Project Abstract

California Charter Schools Association

California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) is in a unique position to strengthen charter school authorizing and oversight while increasing student access to high-quality charter schools. In an era of slowing charter school growth in California that is yielding fewer new quality options for families than a few years ago, we also see fractured and inconsistent authorizing practices statewide, along with an increasing number of low-capacity authorizers not appropriately holding charter schools accountable for fiscal, operational, and governance concerns. In order to continue improving the charter movement in California and ensure that all charters are high-quality, during this project CCSA will develop a fiscal, operational and governance accountability framework (FOGAF) to ensure both charter schools and their authorizers are held accountable. This builds off the work of our previous National Leadership Activities grant where we developed and educated authorizers on our academic accountability standards.

CCSA will work to increase the pipeline of quality applications and renewal petitions submitted to authorizers, using accountability frameworks to ensure robust petitions and quality schools. With more high-quality charter schools developed, approved, and renewed, we anticipate that students from disadvantaged populations, including English learners and students with disabilities, will increasingly be able to benefit from excellent educational options that meet their needs. We will also educate authorizers on our frameworks, increasing the consistency and accuracy of initial authorizations and renewal decisions made by authorizers. Finally, we will increase the quality of charters overall by disseminating best practices from our frameworks, integrating them into varying contexts across our state and nationwide.