



On the Frontier: Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Authorizing

Peer Session Notes

Unique issues

- Governance
- Conversion
- Finance/fund balance/financial planning
- Measuring student achievement
- Native American education
- Maintaining stable student enrollment
- Messaging/educating rural communities about charter schools
- Community relations/politics
- Transportation/access to technology
- Attracting and maintaining talent
- Cost of oversight – cost benefit analysis

Value vs. performance of school

Finance/Governance

Look at admin ratio to analyze viability
Connecting through authorizer network
Offerings – PD; SPED services

Understand why not financially viable
Is it a *good* option?

Complexity of changing/growing populations

Stagnation
“Out-migration”

How can authorizers support small charters?

Collaboration with district – rural charter association
Useful to share technology
Creative financial solutions
Charter associations for rural charters – (AZ governor is developing an Arizona Native American Charter Support Association)

Rural and districts should be collaborating on policy issues.

How do authorizers create economies of scale?