



PROGRAM	START TIME (CST)	END TIME (CST)	SESSION DESCRIPTION	SESSION FORMAT	FACILITATOR(S)/PRESENTERS
<b>WEEK 1: REFLECT</b>					
<b>TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020</b>					
Welcome Remarks	12:15PM	12:30PM	Dr. Karega Rausch Welcomes Attendees to NASCACon	Plenary	Karega Rausch
Plenary	12:30PM	1:30PM	8 Black Hands Live Podcast	Plenary	8 Black Hands
Break	1:30PM	1:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a
Breakout 1: Charter Policies and Messages in a Polarized Age	1:45PM	2:30PM	The charter movement has grown with support from leaders with different perspectives and policy preferences. But that coalition has shown signs of fraying. The Center for American Progress wanted to understand how self-identified Democrats view charters, charter policy ideas they might support, and messages about charters they find convincing. We will share our interpretations of what these could mean for authorizers and discuss ideas about policies and messages that have been effective in authorizers' communities.	Insight Talk	Neil Campbell, Director of Innovation, Center for American Progress
Breakout 2: Lessons from Restart as a Turnaround Strategy	1:45PM	2:30PM	School restarts offer an opportunity to transform chronically low-performing schools and produce dramatic improvements while continuing to serve existing students and communities. Learn more about new national research on restart as an effective school improvement strategy and hear from authorizers and operators engaged in successful restart initiatives on the use of the strategy today.	Panel	Brenna Copeland, Program Officer, K-12 Education, Michael & Susan Dell Foundation; Lyria Boast, Senior Consulting Manager, Public Impact; Preston Faulk, Consultant, Public Impact; Patrick McAlister, Director of the Office of Education Innovation at City of Indianapolis; Earl Martin Phalen, Founder and CEO, Phalen Leadership Academies
Breakout 3: Meeting Schools Where They Are: Reflecting on Equity initiatives at CSI	1:45PM	2:30PM	There is no magic formula to improve equity and access in charter schools. This session will provide an overview of the equity initiatives that the Colorado Charter Schools has implemented over the past 4 years and share reflections on promising practice and areas for improvement. Learn structures and strategies to begin your own equity initiatives that meet schools where they are, provide support, and build relationships.	Pre-recorded	Clare Vickland, Director of Student Services, Colorado Charter School Institute; Ryan Marks, Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Colorado Charter School Institute
Break	2:30PM	2:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a



Breakout 1: What New Orleans Means for the Future of Charter Authorizing	2:45PM	4:00PM	Fifteen years ago, Hurricane Katrina changed the landscape of New Orleans' education system. Join Tulane University Professor Douglas Harris for an honest, data-driven look based on findings from his new book, "Charter School City," at what happened in New Orleans post-Katrina and what it means for the charter school sector today. Harris will also share insights from recent research about how charters responded to COVID-19 and the implications this has on charter schools going forward.	Insight Talk	Douglas Harris, Professor and Department Chair of Economics, Tulane University
Breakout 2: Someone to Watch Over Me: Lessons Learned in High-Stakes Authorizer Evaluations	2:45PM	4:00PM	Charter school accountability in some states has expanded in scope to hold authorizers accountable to standards of quality. This session explores the policy landscape and lessons-learned from high-stakes evaluations in Minnesota, Ohio, and elsewhere. Presenters from NACSA, SchoolWorks, and Minnesota authorizers provide a history of these evaluations, reflect on emerging trends, discuss the effects these evaluations have had on authorizing and charter ecosystems, and provide pointers to those authorizers who may have an evaluation upcoming.	Panel	Erin Anderson, Director of Charter School Authorizing - Osprey Wilds / Audubon Center of the Northwoods; Wendy Swanson-Choi, Executive Director - Novation Education Opportunities; David Greenberg, Director of Leadership Development - NACSA; David Hartman, Managing Director of Accountability and Authorizer Supports - SchoolWorks
Breakout 3: Do Host Districts Reap Fiscal Benefit When Charter Market Share Increases?	2:45PM	4:00PM	How do "independent" (i.e., non-district authorized) charter schools affect the finances of host districts? For example, do the resulting enrollment declines raise fixed costs, as critics contend? Or do districts that have fewer students to education reap a windfall in per pupil terms, as some supporters have suggested? And to what extent does the answer depend on the policies that a state adopts?  In this session, we will present the results of a first-of-its-kind analysis that attempts to answer this question comprehensively - that is, for every state with a substantial number of "independent" charters. Following the presentation, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the fiscal effects of "independent" charters in their district and/or community and the challenges this creates for policymakers seeking to design an equitable and efficient funding system.	Pre-Recorded	David Griffith, Senior Research and Policy Associate, Thomas B. Fordham Institute; Mark Weber, Special Analyst for Education Policy
Lifestyle Social Sessions - Spice 101	4:00PM	5:00PM	Every home cook should learn to use spices —they can make even the simplest dish taste extraordinary. If you are interested in using spices in your kitchen but are unsure of where to start, this class is for you! Watch a live cooking demo while you learn about layering spices to build flavor, why certain spices work well together, when to toast or bloom spices, and ways to grind them. Participants will receive a spice packet and instructions to recreate the recipe at home.	Social	Claire Cheney
Lifestyle Social Sessions - Restorative Yoga	4:00PM	5:00PM	Restorative yoga is a mellow, slow type of yoga asana practice designed to achieve total relaxation and release. It is done mostly on the floor, using props for support so that the body can fully melt into the postures. Please bring 2-3 pillows and 2-3 towels that we will use for props and look forward to your restoration.	Social	Casey Lebwohl



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Opening Remarks	12:00PM	12:45PM	Opening Remarks with Sarah Tantillo, Author of "HIT THE DRUM: An Insider's Account of How the Charter School Idea Became a National Movement"		Sarah Tantillo, Author; Jim Goenner; National Charter Schools Institute
Break	12:45PM	1:00PM	Break	n/a	n/a
Breakout 2: Black Lives Do Matter: Tearing Down Structural Racism	1:00PM	1:45PM	A perfect storm of the COVID-19 pandemic and the death of George Floyd has thrust the BLM movement to the forefront of our nation's consciousness. As authorizers and educators, awareness of deep-seated structural racism is a prerequisite if we want to enact meaningful educational change in the lives of the minority students we serve. Tough and even possibly uncomfortable conversations are needed to challenge the way we think and to facilitate the examination and evolution of our practices as authorizers. This presentation, in two parts, will bring together authorizers (part 1) and schools (part 2) to discuss how they are incorporating a lens of equity and social justice to advance their work across multiple domains.	Panel	Vickie Smith, NYSED; David Frank, NYSED; Ellen Eagen, OnTech Charter School; Barbara Zelazny, Young Women's College Prep Charter School of Rochester; Arthur Samuels and Pagee Cheung, MESA Charter School; and Tolga Hayali, Science Academies of New York
Breakout 3: Understanding a School's Fiscal Health – An Authorizer's Framework for Assessment of Fiscal Performance	1:00PM	1:45PM	This session aims to address how authorizers can assess fiscal viability through appropriate metrics of financial health. We will speak on the background and construction of our fiscal framework generally, then delve into some detail on the actual components. There will be time for frank discussion on both its uses and limitations.	Insight Talk	Michael Wrobel, Director of Fiscal Performance and Accountability; Corey Northrop, Executive Director, John Engler Center for Charter Schools, Central Michigan University
Break	1:45PM	2:00PM	Break	n/a	n/a
Breakout 3: Hindsight is 2020	2:00PM	2:45PM	There is no more to charter school authorizing than holding a quality standard and ensuring schools are compliant, right? Think again. Learn from the combined 30 years of experience of District, State, and Independent authorizers, as they reflect on lessons learned and share what they wish they would have known from the start. They will respond to your questions from leading to listening, from school support to closure, from politics to taking care of yourself.	Panel	John Carwell, Charter Schools Education Associate, Delaware Department of Education Joseph Escobedo, Ed.D., Director of Charter Schools, Albuquerque Public Schools Mary Bradley, Chief Operating Officer, National Charter Schools Institute Naomi Rubin DeVeaux, Vice-President of Authorizing and Accountability, National Charter Schools Institute
Breakout 4: Finding Your Footing: Leading in an Uncertain & Unsteady World	2:00PM	2:45PM	Feeling like you can't find you're footing as a leader right now? You're not alone. Leading during "normal" circumstances can feel unsteady. Leading during times of challenge and change can feel downright precarious. Expand your knowledge base to strengthen your leadership and take away straightforward strategies to implement immediately to create clarity out of chaos.	Insight Talk	Kasey Miller, Chief of Staff, NACSA
Break	2:45PM	3:00PM	Break	n/a	n/a



Breakout 1: Community Connections and School Incubation	3:00PM	4:15PM	While there are educational practices that may transcend regional differences, BES firmly believes that excellent schools should be designed with and for the specific communities they serve. Our session will detail how three BES Fellow-founded public charter schools integrated community and authorizer input into their school designs and will share ideas for how authorizers could shift some of their efforts to better support community engagement in the design process.	Pre-Recorded	Aasimah Navlakhi, CEO of BES; Stephanie Patton, Senior Director of the BES Fellowship
Breakout 3: Mindset, Process, and Organization: Authorizing for Turnaround	3:00PM	4:15PM	Mindset, process, and organization matter in authorizing for turnaround. In this session, panelists and audience members will discuss lessons learned about mindsets and processes critical for turnaround authorizing, reflect broadly on the differences between authorizing for turnaround and the necessary foundations, and articulate organizational structures important for effectively authorizing for turnaround--and for equity.	Panel	Margo Roen, Principal of Innovative Systems and Schools, Education First Consulting; Bobby White, Founder and CEO of Frayser Community Schools in Memphis, TN; Rich Haglund, RH3 Consulting
Breakout 1: Did We Recreate the Same Oppressive System?	4:15PM	5:00PM	Innovation, autonomy, and accountability - those are (were) the main pillars of the charter schools movement. Twenty-plus years into the movement, when we look at where we are and what we've become, many would argue that charter schools have merely replicated the inequitable and stratified system we sought to disrupt. Given the moment we're in right now in the midst of a pandemic and a social justice uprising, leaders in the charter sector have said that the status quo has to change. How do we get back to our roots and be the disruptive force we were meant to be?  Be part of a discussion with school supporters, leaders, and authorizers about what we can do and dig into what we should do.	Panel	Sonia C. Park, Diverse Charter Schools Coalition
Breakout 2: Charter School Leaders & Authorizing: Lessons from the Past 20 years to Build a Stronger Next 20	4:15PM	5:00PM	It is a rare honor to have in one "room" four charter school leaders who have been at this for 20 years. Come hear insights and reflections from these four well-established Minnesota charter school leaders about their experiences with authorizing and chartering over the past 20 years, and their visions for the future of both charter schools and authorizing for the next 20 years.	Panel	Lisa Hendricks, Executive Director, Partnership Academy; Rosa Herrera, Founding Director, Partnership Academy; Becky Meyer, Executive Director, Academy for Sciences & Agriculture; Tony Simmons, Executive Director, High School for the Recording Arts; David Greenberg, Director of Leadership Development, NACSA



**WEEK 2: EVOLVE**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020**

Breakout 1: Reaching the Margins: Educating Students with Disabilities During COVID - Discussion	12:30PM	1:30PM	This session will focus on how COVID challenged everything about how schools educate students with disabilities and how we can rise to the occasion. We will discuss the legal considerations for schools and authorizers, and how re-opening further complicates these issues. Participants will also have the opportunity to share and discuss challenges, best practices, and innovative approaches. This session is encouraged as a precursor to the similarly-titled workshop scheduled for October 27.	Panel	Paul O'Neill, Co-Founder and Senior Fellow, National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools; Alex Medler, Executive Director, Colorado Association of Charter School Authorizers; Anyeli Matos, Executive Director, Operations & Policy, New York City Department of Education Office of School Design and Charter Partnerships
Breakout 2: Embedding Equity and Racial Equity into Accountability Practices	12:30PM	1:30PM	Learn how we worked with stakeholders to embed equity and racial equity into our performance framework and accountability practices to increase student success. Learn about our "why", our authorizing context, and what equity and racial equity looks like in our accountability practices. We will also share lessons learned, what we are still grappling with, and next steps for our office.	Insight Talk	Alison Bagg, Director, Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign, MA DESE; Benie Capitolin, Accountability Specialist, Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign, MA DESE; Janice Pamphile, Accountability Specialist, Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign, MA DESE; Melissa Gordon, Coordinator of Access and Equity, Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign, MA DESE
Breakout 3: Authorizing Amid Coronavirus: Four Strategies for Authorizers and School Leaders	12:30PM	1:30PM	Last year, we analyzed authorizing practices for nontraditional school models (e.g. Montessori, dual-language immersion, competency-based education). Today, of course, nearly every school has adopted a model that could be considered "nontraditional." Based on our research and conversations with dozens of authorizers and school leaders, we have translated our research into four strategies for responding effectively to COVID-19: 1) build capacity, 2) communicate with stakeholders, 3) codify school models, and 4) quantify impact.	Pre-Recorded	Juliet Squire, Partner - Policy & Evaluation, Bellwether Education Partners; Rebecca Gifford Goldberg, Partner - Strategic Advising, Bellwether Education Partners
Office Hours: NACSA Thought Partnership	12:30PM	1:30PM	ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED. Working through an authorizing challenge? Developing a new policy or protocol? Curious how authorizers in other localities are addressing? Sign up for office hours with NACSA staff. Provide a brief description of the topic or challenge and we'll lend our ear and expertise.		Elisa Westapher, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, NACSA
Break	1:30PM	1:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a



Breakout 1: Tiered Logic: Increasing Efficacy of Authorizer-School Interactions	1:45PM	2:30PM	The model of tiered supports can be applied to efficiently guide authorizer effort towards helping schools meet authorizer expectations. Applicable to a wide range of authorizer practices - including compliance monitoring, program support, and submissions - tiered supports can be layered to provide more directed support precisely how and where they are most effective. Generalized strategies will be shared in addition to results and lessons learned from a case study involving school enrollment data submissions.	Pre-Recorded	Greg Nusz, Program Evaluation Specialist, Colorado Charter School Institute
Breakout 2: Fiscal Oversight: COVID and Beyond: Is your fiscal oversight proactive enough?	1:45PM	2:30PM	Fiscal insolvency is one of the most common reasons charters close, but does it have to be? With COVID, will we see more schools in financial trouble? How will an authorizer know when a school is headed for trouble? What role should an authorizer play? Dialogue with the presenters about these questions and discuss the importance of building a proactive fiscal oversight system that includes early identification and preparing the environment for the challenges ahead.	Panel	Mary Bradley, Chief Operating Officer, National Charter Schools Institute and Cindy Schumacher, President, CM Schumacher Consulting
Breakout 3: Community-Responsive Authorizing	1:45PM	2:30PM	As each of us has grappled with our role as an authorizer during the pandemic, one outcome has been increased clarity and purpose in our work and in the expectations we set for our schools and our own staff. Learn about the Colorado Charter School Institute's community-responsive approach to authorizing: how our schools and our staff have responded to this framework, its challenges and successes, and what this may look like post-COVID.	Insight Talk	Dr. Terry Crow Lewis, Executive Director, Colorado Charter School Institute; Janet Dinnen, Chief of Staff, Colorado Charter School Institute
Break	2:30PM	2:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a
Breakout 2: Internal DEI Conversations as a First Step to More Equitable Authorizing	2:45PM	4:00PM	Participants will learn about how the School District of Philadelphia's Charter Schools Office (CSO) has approached its DEI initiative. A first step in this work involved all staff acknowledging the need for discomfort and reflection about themselves as individuals, the CSO's organizational culture, and their office's position within oppressive structures in education. Facilitators will share insights and lessons learned from the implementation of this work internally as well as implications for external authorizing practices.	Insight Talk	Stephanie Waller, Assistant Director, Strategy and Operations, School District of Philadelphia Charter Schools Office; Essence Caleb, Director, Strategy and Operations, School District of Philadelphia Charter Schools Office; Seun Oke, Project Manager, Quality and Accountability, School District of Philadelphia Charter Schools Office



