



NATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOL
RESOURCE CENTER

Role of the State Education Agency Charter Office in Serving Students with Disabilities

A Webinar for State Charter Offices – Part I

May 19, 2022 Virtual Presentation

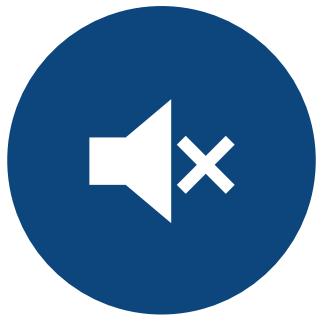
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About the NCSRC

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.



Norms for Discussion



Remember to mute yourself.



Actively participate in breakout rooms.



Utilize the chat for questions and comments.



Respond to the survey.



This session is being recorded, so you and your peers may access it at a later date.



Ice Breaker

What is the best advice anyone has ever given you?

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives for the two-part webinar series are to understand the distinct roles of the following entities in serving students with disabilities in charter schools:

1. State Education Agency (SEA), Charter Office

2. State Education Agency, Special Education Office

3. Local Education Agency (LEA)

4. Charter Authorizer

On the Webinar Today



Robin Chait
National Charter School
Resource Center



Beckie Davis
WestEd



Kelly Wynveen
National Charter School
Resource Center

Today's Agenda



Role of the SEA: LEA Status and the Web of Relationships



Role of the SEA: Behind the Door of the SEA Special Education Office



Breakout Rooms



Closeout and Next Steps

Acronyms Used

**Every Student
Succeeds Act (ESSA)**

**Free and
Appropriate Public
Education (FAPE)**

**Individuals with
Disabilities
Education Act
(IDEA)**

**Individualized
Education Program
(IEP)**

**Local Education
Agency (LEA)**

**Least Restrictive
Environment (LRE)**

**Students with
Disabilities (SWD)**

States Must...

Provide oversight and monitoring to ensure all LEAs (both charter school LEAs and charter schools that are part of LEAs) meet all their responsibilities under IDEA, Part B, including LRE and fiscal responsibility.

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation; Know Your Rights: Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools Services;
<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/dcl-factsheet-201612-504-charter-school.pdf>.



The LEA's Role

Under IDEA, LEAs are responsible for educating SWD.

The entity that serves as the LEA varies by state and authorizer type.

The LEA is responsible for reporting data to the SEA.

LEA Types

1

Charter school is part of traditional LEA

2

Charter school has hybrid status

3

Charter school is its own LEA

1 Traditional LEA

Charter school is part of a traditional LEA:

“The charter school is one of the schools in a traditional school district and shares both funding and responsibility for educating students with disabilities with the district.”

The Center for Learner Equity, Infographic: Understanding Charter School LEA Status, <https://www.centerforlearnerequity.org/news/infographic-understanding-charter-school-lea-status/>

2 Hybrid Status

Charter school has hybrid status:

“The state’s charter laws (e.g., CT, NH, and NY) designate that charter schools are their own LEA except for educating students with disabilities, for which they operate as part of a traditional LEA.”

The Center for Learner Equity, Infographic: Understanding Charter School LEA Status, <https://www.centerforlearnerequity.org/news/infographic-understanding-charter-school-lea-status/>

3 Own LEA

Charter school is its own LEA:

“The charter school is essentially an entire school district with full responsibility and full autonomy for provisioning special education.”

The Center for Learner Equity, Infographic: Understanding Charter School LEA Status, <https://www.centerforlearnerequity.org/news/infographic-understanding-charter-school-lea-status/>

The Authorizer Role



Ensure charter schools are complying with federal and state laws for students with disabilities



