

# The Critical Partnership Between the SEA Charter Office and Special Education Office

A Webinar for State Charter Offices – Part II

May 24, 2022 I Virtual Presentation

charterschoolcenter.ed.gov

#### 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.



Please respond to the survey.



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





# **Ice Breaker**

Share one CSP grant accomplishment or success related to serving students with disabilities of which you are proud.

# **Learning Objectives**

The learning objectives for the three-part series of webinars 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



# Today's Big Questions



How have SEA charter offices and special education offices worked together to solve problems?

What can you learn from these examples that you can apply to your context?

How can you use CSP funds to support subgrantees in serving SWD in the most effective way?

# On the Webinar Today



**Robin Chait** 

**Kelly Wynveen** 



**Bill Kottenstette**Charter School Office

**Paul Foster**Special Education Office



Frank Chiki
Charter School Office

Nancy Holsapple
Special Education Office



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Panel Discussions
- Review of CSP Grantee Responsibilities Related to Students with Disabilities
- Brainstorming
- Closeout and Next Steps



### Recap From Webinar #1

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





#### **Panel Discussion**



#### **Bill Kottenstette**

**Executive Director: Schools of Choice** 



#### **Paul Foster**

**Exceptional Student Services** 



# COLORADO

**Department of Education** 

- What are your respective roles in supporting schools in serving students with disabilities?
- How do you work together to support schools in serving students with disabilities?
- Can you talk about an example of a compliance issue that you have worked together to address?



#### **Panel Discussion**



#### Frank Chiki

Director, Title Grants and Support



#### **Nancy Holsapple**

State Director of Special Education



- What are your respective roles in supporting schools in serving students with disabilities?
- How do you work together to support schools in serving students with disabilities?
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Any questions?











# **Grantee Responsibilities Related to Students With Disabilities**

# **During Subgrant Application**

All charter schools receiving CSP funds must meet the definition of a charter school which means complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and part B of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

All grantees should work with eligible applicants to meet the needs of students served under such programs, including students with disabilities and English learners.

U.S. Department of Education, Charter Schools Program, 2019 NIA, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-01-27/pdf/2020-01324.pdf



## **During Subgrant Implementation**

# Recruitment & Enrollment

Work with charter schools on recruitment and enrollment practices to promote inclusion of all students

#### **Ongoing Support**

Work with charter schools on supporting all students once they are enrolled to promote retention, including by reducing the overuse of discipline practices that remove students from the classroom

#### **Meeting Needs**

Ensure that charter schools receiving funds under the SE grant program meet the educational needs of their students, including children with disabilities and English learners

U.S. Department of Education, Charter Schools Program, 2019 NIA, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-01-27/pdf/2020-01324.pdf



# SE Grantee Responsibilities



**Ensure Compliance** 



**Provide Support** 



**Continually Monitor** 



# SE Responsibilities Related to Authorizing



Ensure that authorizers of subgrantees monitor charter schools in recruiting, enrolling, retaining, and meeting the needs of all students, including children with disabilities and English learners

# Examples of Utilizing CSP Funds to Support Students with Disabilities



Alabama Coalition for Public Charter Schools: Subgrant application & rubric related to SWD

Bluum, Inc: Special Education Coordinator on staff

Delaware Department of Education: Exceptional Children Resources Workgroup

Colorado Department of Education: Equity Convenings

Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers: Promoting Access and Choice Through Inclusive Language

# **Full Group Brainstorming**

- 1. How can you better leverage your CSP grant to support students with disabilities?
- 2. What could support look like to subgrantees? To authorizers?



# Key Takeaways



Students with disabilities are more effectively served when SEA charter offices and SEA SpEd offices work collaboratively.



SEs should implement activities approved in your CSP application.



Heard an idea you want to implement using CSP funds?

Step 1: Discuss any potential changes to your project scope with your Program Officer



# We Value Your Feedback!



## How can you contact us?



charterschoolcenter.ed.gov



contact-us@charterschoolcenter.org



