsibilities Under the NCLB **Aventine D**

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act contains numerous opportunities and responsibilities that apply to charter schools as well as conventional public schools. The non-regulatory guidance issued earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) upholds the charter authorizer as the entity responsible for holding charter schools accountable for Title I and related provisions. ED officials will provide updates on NCLB implementation and engage participants in a discussion of key provisions and highlight important funding opportunities for charter schools such as those available to supplemental services providers. Come share your observations, questions and comments on NCLB implementation in the charter school context.

Mike Petrilli and **Dean Kern** (U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement)

Charter Schools Serving English Language Learners: The Authorizer’s Role **Aventine E**

Like any public school, charter schools must ensure that English language learners (ELLs) receive an appropriate education. There are rigorous

requirements but also significant flexibility for charter schools in how to meet those requirements. This interactive workshop will inform charter authorizers of federal requirements as they relate to ELLs and their implications for a school’s academic program. The facilitators will present a brief overview of the language acquisition process and program models to give participants appropriate context. Participants will then have the opportunity to rate mock charter application plans for services to ELLs using model criteria. Participants will receive a sample monitoring instrument for operational schools and a list of relevant resources.

Josephine Baker (DC Public Charter School Board), **Ariana Quinones** (National Council of La Raza), **Jacqueline Vialpando** (National Council of La Raza)

Cyber and Non-Classroom-Based Charter Schools **Aventine F**

What is a non-classroom-based charter school? Why are “cyber charters,” though currently few in number, drawing so much attention and publicity? In this session participants will learn about and discuss cyber and non-classroom-based charter schools as they currently exist or may develop in various states. Discussion topics may include non-classroom-based educational programs, particular challenges that such schools may face or present, variations in existing state policy, and legislative trends or responses in this area.

Barbara Dreyer (Connections Academy), **Eric Premack** (Charter Schools Development Center), **Terry Ryan** (Thomas B. Fordham Foundation), **Charles Zogby** (K12)

Renewal Decisionmaking Simulation **Delphi AB**

As an increasing number of charter schools come up for renewal, more and more authorizers will need to wrestle with the challenge of making the difficult decision of whether a school has met the terms of its charter. This simulation is a completely interactive case study of a charter school coming up for renewal in the age of No Child Left Behind. Participants will gain an understanding of what data and processes need to be in place in order to make this high stakes decision.

Paul Herdman (New American Schools)

Mission Accomplished? Practical Strategies for Developing Performance Agreements with Measurable Objectives **Palatine AB**

This interactive, workshop-oriented session will help authorizers develop ways to (1) assess the quality and usefulness of measures proposed or being used by schools, and (2) guide schools in crafting clear, valid and reliable performance measures for diverse

educational goals. Key questions on performance contracting highlighted in NACSA's *Critical Design Issues for Charter School Authorizers* will frame the discussion and session activities. The majority of the session will focus on working through practical measure-refinement exercises and scenarios in small groups, using examples from real school accountability plans and progress reports. Special issues to be discussed include: measuring growth in student learning; creating mission-based measures beyond standardized testing; aligning school goals with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act; and ways to address the question of "How good is good enough?" Participants should emerge from the session with practical strategies and tools for guiding schools in creating high-quality, multidimensional measures that are essential for both internal and external accountability.

Margaret Lin (Consultant), **Tamara Lumpkin** (DC Public Charter School Board), **Ron Miller** (Charter Schools Institute, SUNY)

9:35 am – 10:15 am

MINI-SESSION No. 6 **Portofino AB**

Edison Schools

Please join members of Edison's Charter School team for a demonstration of the robust benchmark system driving high student achievement with more than 35 charter school partners. We'll also share an update on new developments with Edison, as the nation's leading public school partner plans to take the company private.

10:15 am – 10:30 am

BREAK **Pavilion**

10:30 am – 11:10 am

MINI-SESSION No. 7 **Portofino AB**

Mosaica Education

Charter school laws require that Boards contracting with Educational Service Providers remain independent and accountable to chartering authorities. How do charter school Boards and ESPs "strike the balance" to ensure that Boards remain independent and accountable, while providing the ESP with the resources and flexibility to meet performance goals?

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – D

**From Still Frame to Motion
Pictures: Gains Scores and
Value-Added Assessment**

Aventine D

The new "Adequate Yearly Progress" requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act signal the increasing

importance of standardized testing in public school accountability. But how do authorizers use and report these scores for the schools they oversee? Most school systems report annual "snapshots" of standardized test results – despite the fact that a given school or grade may include a different group of students from one year to the next. How can reports provide more useful guidance for charter schools that are new or small or still adding grades each year? This session will provide practical guidance on how to analyze, report and use standardized test scores. It will also introduce more accurate ways of using and reporting test results, including "value-added" strategies that provide finely-honed conclusions about school performance built on student-level data.

