C. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING IN YOUR STATE: KEY QUESTIONS AND VARIABLES

1. What is the legal status (e.g., own LEA, part of an existing LEA, or a hybrid) of charter schools for purposes of special education?
   • What is their “linkage” to a local district or LEA for purposes of accessing federal, state, and local funds and providing special education and related services?
   • If a charter school operates as part of an LEA, what is the LEA’s responsibility on special education, and what responsibility does the school have?
   • If the school operates as part of an LEA, how does the district quantify the value of the special education and related services it provides to the school?

2. How do charter schools in your state receive federal, state, and local funds?
   • Do they have access to the same federal, state, and local dollars as other public schools?
   • What formula does your state use to distribute IDEA Part B and C funds?
   • What formula does your state use to distribute and reimburse state dollars?
   • Does your state fund preschool, and if so, how do charter schools access these dollars?
   • Does your state have a means to subsidize the cost of educating students with extraordinary special education needs (e.g., risk pools, high-cost aid)?
   • How do you access Medicaid reimbursement for qualified special education services?
   • If your state has a formula to reimburse schools for extraordinary costs, how do charter schools access these funds?

3. How do charter schools in your state submit data regarding special education enrollment and service provision?
   • Who in a school is responsible for submitting data regarding special education enrollment and provision of services?
   • Does the school have a system to verify that data being reported is accurate (e.g., one staff member enters data and a second staff member verifies accuracy)?
   • Do district and state data reports accurately reflect the enrollment data specific to students with disabilities at the school?
   • If published reports regarding the school’s enrollment are not accurate, who do they contact to correct the data?