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**Happy New Year!**

We are looking forward to working with you to ensure quality authorizing in California and across the nation.

We have produced some important baseline data about the needs of authorizers in California and are quickly moving ahead with a range of activities that have great promise to improve the quality of charter school authorizing and oversight in California.

As a National Dissemination Grant recipient from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation, California Charter Authorizing Professionals (CCAP), Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers (CACSA), and Florida

Association of Charter School Authorizers (FACSA) have partnered to create the Tri-State Alliance for Improving District-Led Charter Authorizing.

*Our Mission...*

*To advance quality public education for all students by providing charter school authorizing professionals with the support, resources, and collective voice necessary to foster high-performing, fiscally sound, autonomous, and accountable charter schools.*

Here is an update on some of the progress that we are making:

**CCAP Website:** We have a new website with expanded functionality and resources. We are updating existing resources and will be adding new ones. The website is [www.calauthorizers.org](http://www.calauthorizers.org).

**Partnership with SSDA:** We are building partnerships with others, such as the Small School District Association (SSDA), as a leading example. We are co-sponsoring a series of workshops throughout California in January.

**Outreach:** We are continuing our outreach with the larger education community to build support and partnerships for our work in developing new oversight tools and professional development. Be on the lookout for opportunities to connect and engage professionally.

**New Legislation:** We have completed one legislative update focusing on SB 126, the provisions of which became effective January 1, 2020. We are working on additional updates that will continue the focus on providing the legislative changes in the context of what authorizers and charter schools need to do to better meet these new requirements effectively.

**Networking Opportunities:** Coming soon will be a calendar of networking opportunities to create model materials and toolkits to support quality authorizing.



January 1<sup>st</sup> is famous for resolutions, and this year many charter authorizers will be adding a commitment to figuring out how to address the many changes in California’s charter school law that will go into effect in 2020. Some are minor (what goes on the back of a student ID card) but others will have a profound effect on the charter school sector (new grounds for charter denial). But before the panic sets in, here are a couple of thoughts on how to manage this transition.

First, start your own reading with summaries of new law prepared with a focus on charter authorizing, such as those from attorneys who work in this field. For charter authorizing professionals, the politics behind the legislation is less helpful than specifics that let you know what you have to do to be ready. Second, many of the legal changes primarily impact the responsibilities of charter school boards and administrators. So, it makes sense to contact your charter school leaders and find out if they have taken steps to learn about the changes that affect them. Fitting a few questions like those below into a short email, phone call or meeting will reinforce the message that compliance is the school’s responsibility, while monitoring is yours:

How have you educated yourself on the changes in charter school law taking effect this year?

How do you plan to ensure that your governing board is aware of the impacts on the school?

Are there any issues that you believe will need clarification or interpretation from our district/county office to ensure your compliance with new laws?

The responses may give you a sense of where you should prioritize your oversight in the new year.



We have instituted online “office hours” for members as part of ongoing outreach and communication.

**Technology Demonstrations**

The Alliance will be hosting a series of webinars for authorizers to learn about technology tools that will help communicate efficiently and allow the tracking of charter school reporting, compliance, and performance. The webinars will present information on Epicenter, which is provided by the National Charter School Institute and Charter Tools. Both these online resources are used by authorizers to automate a variety of functions related to charter school authorizing.