



NATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOL
RESOURCE CENTER

Indicators of Distress

And What They Mean in the Charter Sector

Virtual I WebEx

September 30, 2020

charterschoolcenter.ed.gov

Norms for Today's Call

- You are automatically muted on the call.
- Please ask questions via the chat throughout the presentation.
- Respond to post-session survey to help further guide this work.



About the NCSRC

The National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) provides technical assistance to federal grantees and resources supporting charter sector stakeholders. NCSRC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and managed by Manhattan Strategy Group (MSG) in partnership with WestEd.



On the Webinar Today



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Today's Big Question



How can we identify schools that are falling off-track and help get them back on-track?

Session Objectives

Learn

Learn from your peers about how they use the data they are already collecting to identify struggling schools prior to failure

Incorporate

Incorporate indicators of distress in your work with schools

Understand

Understand the potential role of an early warning system (EWS) approach to identify schools in distress *early in the school failure trajectory*

Agenda



Why indicators of distress help improve the quality of the education sector



What are indicators of distress



How are authorizers using indicators of distress





Why indicators of distress help improve the quality of the education sector

Early Warning Systems and Death Spiral

Early Warning Systems:

- Review past events in broad context to identify potential characteristics of distress
- Review past events in one's own context against characteristics
- Apply characteristics to current events in one's own context to predict potential future events

Death Spiral:

- Identify organizational decline
- Define the stages of decline to determine when and how intervention(s) needs to occur

Used together: Indicators can help identify schools in distress *and* determine type of intervention(s) necessary *prior to school failure and negative impact on students.*

Guiding Question



What types of indicators come to mind when thinking of schools in distress?



What are indicators of distress?

Indicators of Distress

Data signaling that a school's performance is declining in a number of areas.



