

OTHER RESOURCES

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools (NCSECS)

www.ncsecs.org

NCSECS focuses on proactively working with states, charter authorizers, special education and charter school advocates and other stakeholders to raise awareness, improve access, create dynamic learning opportunities and address barriers that may impede charter schools' enrolling and effectively educating students with disabilities. NCSECS actively reviews and comments on policy, writes papers, builds key partnerships linking the special education and charter school communities, and engages in targeted assistance in the charter sector in select regions.

National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA)

<http://www.qualitycharters.org>

The primary organization representing charter school authorizers nationally. NACSA has many tools and resources geared to assist authorizers with every aspect of their work, inform policy decisions, and help develop talent.

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS)

<http://www.publiccharters.org/>

NAPCS is the leading national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the public charter school movement and occupies a critical role: as a leader in federal education policy, as a major supporting force to improve state charter policy and advocacy, and as a prominent national voice in the policy and public discourse on public charter schools.

National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDE)

www.nasde.org

Organization working with state education agencies to emphasize establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships during the development and implementation of education policies and practices impacting students with disabilities. NASDE offers tools and resources to support state directors of special education by providing effective strategies to engage students, families, communities, professionals, and policymakers.

National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC)

<http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/>

The NCSRC is dedicated to helping charter schools reach their aspirations and furthering understanding of charter schools. To meet those goals, they offer a diverse selection of objective resources on every aspect of the charter school sector. These resources are compiled from trusted sources and also originally produced by the NCSRC.

Center for Reinventing Public Education (CRPE)

www.crpe.org

CRPE is a research and policy analysis center developing system-wide solutions for K-12 public education. They have robust research and publications on many issues impacting the charter sector, including several focusing on special education.

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

Department of the federal government responsible for promoting student achievement by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. ED offers detailed guidance related to charter schools and serving students with disabilities.

- **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Office of Special Education Programs (OSERS/OSEP)**
Department responsible for programs related to special education.
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>
- **Office of Innovation and Improvement**
Department responsible for programs related to charter schools.
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/index.html?src=oc>

State Departments of Special Education

State-specific agencies overseeing local education agencies (equivalent of school districts) and schools within the state.

Local Education Agencies (LEA)

The individual school districts within each state that oversee schools within their purview – charter schools are either their own LEA or part of a larger LEA, which has significant impact on operations and funding.

State school support organizations/charter school resource centers

Many states and charter schools receive support from state-based organizations that combine resources geared to assist schools within their state.

**Note: Individual authorizers should locate the appropriate state-specific resources available to them.*

EXAMPLES OF STRONG AUTHORIZERS FEATURED IN THIS TOOLKIT

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Charter Schools Section

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/default.html>

Denver Public Schools

<http://portfolio.dpsk12.org/our-schools/charter-schools/>

Washington, DC Public Charter School Board

<http://www.dcpcsb.org/>