Breakout 3: Model Tools and Templates to Support District Authorizers	2:45PM	4:00PM	District level authorizers oversee just over half of charter schools in the United States. Unlike single purpose charter authorizing entities, districts' primary responsibilities address the effective operation of the schools they directly run. Charter school authorizing is an added responsibility. As an add-on responsibility, district authorizers have expressed strong support for state specific tools and templates that they can use as a foundation for their authorizing work. This workshop will review the tools under development in each state and how states and authorizers can work together to improve quality and the value of each state-specific tools. We will highlight a few of the tools, explain the shared process for producing and vetting the full suite, and review with participants how each tool functions.	Panel	Tom Hutton, Executive Director, CCAP; Alex Medler, Executive Director, CACSA; Melissa Brady, Executive Director, FACSA; Dr. Corey Loomis, Director, Charter Schools Unit, Riverside County Office of Education; Dr. Valerie Hyer, FACSA
Breakout 4: Deep Dive into Indicators of School Distress: Perspectives from Authorizers	2:45PM	4:00PM	This workshop is an interactive, informative session on the indicators of distress observed in charter schools prior to failure, turnaround, or closure. Similar to "early warning systems" developed to identify struggling students, authorizers and researchers will share the results of identifying struggling schools. Participants will engage with the indicators observed by charter school authorizers from around the country through an interactive activity and walk away with strategies for pulling schools out of the death spiral.	Workshop	Aimee Evan, Senior Research Associate & School Improvement Specialist, National Charter School Resource Center; John Carwell, Education Associate, Charter School Office, Delaware Department of Education; Jamie Garwood, Director, Office of Charter Schools, Ball State University; Laura Groth, Content Specialist, National Charter School Resource Center; Hannah Sullivan, Associate Consultant, National Charter School Resource Center; Tess Stovall, Director of Charter Schools, Tennessee State Board of Education
Lifestyle Social Sessions - Trivia	4:00PM	5:00PM	Trivia		Trivia Nation
Lifestyle Social Sessions - The Power of Play in Virtual Meetings	4:00PM	5:00PM	Meeting through Zoom is not the same as meeting in person. You can't ask people to put their screens away and give you their full attention – it is through these screens that they are watching you! Unfortunately, one-way communication is easy to ignore. Zoom fatigue makes our meeting attendees tune out and competing priorities as well as highly addictive social media is only a click away. By using the Power of Play, and inviting interaction from others in your meeting, your next Zoom meeting will be engaging, exciting, and full of smiles. Join Caelan Huntress and your fellow conference attendees as you learn and practice techniques to boost virtual engagement and connection.		



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020**

Breakout 1: Assorted Pecha Kuchas	12:30PM	1:30PM		Pecha Kucha	
Breakout 3: Native Voices on Charter Schools: Community Perspective on Supporting Native Students	12:30PM	1:30PM	Join us to deepen your understanding of how we can better support charter school developers and tribes in designing, authorizing, and operating culturally responsive charter schools that address the unique needs and strengths of Indigenous communities. Gain key insights collected from experts in Native education and leaders of charter schools that serve Native students – with a focus on what authorizers need to know to better support the education of Native students.	Insight Talk	Diana Cournoyer, Executive Director, National Indian Education Association (NIEA); Anpao Duta Flying Earth, Executive Director, NACA Inspired Schools Network; Walter Kahumoku III, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, (NIEA); Carter Clawson, Project Director, National Charter School Resource Center
Breakout 4: A Pandemic Response: Revisiting School Specific Goals	12:30PM	1:30PM	Washington State School Specific Goals process enables schools to highlight the closing of achievement gaps for underserved students through their unique charter program. The process highlights school performance when other performance data may not be readily available. Schools' focus on areas of need identified by data, academic and organizational, and evaluates the performance of specific groups not typically addressed in other accountability measures. It also provides schools the opportunity to have an alternative accountability narrative.	Insight Talk	Leslie Hayden, Oversight Specialist, WA State Charter School Commission
Break	1:30PM	1:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a
Breakout 1: Robust Monitoring and Oversight of Remote Instructional Programs in the Time of COVID 19	1:45PM	2:30PM	<p>NYSED created a Remote Monitoring and Oversight Plan for the Spring and Fall of 2020. This presentation will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The challenges of maintaining priorities and strong authorizing in the context of the pandemic;</li> <li>- Plan implementation;</li> <li>- Schools response; and</li> <li>- Lessons learned to inform the continuation of these remote monitoring and oversight practices into the fall and beyond.</li> </ul> <p>Participants will learn how to create a remote monitoring and oversight plan.</p>	Insight Talk	Barbara Moscinski, NYSED; David Frank, NYSED; and Laura Hill, NYSED





Breakout 2: Moving Beyond Oversight: The Next Generation of Authorizing	1:45PM	2:30PM	Now more than ever, schools and students need support that extends beyond the typical oversight and their K-12 experience. This session will challenge participants to think differently about the role of the authorizer. Presenters will discuss ways to support schools, students, and your own organization. See what authorizing could look like in the future. It takes vision and a willingness to think different.	Insight Talk	Dr. Dave Lewis, Director of the School/University Partnership Office, Saginaw Valley State University; Judeen Bartos, Executive Director of the Office of Public School Academies, Oakland University; Chris Oshelski, Executive Director of the Charter Schools Office, Lake Superior State University
Breakout 3: Optimizing Epicenter to Support Your Team and Schools	1:45PM	2:30PM	More is being expected from authorizers, boards, and schools. More achievement, oversight, documentation, reporting, transparency, accountability...the list goes on. Come see how you can optimize the power of Epicenter to lighten the load. We'll show you how to streamline and automate the exchange of data documents and decision making within your portfolio, and keep everyone focused on the things that truly matter.  For example, you'll learn how you can use Epicenter to help: Strengthen communications and transparency; Manage documents, compliance and reporting; Automate reminders and recurring activities; Coordinate charter applications and renewals; and Share resources within and across organizations.	Tool Demo	Dave Machado and Shaunda Cooper, North Carolina Office of Charter Schools; Jim Goenner and Meghann Russel, National Charter Schools Institute
Breakout 4: Social Justice with a Side of Charter Application	1:45PM	2:30PM	Charter school authorization is a strategy to achieve social justice. The charter application is the applicant's introduction to the authorizer, and by including questions that require in-depth responses on ensuring equity, removing systemic barriers, and being culturally responsive, accountability and oversight in these areas are to be expected. Walkthrough the evaluation of questions and revision strategy to develop a charter application where the copy and paste function is no longer applicable.	Insight Talk	Dr. Kelli Peterson, Assistant Superintendent of Equity, Inclusion and Opportunities, Louisiana Department of Education
Break	2:30PM	2:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a
Breakout 1: How will District Authorizers Leverage Authorizing Principles and Strategies to Improve Outcomes Systemwide?	2:45PM	4:00PM	As of 2018, only 18 cities (representing 17 states) met the criteria of a "portfolio district," according to analysis by the Center for Reinventing Public Education. However according to NACSA, 36 states have laws allowing LEAs to be authorizers. Why aren't more districts using authorizing tools principles and strategies to improve access to great schools?  The Texas Education Agency has developed several resources and incentives to support emerging district authorizers. During this presentation, we will walk through our System Support Theory of Action, which includes the following elements: 1. High Quality Tools and Financial Resources 2. Individualized Advising for District Leaders 3. Professional Learning Opportunities and Networking for Authorizers	Insight Talk	Marian Schutte, Director of the Division of System Support and Innovation, TEA; Lindsay Denman, Manager of Texas Partnerships, TEA; Chris DeWitt, Manager of District Supports, TEA



Breakout 2: Hard Decisions in Hard Times: High Stakes Accountability in the Era of COVID	2:45PM	4:00PM	Closing a school during a health pandemic may seem like cruel and unusual punishment for a school—and the authorizer. But accountability doesn't just stop because of distance learning, and the outcomes schools were chartered to achieve don't disappear. Explore the lessons learned with two authorizers who went down this road in spring 2020 and consider what data you are gathering now to support high-stakes decision-making in the next year or more.	Panel	Erin Anderson, Director of Charter School Authorizing, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center; Robbyn Wahby, Executive Director, Missouri Charter Public School Commission
Breakout 3: Using Surveys to Engage in Community Based Authorizing	2:45PM	4:00PM	The New York State Education Department Charter School Office (NYSED CSO) has a commitment to strong community-based authorizing. To facilitate a diverse set of voices in the oversight process, the NYSED CSO has developed robust survey tools. This presentation will discuss the reasons why the NYSED CSO created parent and educator surveys, the surveys structure, how the surveys are administered, and how the NYSED CSO uses these surveys to drive school improvement and evaluation.	Insight Talk	Janet Kline, NYSED; David Frank, NYSED; Marissa Bieber, NYSED
Breakout 4: Parents as Partners: The Authorizer's Role in Overseeing Family Engagement During COVID-19	2:45PM	4:00PM	In the context of COVID-19, families play a critical role in student learning. At the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB), we think that a school's plan for family engagement is more closely tied to student academic outcomes than ever before. In this session, you will hear from DC PCSB staff about oversight of family engagement in schools during COVID-19, including insights about school practices, realities of implementation, and recommendations for the future.	Panel	Nicole Newman, Senior Specialist at DC PCSB; Katherine Dammann, Senior Manager at DC PCSB
20th Anniversary Celebration	4:15 PM	5:00pm	NACSA 20th Anniversary Celebration!		

