



## **FLORIDA LEADERS IN AUTHORIZING (FLA) PROJECT**

### **2019-20 DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERS' FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose and focus of the Florida Leaders in Authorizing (FLA) Project is two-fold: 1) to continue to strengthen charter school authorizing in Florida, and 2) fortify the professional competencies and capacity of school districts thus supporting the approval of only high-quality charter schools to operate in Florida. The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will run a second competitive fellowship application process selecting two individuals who work in district chartering offices. The selected fellows will shadow and learn from the best authorizers throughout the United States with the goal to collect proficiencies and best practices that will be shared among their own district authorizing team and with other Florida charter school authorizers.

#### **Program Overview**

Through support from the federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will select and sponsor two individuals (FLA Fellows) with authorizing responsibilities in Florida's school district teams to participate in this project during the 2019-20 school year for at least 15 full working days. Each FLA Fellow will travel to four authorizers located in major metropolitan centers across the U.S. that have been recognized for their exemplary work in charter school authorizing. The FLA fellows may be expected to participate in meetings with or site visits to charter schools that will be facilitated by each of the authorizers they will visit. Those fellows who are selected will be expected to present the best practices they learn from this experience at the Florida Charter School Conference.

#### **FLA Fellowship Requirements**

To receive an FLA fellowship, each applicant will be required to:

1. Complete the **2019-20 DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL LEADERS' FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION**. The applicant should email their completed application to the Charter School Program Office at [yolanda.miranda-hill@fldoe.org](mailto:yolanda.miranda-hill@fldoe.org) no later than **July 31, 2019**. The application should not exceed 10 pages in 12-point font, double-spaced. The application must include the *Memo of Understanding* page and required signatures of the applicant and district superintendent. District signature will serve as evidence of your institution's support for the fellowship and commitment to the assignments and travel requirements.

2. Participate in a **1-hour phone call with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA)** to plan agendas for formal site visits to partnering authorizers in other states and to develop individualized goals.
3. Participate in **four (4) two-day visits** during the 2019-20 school year to successful authorizers in the U.S., including:
  - Washington D.C. Charter School Board
  - The State University of New York Charter School Institute (SUNY)
  - Massachusetts Department of Education
  - Denver Public Schools
4. Attend the **2019 NACSA** (National Association of Charter School Authorizers) **Conference** October 21-24, 2019 in St. Louis, MO. This includes a *Meet-and-Greet* session with the four partner authorizers.
5. Participate in a **mid-year debriefing with FACSA** (Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers).
6. Complete **eight separate reporting assignments** to track 1) initial individualized goals and anticipated outcomes, 2) project self-analysis of district authorizing office procedures, and 3) reflection of learned best practices and fellowship experience outcome.
7. Submit a final **Project Self-Analysis** that examines individual's role in their district's authorizing process and highlights a new process/technique the district authorizing leadership team may consider implementing to improve the current authorizing process. *The Final Project Self-Analysis is a focus of on the fellow's learned experience and the adaptations the fellow would like to initiate in their district as a result of participation in the FLA Project.*
8. Share the experience of the fellowship and present the best practices learned at the **2020 Florida Charter School Conference** that highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the FLA Fellowship program and provides salient recommendations to the Department's Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice on ways to improve charter school authorizing in Florida. This deliverable requires a PowerPoint presentation that is ADA-compliant.

### **Schedule Flexibility**

Once the FLA Fellows have been selected, NACSA and FDOE will collaborate and coordinate with both the FLA Fellows and the four partnering charter school authorizing agencies to tailor schedules and final agendas. The Department seeks to provide as much flexibility for FLA Fellows to plan their travel for the four site visits as is possible, while simultaneously trying to

ensure that the content presented is consistent with the FLA program and is most beneficial for the Fellows.

The Department will send each Fellow to each participating charter school authorizer during the 2019-20 school year. Each trip will last two days (not including travel time). The Department will reimburse travel and lodging expenses. The visits will be scheduled to make optimal use of activities hosted by each participating charter school authorizer, but the Department will consider the scheduling needs of each Fellow.

Ideally, each Fellow will shadow authorizers in Massachusetts, New York, D.C., and Denver to observe the following practices:

- Internal team reviews of charter school applications
- Capacity interviews of charter school applicants
- Routing monitoring of existing schools
- Meetings of the authorizing agency's board or commission.

### **Review and Notification**

The Department plans to review each application from prospective fellows under a rubric that assigns a rating to each question answered. The ratings will range from 1 to 4 as described below:

<b>RATING</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	response does not meet expectations
2	response approaches expectations
3	response meets expectations
4	response exceeds expectations

Each application will be assessed by a team of three reviewers external to the Department. The Department reserves the right to make final determinations.

**Applicants will be notified of their status no later than August 16, 2019.**

### **Technical Questions and Assistance**

Due to the competitive nature of this fellowship, the Department can answer only technical questions about the application. If you have technical questions, please contact Yolanda Miranda-Hill, Charter Schools Director at the Florida Department of Education, at (850) 245-9077, or at [yolanda.miranda-hill@fldoe.org](mailto:yolanda.miranda-hill@fldoe.org).