

Authorizer Standards Standards and Practices

Definition and Terms

Administrative Capacity: Need Definition

Authorizer: school district, BOCES, or CSI, Need Better Definition

Education Management Provider (EMP): Means a nonprofit, not-for-profit, or for-profit entity that contracts with a charter school to provide, manage, or oversee all or substantially all of the educational services provided by the charter school (SB 12-067)

Financial Capacity: Need Definition

Organizational Capacity: Need Definition, to include governance and management structures

Comment [MS1]: The definitions need help

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 to provide proper oversight (direct or indirect)
- 3) Demonstrate financial commitment to support and oversight duties.
- 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

Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation

- 1) Outcomes-based annual review process.
- 2) Transparent compliance monitoring.
- 3) Transparent timelines
- 4) Describes practices adopted by the authorizer to ensure alignment with national best practice recommendations for educational service provider contracts.

*Based largely on NACSA Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing