

National **Charter School** **Resource** Center

Welcome to the Webinar!

Increasing Collaboration at State Education Agencies: Providing Support for Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools

We will be starting soon.



ED.gov

The National Charter School Resource Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and administered by Learning Point Associates, an affiliate of American Institutes for Research, under contract number ED-04-CO-0109/0004.

LEARNING POINT Associates®
An Affiliate of American Institutes for Research

National **Charter School** **Resource** Center

Increasing Collaboration at State Education Agencies: Providing Support for Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools

August 24, 2011



ED.gov

The National Charter School Resource Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and administered by Learning Point Associates, an affiliate of American Institutes for Research, under contract number ED-04-CO-0109/0004.

LEARNING POINT Associates®
An Affiliate of American Institutes for Research

About the Resource Center

The **U.S. Department of Education** is committed to promoting effective practices, providing technical assistance, and disseminating the resources critical to ensuring the success of charter schools across the country. To that end, the Education Department, under a contract with Learning Point Associates, an affiliate of American Institutes for Research, has developed the **National Charter School Resource Center**.

*Increasing Collaboration at State
Education Agencies:
Providing Support for Students with
Disabilities in Charter Schools*

Facilitator:

Beth Giovannetti for Eileen M. Ahearn, NASDSE

Presenters:

Teri Pettit, MI SEA and CS Partners

Becky Martin, ID SEA

Overview of the Webinar

1. Introduction and Background : Laying the ground work with a review of charter school legal identity
2. Teri Pettit - The Michigan Model of State Special Education Support for Charter Schools
3. Becky Martin – The Idaho Model of State Special Education Support for Charter Schools
4. Overview of the role of SEA agencies on charter schools
5. Q&A

Legal Identity of a Charter School for Special Education

Legal Status:

- A charter school is either its own LEA or part of another LEA for special education purposes.
- LEA status and linkage shape the design and implementation of special education in a charter school.

Locus of Responsibility for Special Education:

- The SEA holds ultimate responsibility for special education in all schools of the state.
- The level of responsibility delegated to a charter school depends on its legal status.

Implications of Legal Status

- Charter schools that are an LEA:
 - Have full responsibility for implementing IDEA and state special education laws and regulations.
 - May hire their own staff or contract another LEA or an organization for special education services.
 - Will be monitored by the SEA in the same manner as any other LEA.
- Charter schools that are part of an LEA:
 - Must negotiate arrangements for service delivery in the charter school with their LEA.
 - Should detail all aspects of their relationship with their LEA in a contract or MOU, a step often overlooked.

SEA Role for Special Education in Charter Schools

- Charter laws rarely address this topic
- SEA special education office will relate very differently with charter schools based on their legal status.
- There will always be a policy tension between charter schools and special education.
- Each state's SEA Special Education office needs to develop a specific plan for supporting and overseeing special education in the state's charter schools.
- The remainder of this webinar provides information about two models for State support for charter schools.

State Snapshots and Terminology

- Idaho:
 - Charter law passed in 1998
 - 40 charter schools operated in 2010-11
 - Allows two types of charter school status – LEA and part of an LEA
 - Authorizers are LEAs or the Idaho Public Charter School Commission
 - Charter applications are called ‘petitions.’
- Michigan
 - Charter law passed in 1993
 - Charter schools are called public school academies
 - 241 charter schools operated in 2010-11
 - All PSAs are LEAs
 - Authorizers are local school districts, intermediate school districts, community college boards , and state public university boards.

The Michigan Model for SEA Special Education Support for Charter Schools

Teri Pettit

- Role and job description
- Four primary responsibilities under contract with the MI Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services (OSE-EIS):
 1. Technical assistant and liaison providing support by phone and email to over 240 PSAs. 27 authorizers, 27 management companies and other stakeholders such as parents, board members and service agencies.

The Michigan Model (cont'd)

2. Write and distribute a monthly newsletter, (*eNews for Charter Schools*) that includes 4 areas: *Did You Know?*; *Resources*; *You Need to Know*; and *Professional Development*. All past issues are available online.
3. Participate in OSE-EIS activities such as the Monitoring Advisory Team and the Data Advisory Committee and coordinate activities with the MI Association of Administrators of Special Education and the MI Association of Public School Academies.

The Michigan Model (cont'd)

4. Perform assignments, including work on monitoring issues and facilitation of collaboration between PSAs and their various stakeholders.

In summary, PSAs receive:

- Appropriate guidance on IDEA and state regulations for special education;
- Assistance in maintaining compliance with state and federal mandates;
- Monthly technical assistance through the newsletter; and
- A voice in the Department of Education.

The Michigan Model (cont'd)

This role was designed on the basis of a needs assessment showing gaps between charter schools and special education resources. It has become a valued long-term partnership between the Department of Education and the charter community. As the PSA Association President wrote recently:

“Teri’s position is a vital asset for the PSA program and the OSE-EIS. It needs to be expanded as choice in education grows throughout Michigan.”

