

# Charter Schools - 2015 Annual Report Form

## 7. AUTHORIZER EVALUATION

Please answer these questions to give your authorizer(s) input on how well they are doing in serving your school. Your participation will support the efforts of all Georgia's charter school authorizers to improve their authorizing policies, procedures, and practices as a way to strengthen chartering in Georgia.

**THANK YOU!**

The questions in this section are based on the Principles and Essential Practices of NACSA (National Association of Charter School Authorizers).

This section gives you a chance to share information regarding your relationship with your authorizer; your authorizer's application and decision making processes and procedures; their ongoing oversight and evaluation of your school including performance evaluation and compliance monitoring; their respect for your school's autonomy; their protection of student rights; their intervention policies and practices; and their revocation and renewal decision making including the role of merit and evidence, a cumulative report on your school's performance, and a fair, transparent process -- as well as closure procedures.

INSTRUCTIONS: If your school is locally-approved by your school district, answer the questions for both your local district and for the State. If you are a state charter school, answer the questions as they relate to your State authorizer.

Line #

709

### AUTHORIZER EVALUATION

710	AUTHORIZER RELATIONSHIPS	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
		Local District	State
		2013-14	
711	Does your authorizer fulfill the terms of your charter contract?	Yes	Yes
712	Do you have regular communications with your authorizer?	Yes	Yes
713	Do you have regular in-person meetings with your authorizer?	Yes	No
714	Do you and your authorizer share Best Practices with each other?	Yes	Yes

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### INITIAL APPLICATION PROCESS AND DECISION MAKING

716	Proposal Information, Questions, and Guidance	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
		Local District	State
		2013-14	
717	Does your authorizer...		

718	Issue a charter application information packet or request for proposals (RFP) that:		
719	States any chartering priorities the authorizer may have established?	Yes	Yes
720	Articulates comprehensive application questions to elicit the information needed for rigorous evaluation of applicants' plans and capacities?	Yes	Yes
721	Provides clear guidance and requirements regarding application content and format, while explaining evaluation criteria?	Yes	Yes
722	Encourage expansion and replication of charter schools that demonstrate success and capacity for growth?	Not Applicable	No
723	Express an openness to considering diverse educational philosophies and approaches?	Yes	Yes
724	Express a commitment to serve students with diverse needs?	Yes	Yes

725	<b>Fair, Transparent, Quality-Focused Procedures</b>	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
726	<b>Does your authorizer...</b>	<b>Local District</b>	<b>State</b>
		2013-14	
727	Implement a charter application process that is open, well publicized, and transparent, and is organized around clear, realistic timelines?	Yes	Yes
728	Allow sufficient time for each stage of the application and school pre-opening process to be carried out with quality and integrity?	Yes	Yes
729	Explain how each stage of the application process is conducted and evaluated?	Yes	Yes
730	Communicate chartering opportunities, processes, approval criteria, and decisions clearly to the public?	Yes	Yes

731	<b>ONGOING OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION</b>
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732	<b>Performance Evaluation and Compliance Monitoring</b>	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
733	<b>Does your authorizer...</b>	<b>Local District</b>	<b>State</b>
		2013-14	
734	Have a comprehensive performance accountability and compliance monitoring system that is defined by the charter contract and provides the information necessary to make rigorous and standards-based renewal, revocation, and intervention decisions?	Yes	Yes
735	Define and communicate to your school the process, methods, and timing of gathering and reporting school performance and compliance data?	Yes	Yes
736	Protect your school's legally entitled autonomy?	Yes	Yes

737	Minimize your school's administrative and reporting burdens?	Yes	Yes
738	Provide clear technical guidance to your school as needed to ensure timely compliance with applicable rules and regulations?	Yes	Yes
739	Visit your school as appropriate and necessary for collecting data that cannot be obtained otherwise and in accordance with the contract, while ensuring that the frequency, purposes, and methods of such visits respect school autonomy and avoid operational interference?	Yes	Yes
740	Evaluate your school annually on your performance and progress toward meeting the standards and targets stated in the charter contract, including essential compliance requirements, and clearly communicates evaluation results to your school's governing board and leadership?	Yes	Yes
741	Communicate regularly with your school as needed, including both your school leaders and governing board, and provide timely notice of contract violations or performance deficiencies?	Yes	Yes
742	Provide an annual written report to your school, summarizing your performance and compliance to date and identifying areas of strength and areas needing improvement?	Yes	No
743	Articulate and enforce stated consequences for failing to meet performance expectations or compliance requirements?	Yes	Yes