Harold Doran (New American Schools),
David Harris (Mayor's Office of Indianapolis, IN)

**Ongoing Oversight, Evaluation
& Intervention**

Aventine E

Charter school authorizers make a commitment when they approve a charter application and sign a charter school performance agreement. They make a public commitment to ensure that the school is meeting the terms of the agreement. Do they also make a commitment to the school to conduct and communicate their ongoing assessment of how the school is doing and to give the school an opportunity to adjust as needed? Experienced authorizers recognize the impact that ongoing oversight, evaluation and intervention can have on the ultimate success or failure of charter schools. This session gives participants an opportunity to consider varying oversight philosophies and approaches, discuss actual or hypothetical oversight scenarios, and develop problem-solving strategies related to ongoing oversight and evaluation.

Michael Stevens (Charter Schools Institute, SUNY),
Dave Taylor (Twin Ridges Elementary School District), **Mark Weinberg** (Central Michigan University)

**Embracing Reform from Within:
Opportunities and Challenges for
District and County Authorizers**

Aventine F

Local education agencies have traditionally acted as reluctant, if not recalcitrant, authorizers. Yet the school district and county view of chartering is changing in many places. A number of LEAs are beginning to view chartering as an essential component of an overall school improvement strategy. Furthermore, non-district authorizers (e.g. state universities, non-profit organizations) can support and collaborate on district-initiated reform strategies that include chartering. This session will provide participants a chance to learn about and discuss such efforts along with challenges to effecting charter school reform through the traditional system.

Vicki Barber (El Dorado County (CA) Office of Education), **Thelma Crivens** (Memphis City Schools),

Libia Gil (New American Schools), **Jonathan Gyurko** (New York City Department of Education)

Stepping Up Within the States: Authorizer Networks and State-Specific Best Practices **Delphi AB**

State departments and boards of education play a variety of roles in chartering. Some are the primary authorizers in their states, others can authorize on appeal or in limited circumstances, and many have no formal chartering role. Regardless of the statutory responsibility, how do state boards and departments affect the climate and attitude towards chartering in their states? This session will give participants a chance to learn about and discuss the array of roles that state boards and agencies can and do play in the charter movement—both as a matter of law and policy, formally and informally. The discussion will emphasize methods that state agencies use to meet the expectations set by state officials, other state authorizers, and charter school operators.

Carolyn Finch (Polk County (FL) Public Schools), **Jim Goenner** (Central Michigan University), **Jennifer Rippner** (The Accountability Center at Florida State University), **John Rothwell** (Ohio Charter Schools Sponsor Institute), **Justin Testerman** (Volunteers of America, MN), **Bob Wedl** (Charter School Sponsors Project, MN)

State Agency Roles in Chartering **Palatine AB**

A growing number of states have multiple active authorizers yet, like the schools they charter, often find themselves working in isolation. They have found a strong national resource in NACSA, but they also can benefit from state-specific support and guidance. NACSA members are participating in several important efforts to develop state-specific networks and/or models for effective practices. Learn about three such efforts—in Florida, Michigan, and Minnesota – with varying goals and stages of development. Discuss strategies, benefits, and challenges to pursuing such projects and see practical resources that they are already producing.

Randy DeHoff (Colorado Board of Education), **Dean Kern** (U.S. Department of Education), **Mark Linabury** (Connecticut Department of Education), **Otho Tucker** (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction)

11:20 am - 12:00 pm

MINI-SESSION No. 8 **Portofino AB**

The U.S. General Accounting Office is planning a self-initiated study of charter school accountability and flexibility. Representatives of charter school state agencies and authorizers are invited to meet with the GAO study team to comment on potential topics and questions for the study's data collection instruments.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

LUNCHEON PLENARY **Aventine ABCG**

What Are Authorizers Doing . . . and What Should They Be Doing, Anyway?

Susan Miller Barker, Executive Vice President, Charter Schools Institute, State University of New York

Lisa Graham Keegan (Moderator), CEO, Education Leaders Council

Dr. Louann Bierlein Palmer, Assistant Professor, Western Michigan University

Dr. Carlo Rodriguez, Administrator, Division of School Choice, Miami-Dade (FL) Public Schools

1:30 pm – 1:45 pm

BREAK **Pavilion**

1:45 pm – 2:25 pm

MINI-SESSION No. 9 **Portofino AB**

U.S. Department of Education's State Charter School Per-Pupil Facilities Aid Program

This session will be a focus group that will look at how best to implement the State Charter School Per-Pupil Facilities Aid Program. The session will also include an overview of the program, which is likely to be funded for the first time this year. The program is intended to encourage States to develop and expand per-pupil facilities aid programs and to share in the costs associated with charter schools facilities funding. The program was created under section 5205(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – E

