WHAT IS REALLY CHANGING IN FEDERAL CHARTER SCHOOL POLICY?
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TODAY

• CSP Grows Up: Growth AND Accountability

• Right Here, Right Now: Breaking Down the Dear Colleague Letter

• Take it Home

• Discussion and Questions
CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Growth and Accountability
HIGHLIGHTS FROM ED

• CSP programs support the planning and implementation of new high-quality charter schools and are all funded from the same budgetary line item.
  – SEA (84.282A),
  – Non-SEA (84.282B/C),
  – Replication and Expansion (84.282M)

• Since it’s inception, the CSP program has supported charter schools in 43 of the 44 states that have a charter school law.

• 36 states currently have active CSP support for charter schools in their state.

• Quality oversight of charter schools and the State’s role in ensuring that authorizers are providing this oversight is key to the success of the charter school sector.
WHAT DID I LEARN?

BE GOOD PARTNERS

AUTHORIZING MATTERS

QUALITY > QUANTITY

Forward Looking Integrated Plans for Quality Charter Schools
WHAT GOT ME THINKING?

• Who does what? Authorizer, SEA, charter school…?

• Did it balance other sector goals?

• What role could (or should) the state have in determining what is a “high quality school”?

• The sector reacts
“The CSP juggles competing and conflicting goals and constituencies, and it does so with the admittedly imprecise and awkward tools of federal grant making and authority.”

- Alex Medler, Education Post 10/13/15
DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER

September 28, 2015
RESPONSIBILITIES

Federal Government

- Administer funds to SEAs
  - Title I/II/III
  - IDEA
  - CSP (direct to charter school in some cases)
- Investigate/ensure compliance
- Program office/OIG

SEA

- Administer and Provide Oversight of Charter Schools who receive federal funds for:
  - Title I
  - Title III
  - IDEA
  - CSP (when applicable)
- Monitor authorizers’ performance and compliance to applicable laws

Charter School

- Demonstrate operational quality.
- Demonstrate academic quality.
- Demonstrate fidelity to charter contract.

Authorizer

- Operational oversight of charters (audits, conflict of interest reviews, EMO/CMO relationships)
- Academic Oversight of Charters (fidelity to charter agreement)
- Strong authorizing, renewal, and revocation practices.
Are federal funds being used:
1) At the right school?
2) For the right purpose?
3) Distributed in the right amount?

Charter School, SEA, and Authorizer each have responsibilities to answer this question.
WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- Explore resources available.
- Talk with your SEA, your CSO, your multi-site operators, other authorizers.
- Review your practices. Encourage your schools to do the same. If needed, make a plan.

Expect more of this oversight, not less.
Questions and Discussion