Leadership

Governing Board

Operations

Finance

Talent

Culture

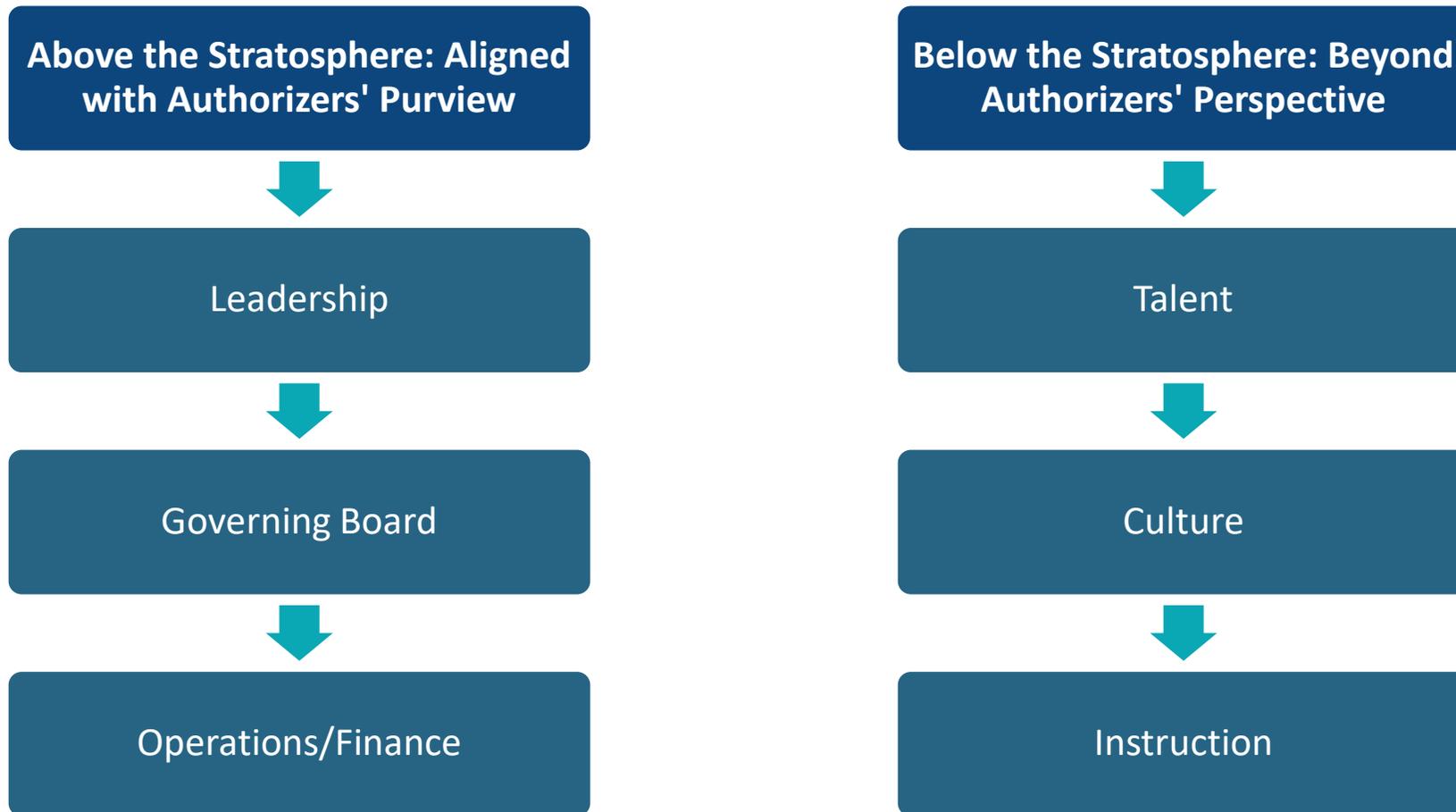
Instruction



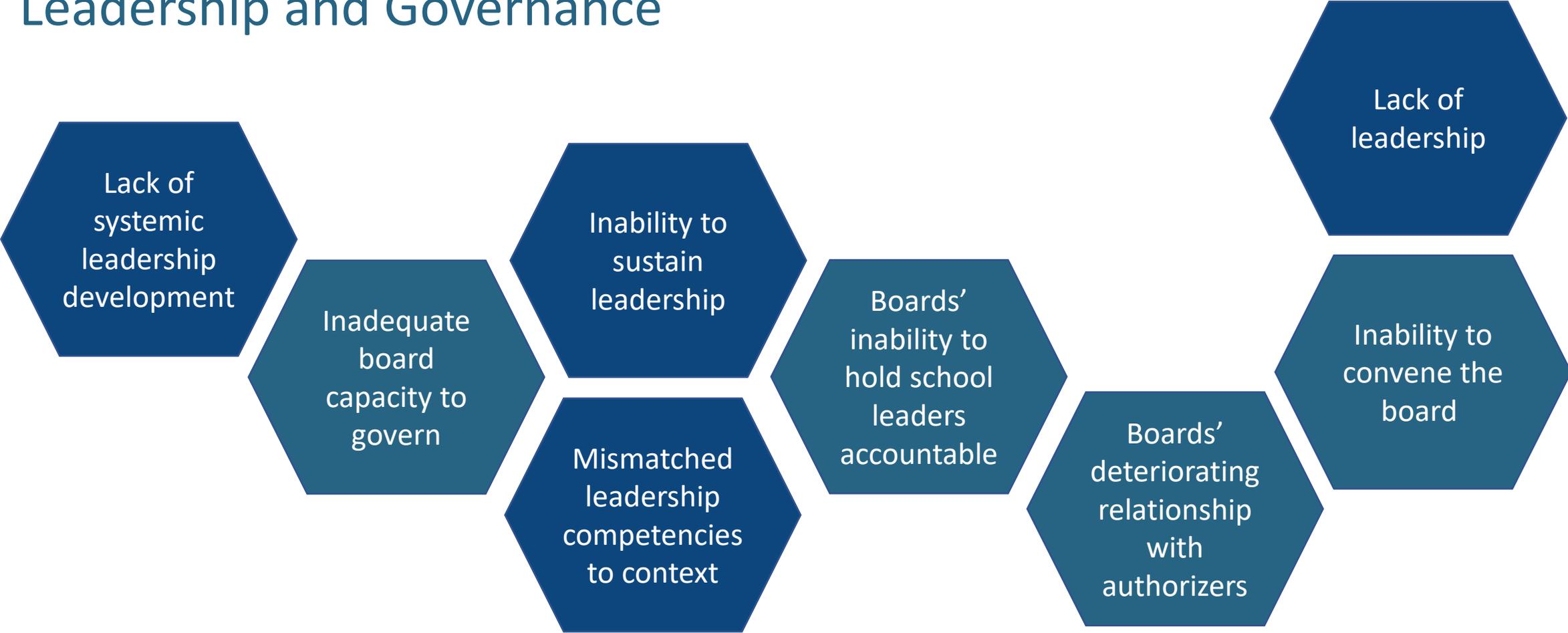
Finding: Authorizers tend to focus on indicators at the upper layer of the stratosphere of a school's functions.