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020**

Community Conversation: Common Schooling: A Conversation on the Toughest Issues in Education	2:30PM	3:30PM	At a time of bitter national polarization, there's a crying need for intellectual leaders who can help us better understand one another and find places of common ground. In this session, Rick Hess and Pedro Noguera, who have disagreed a fair bit over the past couple decades, with Pedro generally on the Left and Rick mostly on the Right, draw from their upcoming book <i>Common Schooling</i> to candidly talk through their differences on some of the toughest issues in K-12 education today. In addition to digging deep into some of their sharp, honest debate and the surprising amount of principled common ground they found along the way, the two will also share some reflections on the process of cultivating fruitful relationships and dialogue across lines of difference.		Karega Rausch, NACSA; Rick Hess, American Enterprise Institute; Pedro Noguera, Dean, University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education
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**WEEK 3: INNOVATE**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020**

Breakout 1: Equity Rhymes with Opportunity	12:30PM	1:30PM	<p>Where there is challenge, there is opportunity. Significant opportunity lies in these central questions:            What if we make equity the key consideration for the important decisions the education world is facing?            What if, instead of expecting overall student performance to increase, we expect and work towards a disproportionate rise in performance among the most disadvantaged?</p> <p>We can transform public education, disrupt inequitable and biased patterns, policies, and practices. Charter authorizers are critical in this process.</p>	Insight Talk	Karega Rausch, NACSA, Vice President of Research and Evaluation & Acting President and CEO; Lucy Castillo, Partner, Education Board Partners
Breakout 2: When School Doors Close: Charter responses & leader needs in the face of COVID-19	12:30PM	1:30PM	<p>Targeting support in a moment of crisis is critical for student success, as well as for the success of charter school authorizers. March 2020 was an unprecedented time for families, educators, and authorizers across the country. Learn more about how district and charter school responded by reviewing national data from this spring and summer. Hear from charter school leaders on what additional supports they need from authorizers this school year to meet ongoing challenges.</p>	Panel	Todd Ziebarth, Senior Vice President, State Advocacy and Support, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools; Bryan Hassel, Co-Director, Public Impact; Beth Clifford, Policy Analyst, Public Impact; Bree Dusseault, Practitioner-in-Residence, Center on Reinventing Public Education ; Alice Opalka, Research Analyst, Center on Reinventing Public Education; Jen Davis Wickens, CEO, Impact Public Schools (WA); Eve Colavito, CEO, DREAM Charter School (NY)
Breakout 3: Launching an EL PLC as a School Support and Engagement Strategy	12:30PM	1:30PM	<p>The School District of Philadelphia’s Charter Schools Office (CSO) initiated a Professional Learning Community in response to feedback from charter educators regarding a need for collaboration. Participants will learn about the CSO’s work to establish this PLC in partnership with teachers. As authorizers continue to negotiate the balance between school support and autonomy, facilitators will share reflections on the development and initial activities of the PLC and its connection to the CSO’s sector engagement goals.</p>	Pre-Recorded	Stephanie Waller, Assistant Director of Strategy and Operations, School District of Philadelphia Charter Schools Office; Karen Sergovic, English Language Development Coordinator, Esperanza Academy Charter School
Office Hours: NACSA Thought Partnership	12:30PM	1:30PM	<p>ADVANCE SIGN-UP REQUIRED. Working through an authorizing challenge? Developing a new policy or protocol? Curious how authorizers in other localities are addressing? Sign up for office hours with NACSA staff. Provide a brief description of the topic or challenge and we'll lend our ear and expertise.</p>		Elisa Westapher, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, NACSA
Break	1:30PM	1:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a



Breakout 1: Data Strategies for Distance Learning	1:45PM	2:30PM	How do you know if your distance learning plans are working for teachers and students? The data we track during normal times doesn't necessarily align with what we track during distance learning. Alexis Brown shares strategies Digital Pioneers Academy used to track data during distance learning, insights they gained and how they adjusted their model to achieve better outcomes. Charlie Coglianese shares national trends in data strategies for distance learning from schools across the country.	Panel	Alexis Brown, Director of Operations at Digital Pioneers Academy; Charlie Coglianese, Founder and Chief Data Wizard at Schoolrunner
Breakout 2: On Demand Charter Board Member Training and Certification	1:45PM	2:30PM	MNcharterboard.com is a unique partnership between authorizers and the Minnesota Department of Education to address two key questions: What do charter board members need to know, to be able to do the work of the board? What would it take to provide an on-demand charter board member training and certification system to prepare board members to do that work?  The session answers these questions and provides access to many examples of courses developed including on online tour!	Tool Demo	Wendy Swanson-Choi (Grant Project Manager and Executive Director of Novation Education Opportunities/NEO), Rod Haenke (Grant Project Senior Instructional Designer), Ron Berger (Grant Project Content Specialist), Ryan Ouradnik (Grant Project E-learning Specialist), Adam Myhand (Grant Project and NEO Systems Analyst), and Tu Nguyen (Grant Project and NEO Systems Analyst)
Breakout 3: Building Systems for Effective High School Oversight	1:45PM	2:30PM	Helping authorizers create a framework that allows staff to effectively oversee high schools and their graduation requirements practices. Learn how to create policies that then guide comprehensive oversight of high schools. We will discuss how these steps can be altered to adapt to virtual learning.	Insight Talk	Abby Getzel, Specialist, DC PCSB