Getting Smarter About Charter-Related Research **Aventine D**

Charter authorizers are increasingly both subjects and consumers of research on charter schools. Many evaluations of charter schools conducted by both public and private entities have drawn strong public attention. In addition, charter school *authorizing* is increasingly becoming a subject of research and evaluation. Yet much research concerning charter schools tends to raise as many questions as answers. This session will help participants become more knowledgeable and critical consumers of research on charter schools and authorizers. With expert guidance, you can discuss existing research including how research design and methodology influence outcomes, how respected researchers can derive contradictory conclusions from even the same set of data, and what distinguishes well-designed studies from poorly constructed ones. In addition, consider what else

authorizers and other education advocates should seek to learn.

Susan Miller Barker (Charter Schools Institute, SUNY), **Louann Bierlein Palmer** (Western Michigan University), **Kathleen Boyle Dalen** (The Learning Exchange), **Robin Lake** (Center for Reinventing Public Education)

Measuring Success: Charter Renewal, Revocation, and Closure Policies & Practices **Aventine E**

In this session, participants will have the chance to delve into real-world solutions to the vexing challenges authorizers face related to renewal, revocation, and school closure. What kind of evidence do you need to make a sound renewal or revocation decision? How good is good enough for renewal? How much should an authorizer get involved when a school is struggling? And if you have to close a school, how can you do so in way that's responsible and defensible? After brief presentations from some experienced authorizers, the session will take up several "mini-scenarios" that describe tough situations in which authorizers find themselves. Participants will hash through possible responses to these scenarios as a group. They will also receive handouts with information about how authorizers nationwide have approached these challenges.

Mick Founts (San Joaquin County (CA) Office of Education), **Bryan Hassel** (Public Impact), **Rochelle Hendricks** (New Jersey Department of Education), **Kristin McIntosh** (Massachusetts Department of Education)

Working with Charter School Lenders **Aventine F**

One of the greatest barriers to charter school start-up is funding. How can charter operators engage in extensive start-up planning and find a suitable facility if they do not receive pre-operating funding? A broad array of private lenders is helping to answer this question. Yet authorizers often do not recognize the critical role *they* can and do play in determining whether or not a school they oversee will receive private funding. This session will introduce participants to different types of charter lenders and loans, and will provide a forum for discussing how authorizer practices and policies can assist and influence charter school lender decisionmaking.

Mark Van Brunt (National Council of La Raza), **Marc Hunt** (Self-Help), **Mark Medema** (KIPP), **Tom Nida** (EagleBank), **Peter Svahn** (Charter FS Corp.), **Otho Tucker** (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction)

Authorizer as Catalyst for Innovation: Helping to Identify & Satisfy Community Needs **Delphi AB**

Authorizers have tremendous opportunity to shape the development of charter schools in their communities. What kinds of needs are authorizers identifying? How

are they encouraging charter developers to meet those needs? Participants will have an opportunity to learn about and discuss a range of authorizer-identified needs—from small high schools to early literacy programs—and practical strategies for helping to meet those needs, such as issuing an RFP. Participants will also discuss how the authorizing context—such as the number and types of authorizers—may affect the degree to which a targeted approach is appropriate. The purpose of this session is to encourage authorizers to think creatively and actively about how chartering can strengthen public education in their communities.

Jonathan Gyurko (New York City Department of Education), **Justin Testerman** (Volunteers of America, MN), **Liane Zimny** (Oakland (CA) Unified School District)

Encouraging and Overseeing Charter School Governance & Leadership **Palatine AB**

A charter school cannot be a viable, sustainable organization without effective governance. At the end of the day, governance issues often determine how successful a charter school is. More and more authorizers are focusing extensively on governance matters when making chartering decisions and in their evaluations of the schools. This session will explore the different approaches authorizers use to assess a charter applicant's governance capabilities and the methods authorizers use to evaluate operating schools' governance practices. Topics addressed will include required policies (e.g., through the charter), assessment tools, and how (or whether) authorizers can assist schools in the areas of governance and leadership. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss practical challenges that they or others have faced in this area.

Monique Burns (New Leaders for New Schools), **Jim Goenner** (Central Michigan University), **David Harris** (Mayor's Office of Indianapolis, IN), **Tamara Lumpkin** (DC Public Charter School Board)

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm

BREAK **Plaza Courtyard**
Join us for a special send-off.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

NACSA MEMBERSHIP FORUM **Portofino AB**
 Open Discussion of Professional Issues & Concerns

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
*Mark your calendars and plan to join us on **October 25-26, 2004** at the Wyndham Philadelphia at Franklin Plaza.*
More details to follow.