Authorizers identify indicators of distress related to school leadership, school governing boards, and operational/financial elements, which may reflect additional areas of concern in areas of talent, culture, and instruction.

Stratosphere



Leadership and Governance



Operations

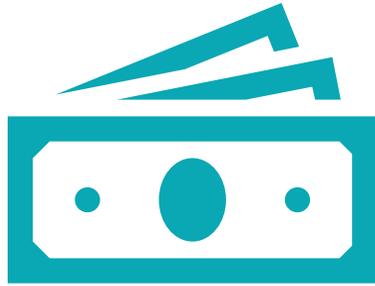


Breakdown in compliance and reporting functions



Failure to align to market needs

Finance



Failure to properly manage
finances



Misappropriation of funds

Indicators Below the Stratosphere



Talent

- Hiring challenges, turnover
- Teacher capacity decline



Culture

- Lack of connection with students, families
- Inhospitable professional culture



Instruction

- Lack of focus on instruction
- Cohesion/alignment issues in curriculum, standards, assessments



Finding: The context of authorizing has continued to evolve as the field matures, especially as it relates to school improvement.

Authorizers are weighing the implications of school improvement needs on their work in supporting school autonomy and accountability



How are authorizers using indicators of distress?

Panel Discussion



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Indiana, HEI, 24 Charter Schools



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEA, 3 Charter Schools

Guiding questions

1

What is the role of authorizers in relation to ensuring equitable access and outcomes for students?

2

How are you thinking about balancing autonomy and accountability when you decide on a first step?

3

What needs do you see in schools that are not being met?

Q&A



What's Next?



