

Authorizer Standards Standards and Practices

Definition and Terms

Administrative capacity

Financial capacity

Organizational capacity

To include governance and management structures

Standards and Practices for Authorizers of Multi-District Online Schools*

It is recommended that the following standards and practices provide the foundation for the Colorado Department of Education’s evaluation and certification of authorizers of multi-district online schools. It is also recommended that authorizers of multi-district online charter schools first align practice with the previously adopted NACSA standards, followed by these standards specific to multi-district online authorization.

Evaluation & Certification of Authorizers

Standards & Practices

Standards & Practices

Authorizer Commitment and Capacity

- 1) Ensure the district mission is inclusive of multi-district online schools
- 2) Demonstrate sufficient staffing and expertise
- 3) Transparent expenditures
- 4) Demonstrate commitment to ongoing authorizer quality improvement

School Application Process and Authorizer Decision Making

- 1) Ensure transparency
- 2) Establish rigorous performance standards aligned to the state accountability system
- 3) Implement rigorous decision making criteria and practices
- 4) Define a timeline for local application and oversight processes

Performance Contracting (*for charter schools or any school utilizing an educational service provider*)

- 1) Clearly identifies essential and material terms to be included in performance contracts
- 2) Defines performance standards aligned to state accreditation
- 3) Describes practices adopted by the authorizer to ensure alignment with national best practice recommendations for educational service provider contracts.

Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation

- 1) Outcomes-based annual review process.
- 2) Transparent compliance monitoring.
- 3) Transparent timelines

Review and Accountability

For authorizers who directly operate a multi-district online school, these standards refer to decisions or

Comment [MS1]: Suggested change: “to implement policies and plans included in the application”

actions the district would take as part of ongoing review and intervention.

For authorizers of charter or contract schools, or authorizers who contract with an educational service or management provider to manage one or more multi-district online schools, these standards guide actions and decisions related to: review, renewal, intervention, and revocation.

- 1) Transparent review procedures.
- 2) Outcomes-based review.
- 3) Consistent and clear report and recommendation making process
- 4) Rigorous decision making procedures

*Based largely on NACSA Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing

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