National Charter School Resource Center

at LEARNING POINT ASSOCIATES

National Charter School Resource Center: Inaugural Webinar

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Welcome to the inaugural webinar of the National Charter School Resource Center.

Protocols

• Please do not put your phone on hold.

• Please respond to the periodic polling questions. All responses are kept anonymous.

• All participants will be muted by the host; please direct technical questions to the host with your chat function.
Agenda

• Welcome and introductions
• Overview of the National Charter School Resource Center
• Next steps and survey
First polling question

Tell us where you now get answers to questions or technical assistance on charter school-related issues.

- The state's charter school organization (CSO)
- The federal Charter Schools Program office
- Other people in your state education agency (SEA)
- Charter school operators
- National groups, such as the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
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, has developed the National Charter School Resource Center.
About the National Charter School Resource Center

The National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) is funded by The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation and Improvement.

Learning Point Associates was awarded the contract on October 1, 2009.

The contract will run for five years.
About Learning Point Associates

Learning Point Associates is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping educators and policymakers improve student learning by equipping them with knowledge and strategies that meet their needs and produce results.

Website: www.learningpt.org
Partners

Learning Point Associates has the following partners:

- Editorial Projects in Education
- American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- Collaborative Communications
- SRI International
- Forum One
- Public Impact
A national center for charter schools is needed now because...
The public charter school movement continues to expand.

- More than 1.5 million students attend more than 4,900 public charter schools (2009–10).
- Since the 2007–08 school year, the charter school student population has grown 11% and the number of charter schools has grown 8%.
- Although there is strong demand in urban communities and 56% of students attend charter schools in large cities, a growing percentage of students are enrolled in charter schools in rural areas (14% compared with 11% five years ago).

Sources: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (2009a, 2009b)
The public charter school movement continues to expand (continued).

Â Today, a record 14 school districts have more than 20% of their public school students enrolled in public charter schools.

Â School districts with 30% of their public school students enrolled in public charter schools:
- New Orleans (57%)
- Washington, D.C. (36%)
- Detroit (32%)

Â Nationally, the average public charter school has been open 6.2 years.

Sources: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (2009a, 2009b)
The U.S. Department of Education is investing in public charter schools.

Estimated awards* by the federal Charter Schools Program (CSP) in FY 2010:

- $172,949,000 for new and continuation awards under 84.282A State Educational Agency and 84.282B&C Non-State Educational Agency programs
- $23,082,000 for continuation awards under 84.282D State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant and 84.354A Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities programs
- $50,000,000 for new awards under 84.282M Charter Management Organizations and Other Not-For-Profit Entities;
- $10,000,000 for national activities including approximately $3,500,000 for new awards under 84.282N, National Leadership Activities.

*These budget estimates are subject to change / Source: E. Pfeltz personal communication (January 19, 2010)
Expanding the reach of high-quality public charter schools is a strategy promoted by the U.S. Department of Education.

“So, I'm a big supporter of these successful charter schools and so is the president. That's why one of our top priorities is a $52 million increase in charter school funding in the 2010 budget. We also want to change the law and allow federally funded charters to replicate.

But the CREDO (Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University) report last week was a wake-up call, even if you dispute some of its conclusions. The charter movement is putting itself at risk by allowing too many second-rate and third-rate schools to exist. Your goal should be quality, not quantity.”

— Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education
(Remarks at the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Conference, June 22, 2009)
Second polling question

What do you most hope to gain through working with NCSRC?

• Increased understanding of policies and practices that promote high-quality charter schools
• Technical assistance in developing policies that help develop high-quality charter schools
• Greater interaction with charter school SEA peers
• More in-depth knowledge of research and best practices for monitoring charter schools
Our Mission

The National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) serves as a national center to provide on-demand resources, information, and technical assistance to support successful planning, authorizing, implementation, and sustainability of high-quality charter schools; to share evaluations on the effects of charter schools; and to disseminate information about successful practices in charter schools.
Whom Do We Serve?

- Charter school leaders and their staff
- National and local charter school intermediary and support organizations
- SEA personnel who oversee charter school activity
Priority Areas

- Charter school authorizing
- Facilities-related issues
- Charter school leadership
- Charter schools and charter management organizations (CMOs) involved with turnaround work
- Assistance to and technical assistance for SEA charter offices
Third polling question

Which of the following four priority areas is of most interest to you?

- Enhancing charter school leadership (i.e., principals and teachers)
- Ensuring rigor on charter school authorizing
- Increasing information about and access to funding for charter school facilities
- Helping charters and charter management organizations (CMOs) with turnaround work
Some of NCSRC’s Services:

- Presentations at state and national charter school conferences
- National and state level convenings and meetings
- Monthly e-newsletter and other publications
- Conference calls and webinars with SEA personnel
- Website (will be available at the end of March)
- Just-in-time technical assistance
Example of Recent Assistance

- Call last week with Jean Shane and her team in Michigan.
- New legislation allows for two new “cyber” schools.
- NCSRC put together information on these schools.
Our Advisory Board Members

Eileen Ahearn  
Project Director  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education

Mashea Ashton  
Partner  
Newark Charter School Fund

Corey Carlisle  
Director, Federal Policy and Government Affairs  
Low Income Investment Fund

Myrna Castrejón  
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Jim Goenner  
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Kevin Hall  
Chief Executive Officer  
Charter School Growth Fund

Alex Johnston  
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ConnCAN

Josh Kern  
Founder  
Thurgood Marshall Academy

Robin Lake  
Associate Director  
Center for Reinventing Public Education  
University of Washington Bothell
Our Advisory Board Members (continued)

Alex Medler  
Vice President, Policy and Research  
National Association of Charter School Authorizers

Cindy Murphy  
Charter Schools Specialist (Federal Grants)  
Minnesota Department of Education

Meg Palisoc  
Teacher, Co-Founder, and Chief Executive Officer  
Synergy Academies

Jim Peyser  
Partner  
NewSchools Venture Fund

Eric Premack  
Executive Director and Founder  
Charter School Development Center

Gerard Robinson  
President  
Black Alliance for Educational Options

Don Shalvey  
Co-Founder and Board Co-Chair  
Aspire Public Schools

Nelson Smith  
President  
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

David Umansky  
Chief Executive Officer  
Civic Builders
Next Steps

• Please take the post-webinar survey, which will come via e-mail.

• Please note NCSRC’s e-mail address.

• Our next webinar will be on February 17.

• Feel free to be in touch for a phone conversation.

• How can we help?
References


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