**Virtual workshop for CMOs and
Independent Charter Schools in late
October**

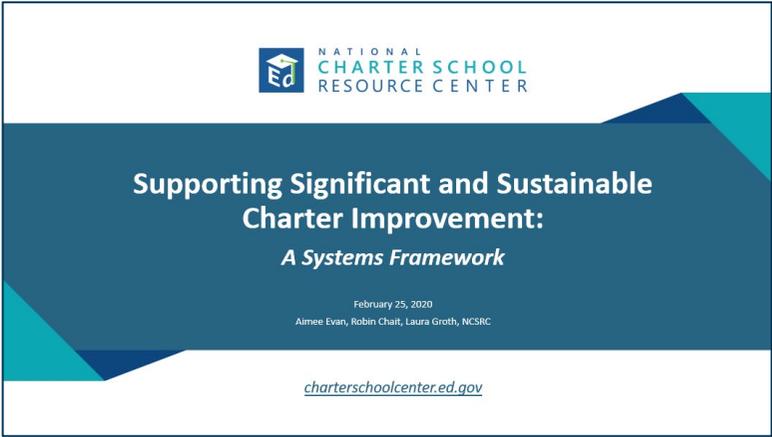
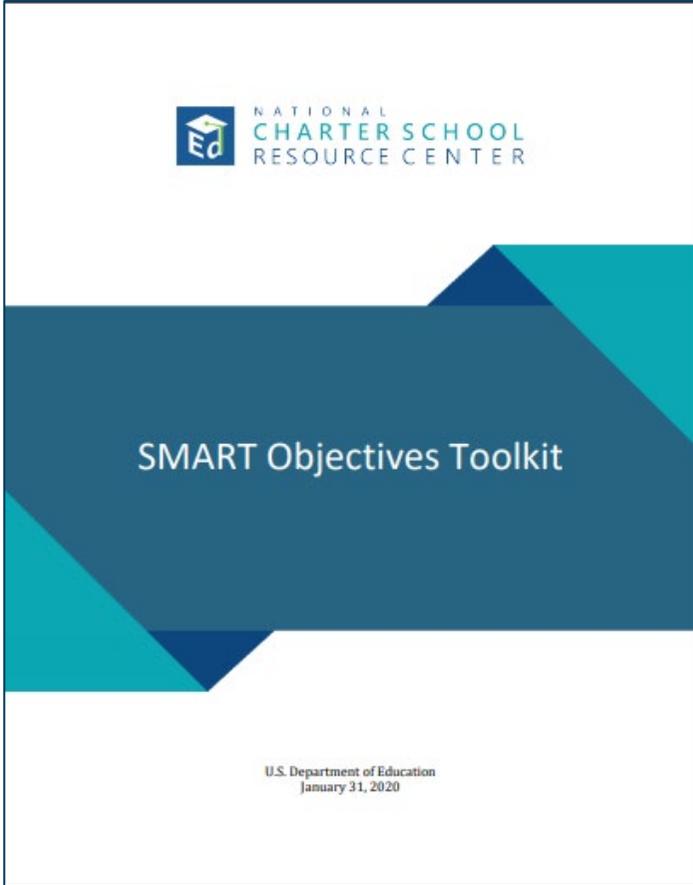
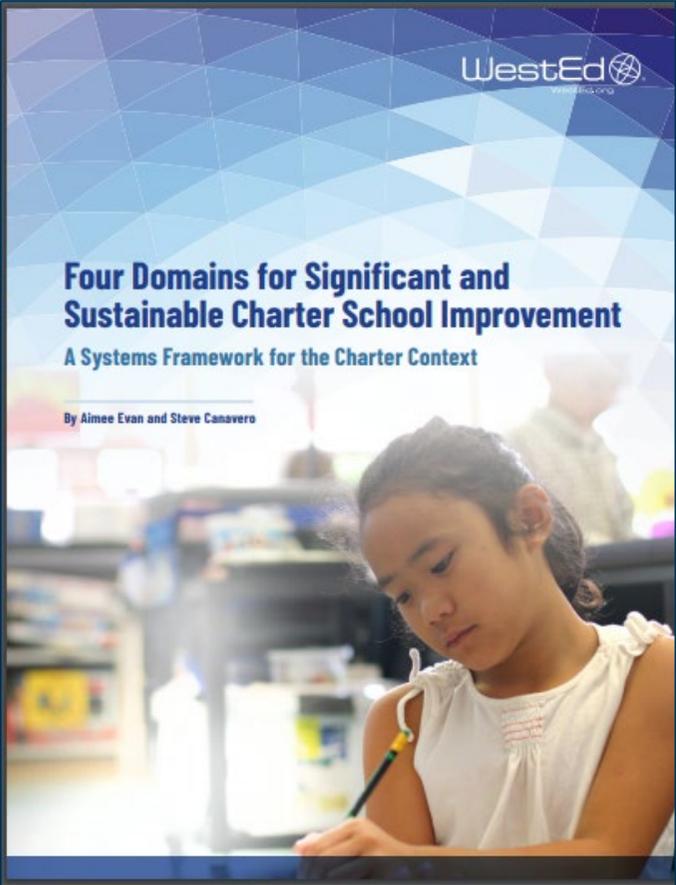


Additional Tools



Further Research

Resources to Assist with Sustaining High-Quality Charter Schools



Response requested, please!

Please respond to the survey to let us know how we did on this event.



Available on the NCSRC Website



Recorded Webinars



Toolkits, Resources, and
Reports



CSP Grantee Profiles and
Case Studies

Keep an Eye Out for Upcoming NCSRC Virtual Events & Resources

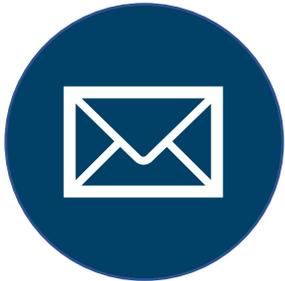
- Report: *A Synthesis of Research on Charter School Facilities*
- English Learners and Charter Schools: A Learning Experience Focused on EL Instruction
- Leading in the Unknown Self-Guided Master Class



How can you contact us?



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THANK
YOU!