744	<b>Respecting School Autonomy</b>	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
745	Does your authorizer...	Local District	State
		2013-14	
746	Respect your school's authority over your day-to-day operations?	Yes	Yes
747	Refrain from directing or participating in educational decisions or choices that are appropriately within your school's purview under the charter law or contract?	Yes	Yes

748	<b>Protecting Student Rights</b>	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
749	Does your authorizer...	Local District	State
		2013-14	
750	Ensure that your school admits students through a random selection process that is open to all students, is publicly verifiable, and does not establish undue barriers to application (such as mandatory information meetings, mandated volunteer service, or parent contracts) that exclude students based on socioeconomic, family, or language background, prior academic performance, special education status, or parental involvement?	Yes	Yes

751	Ensure that your school provides access and services to students with disabilities as required by applicable federal and state law, including compliance with student individualized education programs and Section 504 plans, facilities access, and educational opportunities?	Yes	Yes
752	Ensure clarity in the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in serving students with disabilities?	Yes	Yes
753	Ensure that your school provides access to and appropriately serves other special populations of students, including English learners, homeless students, and gifted students, as required by federal and state law?	Yes	Yes
754	Ensure that your school's student discipline policies and actions are legal and fair, and that no student is expelled or counseled out of your school outside of that process?	Yes	Yes

755	<b>Intervention</b>	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
756	Does your authorizer...	Local District	State
		2013-14	
757	Establish and make known to your school at the outset an intervention policy that states the general conditions that may trigger intervention and the types of actions and consequences that may ensue?	Yes	Yes
758	Give your school clear, adequate, evidence-based, and timely notice of contract violations or performance deficiencies?	Yes	Yes
759	Allow your school reasonable time and opportunity for remediation in non-emergency situations?	Yes	Yes
760	Where intervention is needed, engage in intervention strategies that clearly preserve school autonomy and responsibility (identifying what your school must remedy without prescribing solutions)?	Yes	Yes

761	<b>REVOCATION AND RENEWAL DECISION MAKING</b>
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762	<b>Renewal Decisions Based on Merit and Inclusive Evidence</b>	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
763	Does your authorizer...	Local District	State
		2013-14	
764	Base the renewal process and renewal decisions on thorough analyses of a comprehensive body of objective evidence defined by the performance framework in the charter contract?	Yes	Yes

765	<b>Cumulative Report and Renewal Application</b>	Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable	
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766	<b>Does your authorizer...</b>	<b>Local District</b>	<b>State</b>
		<b>2013-14</b>	
767	Provide to your school, in advance of the renewal decision, a cumulative performance report that: - Summarizes your school's performance record over the charter term, and - States the authorizer's summative findings concerning your school's performance and its prospects for renewal?	Yes	No
768	Provide your school a meaningful opportunity and reasonable time within the renewal process to respond to the cumulative report; to correct the record, if needed; and to present additional evidence regarding your performance?	Yes	Yes

769	<b>Fair, Transparent Process</b>	<b>Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable</b>	
770	<b>Does your authorizer...</b>	<b>Local District</b>	<b>State</b>
		<b>2013-14</b>	
771	Clearly communicate to your schools the criteria for charter revocation, renewal, and non-renewal decisions that are consistent with the charter contract?	Yes	Yes
772	Regularly update and publish the process for renewal decision making, including guidance regarding required content and format for renewal applications?	Yes	Yes

773	<b>Closure</b>	<b>Enter Yes, No, or Not Applicable</b>	
774	<b>Does your authorizer...</b>	<b>Local District</b>	<b>State</b>
		<b>2013-14</b>	
775	In the event of a school closure, oversee and work with your school governing board and leadership in carrying out a detailed closure protocol that ensures timely notification to parents; orderly transition of students and student records to new schools; and disposition of school funds, property, and assets in accordance with law?	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

776	<b>You have reached the end of Tab 7: Authorizer</b>
777	<b>You have therefore finished the six required tabs (Tabs 2-7) in this Charter</b>
778	<b>Please proceed to Tab 9: EMOs-CMOs and answer the questions</b>