The Idaho Model for SEA Special Education Support for Charter Schools

Becky Martin

- Role and Job Description
 - Originally hired to be Special Education Charter School Coordinator (see full job description)
 - Job was expanded and transferred to the Student Achievement and School Improvement Division
 - Three main aspects of the position now are:
 1. Collaboration with the Special Education Department
 2. Collaboration with Federal Programs
 3. Collaboration with the School Choice Coordinator

The Idaho Model (cont'd)

Special education component of the job:

- The main focus is to ensure that students with disabilities attending charter schools receive what they need and are entitled to under the law.
- During the petition process:
 - Sufficiency Review List
 - Special education verification checklist
 - Idaho Training Clearinghouse website

The Idaho Model (cont'd)

CS Home - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by State Department of Education

http://itcnew.idahotc.com/cs/cs-home.aspx

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Links Google sco.idaho.gov SDE Special Education Charter Schools Sups&AdminLists Pandora ITC ITCRegiConsult Merriam-Web Certifications Lookup Tool Yahoo! MSN.com

CS Home

Login Register

Monday, August 22, 2011

ITC Home Training Calendar Register for Trainings Resources Learning Communities Webinars Credit Offerings Contact ITC

CS » CS Home

Web Site

Charter Schools

CS ELC Navigation

- CS Home
- CS FAQ
- CS Documents
- CS Trainings
- CS Resource Links
- CS Contact Info

Welcome!

Student Achievement & School Improvement for Idaho's Charters

A resource for charters when working with at-risk students and special education students

The division of Student Achievement and School Improvement (SASI) of the Idaho State Department of Education is committed to providing support to Idaho's charter schools. This learning community is provided to be a "one stop shop" for all charters. It is our intent to provide Idaho's charters with the resources they may need while educating all students at all levels of instruction.

Contact SASI Charter School Coordinator: [Becky Martin](#)

What is a charter school?

Charter schools are free, public schools that are open to all students. A charter school gives parents the choice of sending their children to a school that uses innovative methods to provide a quality education.

[Search and find new 2011-20 opening charters](#)

ISDE Links

The Idaho Model (cont'd)

- Trainings and Conferences:
 - Participation
 - Training materials
 - Coordination with New Teacher Programs and State Mentoring Programs
- Continued Technical Assistance:
 - Phone and email support
 - Technical assistance related to Determination Levels
 - Quarterly newsletter

The Idaho Model (cont'd)

Collaboration with federal programs:

- Title programs and school improvement
 - Use relationships with charter schools and SEA staff to become a liaison for charters
 - Provide resources and information to help charters meet needs and obtain added funds
- The School Choice Coordinator
 - Work with the staff to provide information to the Commission and to authorizers
 - Deliver jointly planned technical assistance

The Idaho Model (cont'd)

Benefits:

- Savings are realized from sharing resources.
- Provides administrative support for special education that is seldom available within charter school staff.
- Helps charter schools avoid the errors that involve them in the consequences of non-compliance such as complaints and due process hearings.
- Keeps charter schools connected to the rest of the public education system in the state.

The Idaho Model (cont'd)

Lessons Learned:

- Educating authorizers is a critical first step to having a successful charter school.
- Educating founders of a charter before they develop their petition is very valuable to the entire process.
- Founders need to view the State Department of Education as a source of help and not an enemy.
- Technical assistance helps applicants and authorizers avoid the errors often passed on from poorly informed colleagues.
- Helping charter school requires creativity—thinking of solutions beyond the traditional.

Responsibilities of SEA

Responsibilities of SEA Offices:

a) Special Education Office

- Communicate regularly with the State Charter School Director.
- Participate in review of charter applications for LEA charters and monitor them the same as other LEAs.
- Check on special education in charter schools that are part of an LEA when that LEA is monitored.
- Add all charter schools in state to the special education mailing list
- Consider charter school needs when planning TA and PD.
- Appoint a lead person on charter schools in the special education agency and notify all charter schools of this resource.

Responsibilities of SEA (cont'd)

b) Charter Schools Office:

- Communicate regularly with the State Director of Special Education and collaborate on oversight responsibilities related to special education.
- Prepare resources on special education for charter authorizers.
- Become (or appoint) a lead contact person on special education in the charter office.
- Notify all charter schools of the available resources for support and assistance on special education.

Questions?



Raise your hand or enter your question in the chat box
on the left side of your screen.

Thank you for participating.

- We look forward to your participation in future webinars hosted by the National Charter School Resource Center.
- This webinar will be archived at the following website:
<http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/webinars/>
- Please share your feedback with us through the evaluation.

National **Charter School** **Resource** Center

National Charter School Resource Center

1000 Thomas Jefferson Street NW

Washington, DC 20007-3835

Phone: 877-277-2744 or 202-403-6222

Website: www.charterschoolcenter.org

E-mail: charterschoolcenter@air.org



ED.gov

The National Charter School Resource Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and administered by Learning Point Associates, an affiliate of American Institutes for Research, under contract number ED-04-CO-0109/0004.

LEARNING POINT Associates®
An Affiliate of American Institutes for Research