Breakout 4: Active Ingredients: Demonstrating Key Outcomes Beyond Test Scores	1:45PM	2:30PM	<p>The Active Ingredients project is an opportunity for schools to demonstrate key student outcomes in addition to state test scores. Authorizers and school leaders collaborate to create an environment for responsible, replicable, and credible collection and reporting of additional measures of student and school success.</p> <p>With an overall objective of broadening exposure, implementation, and learning with this pilot, authorizers are invited to participate in a discussion and consider joining the project for the upcoming school year. This unique opportunity provides participant coaching while navigating activities and supporting 1-2 schools with project implementation. During the session, participating authorizers and coaches will review the project background, progress made, and lessons learned so far. They will guide attendees through foundational activities integral to implementing an Active Ingredients project with their schools, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preview the AI Workbook and project activities.</li> <li>• Explore project materials and methods for initial school communications.</li> <li>• Understand the role a Theory of Change or Logic model plays in identifying meaningful measures of student success.</li> <li>• Understand conditions of success for authorizers.</li> <li>• Learn how coaching plays a role in implementation of an Active Ingredients effort.</li> </ul>	Panel	Susie Miller Carello, Executive Director, SUNY Charter Schools Institute; Josh Halsey, Executive Director, Washington State Charter School Commission; Leslie Talbot, Founder & Principal Consultant, Talbot Consulting
Break	2:30PM	2:45PM	Break	n/a	n/a
Breakout 1: Beyond Chartering Schools: Authorizing Pods, Hubs, and Microschools?	2:45PM	4:00PM	With schools shuttered, parents and their partners are creating new, small alternatives: "pandemic pods," "microschools," "community learning hubs" and more. Can these options work for all families, not just the affluent? Should they remain in the post-COVID public-education portfolio? And should authorizers be thinking beyond the lengthy cycle needed to create whole schools, and work on ensuring quality and equity as these new options blossom? Let's brainstorm with front-line leaders helping families right now.	Insight Talk	Nelson Smith, A-GAME project; Jamar McKneely, CEO and cofounder of InspireNOLA; Don Soifer, President of Nevada Action for School Options
Breakout 2: Reaching the Margins: Educating Students with Disabilities During COVID - Workshop	2:45PM	4:00PM	A continuation of the similarly-titled discussion on October 20th that will engage authorizers in examining and revising actual policies and plans as they relate to educating students with disabilities. Participants are encouraged to identify and bring relevant reopening plans, COVID protocols, special education policies, etc. The session will utilize small groups to develop language and actions supporting authorizers in ensuring practices align with their critical role in oversight of schools grappling with these challenging issues.	Workshop	Paul O'Neill, Co-Founder and Senior Fellow, National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools Wendy Tucker, Senior Director of Policy, National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools Lindsay Coker, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools



Breakout 4: Breakout 4: Can Authorizers Own Equity Work?	2:45PM	4:00PM	Is there a way for authorizers to appropriately play a more active role in promoting social justice? Can authorizers “own” work on equity, and if so, how? What would it look like if more authorizers improved access, services, and outcomes for students with disabilities and English learners? Can authorizers support and encourage diverse-by-design charter schools? And how can authorizers improve their work to ensure their own systems and procedures do not systematically discourage charter schools in communities of color that are led by people of color, but proactively support the development of such schools? And in all this work, how could more authorizers get to a position where they truly “own” such work?	Workshop	Margo Roen, Principal of Innovative Systems and Schools, Education First Consulting; Bobby White, Founder and CEO of Frayser Community Schools in Memphis, TN; Rich Haglund, RH3 Consulting
Lifestyle Social Session: Sip and Script - Intro to Brush Lettering	4:00PM	5:00PM	Join this one-hour workshop to learn the therapeutic art form of brush lettering with Amanda Reid Designs while you connect with other conference attendees. You will be provided with the following supplies: 2 brush lettering pens, one pack of tracing paper, one downloadable practice guide, and a blank envelope and card for your final project. These materials will be shipped to you prior to the workshop. Spots are limited. Use the following link to register before October 20th <a href="https://www.amandareiddesigns.com/nacsa-brush-lettering-workshop">https://www.amandareiddesigns.com/nacsa-brush-lettering-workshop</a> .		Amanda Reid
Lifestyle Social Session: Magician	4:00PM	4:30PM	"The Secret Zoom" is an incredible 30-minute virtual online magic show, hosted by Alan Hudson from Britain's Got Talent, The Next Great Magician and Penn & Teller: Fool Us. Join us for a unique online experience to have your mind read, see some crazy magic (that you help to make happen) and laugh in amazement alongside other NACSA conference attendees.	Social	Alan Hudson

