

Florida Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing

Florida Authorizer Bootcamp

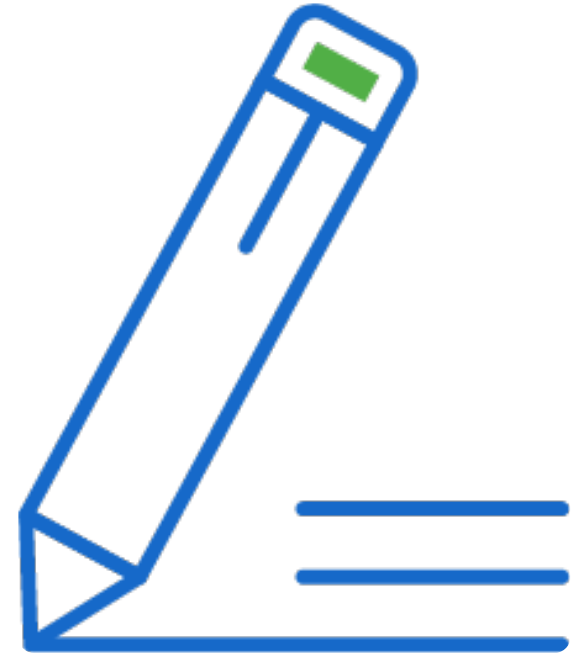
Agenda

- **Background and Purpose of Florida Principles and Standards**
- **Three Core Principles**
- **Standards for Charter School Authorizing**
- **Questions and Answers**



Objectives

- **Authorizers will understand the purpose of the Florida principles and standards for quality charter school authorizing.**
- **Authorizers will begin to understand how to implement the principles and standards for quality charter school authorizing.**



Terms and Acronyms

- **FACSA**
 - Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers
- **NACSA**
 - National Association of Charter School Authorizers



Background

NACSA Principles and Standards



Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing

- Developed in 2004
- Foundational resource that guides authorizing practices across the country
- A set of beliefs on charter school authorizing that identify core authorizer responsibilities



Purpose

NACSA Authorizing Standards



Blueprint for effective authorizing that helps charter sponsors balance diverse and competing interests, regardless of the policies and laws of a given state.

Florida Authorizing Standards

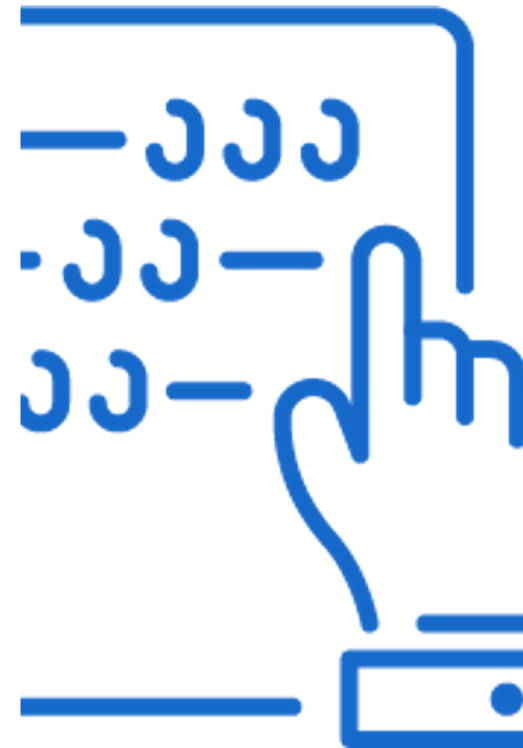
Developed in 2013 by school districts, charter schools, charter support organizations, and FDOE.

Reflects similar best practices to NACSA authorizing standards, while meeting Florida requirements and needs.



How to Use the Florida Principles and Standards

- Not a list, but intended to be a roadmap that can guide sponsors at all stages and levels of experience
- Designed to provide practical guidance to help local school boards and staff carry out work as a standards-based profession



Three Core Principles of Charter Authorizing

Principle 1: Maintain High Standards

F. S. 1002.33 (3)
F. S. 1002.33 (5)
F. S. 1002.33 (6)
F. S. 1002.33 (8)

A quality sponsor will:

- **Set high standards for approving charter applicants**
- **Maintain high standards for the schools it monitors**
- **Effectively cultivate and consider quality charter schools that meet identified educational needs in the community**
- **Monitor charter schools that meet the performance standards and targets, on a range of measures and metrics set forth in their charter contracts**
- **Close schools that fail to meet standards and targets set forth in law and by contract**

Principle 2: Uphold School Autonomy

F. S. 1002.33 (2b)
F. S. 1002.33 (5)
F. S. 1002.33 (20)

A quality sponsor will:

- Understand and preserve core autonomies crucial to school success including governing board independence, personnel, school vision and culture, instructional programming, design, use of time, and budgeting
- Assume responsibility, not for the success or failure of individual schools, but for holding schools accountable for their performance consistent with the terms of their charter contracts
- Minimize administrative and compliance burdens on schools
- Focus on holding schools accountable for measurable outcomes rather than processes

Principle 3: Protect Student and Public Interests

F. S. 1002.33 (2)
F. S. 1002.33 (5)
F. S. 1002.33 (17)

A quality sponsor will:

- **Make the well-being and interests of the students the fundamental value informing all the sponsor's actions and decisions**
- **Hold schools accountable for fulfilling fundamental public education obligations to all students**
- **Hold schools accountable for fulfilling fundamental obligations to the public**
- **Ensure in its own work there is a focus on ethical conduct, effective and efficient public stewardship, and support for parents and students in being well-informed in the educational quality of charter schools**



Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing

Standard 1: Sponsor Commitment and Capacity

F. S. 1002.33 (7)
F. S. 1002.33 (6)

- Engages in chartering to foster excellent schools that meet identified needs
- Clearly prioritizes a commitment to excellence in education and in authorizing practices
- Creates organizational structures and commits human and financial resources to conduct duties effectively
- Devotes appropriate financial resources to fulfill its responsibilities and use funds efficiently



Standard 2: Application Process & Decision Making

F. S. 1002.33 (1)
F. S. 1002.33 (3)
F. S. 1002.33 (6)
F. S. 1002.33 (7)

- Implements a comprehensive application process that includes clear application questions and guidance
- Follows fair, transparent procedures and rigorous criteria
- Upholds rigorous approval criteria
- Grants charters only to applicants who demonstrate strong capacity to establish and operate a quality charter school



Standard 3: Performance Contracting

- **Executes contracts that articulate the rights and responsibilities of each party regarding**
 - School autonomy
 - Funding
 - Administration and oversight
 - Measures for evaluation
 - Performance consequences
 - Other material terms
- **Provides additional contract provisions for education service or management contracts**



Standard 4: Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation

F. S. 1002.33 (7)
F. S. 1002.33 (8)
F. S. 1002.33 (21)
F. S. 1002.33 (23)

- **Conducts contract oversight that evaluates performance and monitors compliance**
- **Ensures schools' legally entitled autonomy is upheld**
- **Protects student rights**
- **Clearly communicates to schools regarding intervention, termination, and renewal decisions**
- **Provides annual public reports on school performance**



Standard 5: Termination and Renewal Decision Making

F. S. 1002.33 (7)
F. S. 1002.33 (8)

- Designs and implements a transparent and rigorous process that uses academic, financial, and operational performance data to make merit-based renewal/non-renewal decisions
- Terminates or non-renews charters when necessary to protect student and public interests





Case Studies

Scenario #1:

Mahati Tonk, Miami-Dade Public Schools



Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Giving our students the world



Scenario #2:

Valerie Hyer, School District of Manatee County



**Questions?
Reactions?
Ideas?**



BREAK