Ensure charter schools are providing equal access to students with disabilities

The Charter School's Role

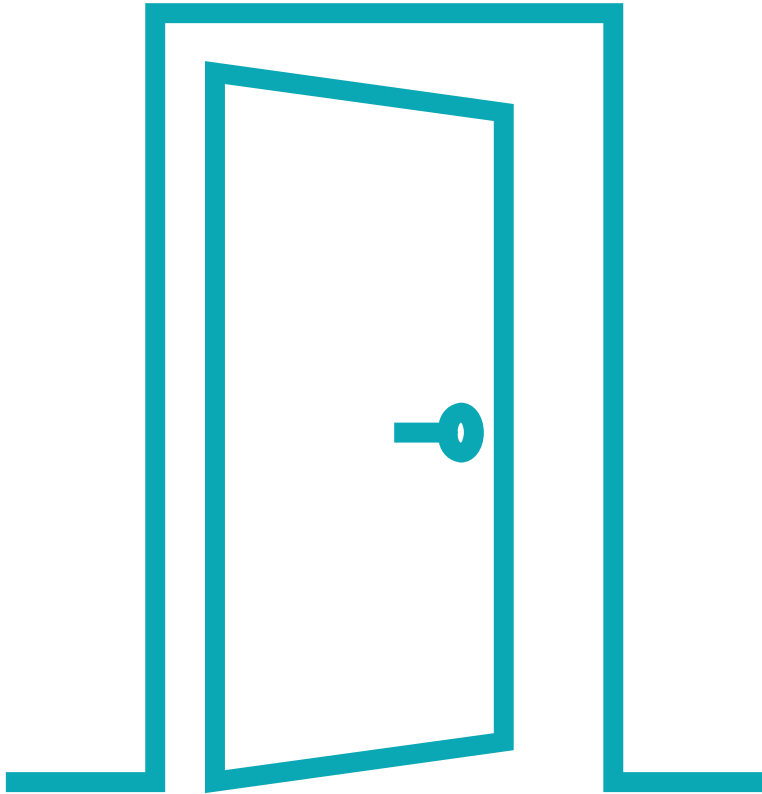
Charter schools must—

- Afford SWD and their parents the same rights/protections they would have if attending other public schools (IDEA, Part B).
- Provide FAPE to SWD in accordance with a properly developed IEP in the LRE.



U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation; Know Your Rights: Students with Disabilities in Charter Schools Services; <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/dcl-factsheet-201612-504-charter-school.pdf>.

Behind the Door of the SEA Special Education Office



The SEA is delegated, by the Federal Government, with the authority to manage a system of accountability, monitoring, and system oversight. The state:

- Collects special education data
- Provides technical assistance on special education topics
- Monitors for compliance
- Serves as a resource for the charter school office

Potential Strategies for the SEA Charter Office

Understand LEA Status	Understand how charter schools must implement special education requirements in your state
Communicate to Schools	Communicate with special education office and understand where there are compliance gaps in charter schools
Communicate to Authorizers	Communicate compliance information to authorizers
Provide Data	Proactively provide performance and discipline data by subgroups and data on stakeholder complaints to LEAs and authorizers





Breakout Rooms

Breakout Room Discussion Questions

- How does LEA status work in your state?
- How does the SEA special education office monitor charter schools?
- Does the SEA special education office or charter office provide support to charter schools around serving SWD?
- What role does the SEA charter office currently play?
- What role could the SEA charter office play?



Full Group Sharing of Breakout Discussions

- What were the major learnings in your breakout room related to LEA status? What were the similarities? Differences?
- What questions do you still have regarding LEA status?



Q&A



Key Takeaways

LEA status matters in understanding how special education services are delivered

Understanding the roles of the different entities (SEA special education office, SEA charter office, authorizer, and school) in serving SWD is important

As a state charter office, it's helpful to build relationships with these entities



As a state charter office, there are some key levers you can pull to ensure charter schools are serving SWDs effectively



What's Next?

- **Part II: The Role of SEA Charter Office and SEA Special Education Office in Serving Students With Disabilities**
 - What are their respective roles and how can they work together?
 - Panel discussion with two SE states—Colorado and Indiana
 - Review CSP grantees' responsibilities related to serving SWD
 - Strategize about ways to use funds and to support grantees in serving SWDs effectively
 - **Tuesday, May 24 @ 1-2 p.m. ET/10-11 a.m. PT**

We Value Your Feedback!



How can you contact us?



charterschoolcenter.ed.gov



contact-us@charterschoolcenter.org



THANK YOU!