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020**

Breakout 1: From NY to LA: New Goals for New Times	12:30PM	1:30PM	The best way to support student learning is when alternative education campuses and authorizers create measurable goals that are responsive to the school's population and mission. Through the A-GAME process, authorizers and schools are able to identify their school's program unique attributes and determine rigorous standards of achievement for all students, especially the most vulnerable. Join us in learning about how this work is in practice by hearing from authorizers about the process and experience.	Panel	Naomi Rubin DeVeaux, VP Authorizing and Accountability, National Charter Schools Institute; David Frank, Executive Director, NYSED Charter School Office; Delia Castillo, Coordinator, LACOE
Breakout 2: Innovating for Equity	12:30PM	1:30PM	Together with New Schools Venture Fund and The Broad Foundation, Education First is launching a Chief Innovation Officer Toolkit focused on the need to innovate for equity, and the core work, competencies, and mindsets to do so. Included within this Toolkit is an emphasis on Equity by Design. This workshop will share key insights from the research that informed the Toolkit, explore the need to innovate for equity, and include methods (and an opportunity to practice) equity-centered design practices.	Panel	Margo Roen, Principal of Innovative Systems and Schools, Education First Consulting



Breakout 3: Shotgun Marriages: Authorizers and Schools Thrown into Distance Learning	12:30PM	1:30PM	In this panel and discussion, participants will hear from experienced colleagues and experts about strategies to deepen the authorizers' understanding of distance learning programs and schools. Hear about hard lessons learned and new opportunities offered. Learn what people had used before COVID to hold schools accountable and how these tools can or should be applied during the crisis – and after.	Panel	Tom Hutton; Andy Franko; Dr. Corey Loomis; Dr. Delia Castillo; Dr. Valerie Hyer
Break	1:30PM	1:45PM		n/a	n/a
Breakout 1: Fully Present: Defining and Measuring Student Attendance During COVID-19	1:45PM	2:30PM	In the context of COVID-19, an innovative approach to attendance collection was needed to understand how students would engage in distance learning. The DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) worked with city partners to develop an attendance collection and evaluation strategy for 2020-2021. In this session, representatives from DC PCSB will discuss how they balanced the need to maintain the integrity of attendance data against the realities of remote schooling.	Pre-Recorded (?)	Jessica Taguding, Senior Data Analyst at DC PCSB; Katherine Dammann, Senior Manager at DC PCSB
Breakout 2: Becoming an Anti-Racist Authorizer	1:45PM	2:30PM	MACSA is currently engaging in anti-racist work. The initial phase of anti-racist development is recognizing pre-existing knowledge that there are concentrations of power within authorizing and laws. The second phase includes developing "anti-racist muscles" by reading literature and other materials intended to facilitate anti-racist development. The third is reviewing our pre-existing systemic knowledge using an anti-racist lens of analysis. And phase four—the final phase—is actively working to dismantle systems which reproduce inequality in our charter schools.	Insight Talk	Alul Yesak, Executive Director, MACSA; James Ewer, Authorizing Specialist, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center
Breakout 3: Redesigning Accountability: Supporting a Diverse Charter Sector	1:45PM	2:30PM	Encouraging new and innovative charter school models requires authorizers to rethink traditional accountability structures. Several authorizers will share lessons learned as they expanded the definition of school quality and begin to imagine a new accountability ecosystem.	Pre-Recorded	Facilitator: Ashley LiBetti, Associate Partner, Bellwether Education Partners; Panelists: Ryan Marks, Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Colorado Charter School Institute; Erin Kupferberg, Senior Manager of Financial and Academic Quality, DC Public Charter School Board; Katie Manthey, Director of Research & Evaluation, Georgia State Charter School Commission; Susie Miller Carello, Executive Director, State University of New York Charter Schools Institute
Break	2:30PM	2:45PM		n/a	n/a



Breakout 1: Reimagining the Federal Role in the CS Movement	2:45PM	4:00PM	Is it time to revisit CSP priorities? Could more funding be redirected to help charter schools with current pandemic-related costs? Should the CSP consider things like: improving struggling schools, improving equity, supporting special education infrastructure; or fueling the development of schools to address more communities' needs? These discussions have been discouraged for a long time, but maybe this is the time to start them. This workshop will provide information on the CSP, state innovations, pending waiver strategies and options, and provoke discussion of whether change is needed or wise; and, if change is to come, what we should pursue. Participants will consider the pros and cons of change, brainstorm alternatives, and discuss possible strategic options in the current policy environment and in the future.	Workshop	Alex Medler, David Frank, Adam Emerson, Joanna Laghetto, Bill Kottenstette, Sarah Hackett
Breakout 3: The A-GAME: Measuring Quality	2:45PM	4:00PM	With traditional assessments unavailable, authorizers and schools are looking for new ways to measure quality. Join a session to learn about the Advancing Great Authorizing and Modeling Excellence (AGAME) initiative on creating responsive goals based on student population. Focusing on alternative education campuses, 50 authorizers collaborated over the past year to develop a method for creating new measurements based not on averages but on population.	Pre-Recorded	Naomi DeVeaux, Vice President Authorizing and Accountability, National Charter Schools Institute
<b>CEO WRAP UP</b>	4:00PM	5:00PM			