

National Network for District Authorizing (NN4DA) Professional Learning Community

Pennsylvania: Incubating State Partner

January 22, 2025

Agenda



Introductions (5 minutes)

Updates (10 minutes)

NN4DA will share state and NN4DA updates.

Model Tool Development (10 minutes)

NN4DA will share draft model tools and ways authorizers can provide feedback and questions.

Open Discussion (30 minutes)

Time will be set aside for sharing pressing needs and discussion amongst the group.

Closing (5 minutes)

NN4DA will share reminders and next steps.

Introductions



- Name
- District, role, years at District
- Number of charter schools

Who is the NN4DA?



National Network for District Authorizing

The National Network for District Authorizing (NN4DA, or “the Network”), funded through a Charter School Program National Dissemination Grant, supports state-level initiatives that strengthen the charter school authorizing practices of school districts. The Network has three state association members (more coming): California, Colorado, and Florida and seven incubating state partners (including PA). The 10 participating states represent 72% of all district authorizers and 42% of all charter students.



Incubating State Partners – Year 1 & Beyond

Incubating State Partner Year 1 objectives include:

- Convene District authorizers at least quarterly
- Complete a needs assessment and asset map
- Identify priorities for 2+ model materials and 2+ professional development forums
- Begin work on model materials
- Develop sustainability plan

Increased
Connections

Increased Access to
Resources

Further Identification
of Needs

Charter Schools in PA

As reported by PDE for 2024-25:

- 153 brick and mortar charter schools statewide across 47 school districts
- 10 regional charter schools statewide across 23 school districts
- 14 cyber charter schools authorized by PDE
- 43 school districts only authorize one charter school, 9 school districts authorize two charter schools, 9 school districts authorize 3+

District	# Charter Schools
Philadelphia	81
Pittsburgh	12
Harrisburg	4
Allentown	4
Bethlehem*	3
York City*	3
Woodland Hills*	3
Erie City*	3
State College*	3

*Bethlehem has 2 regional charter schools and York City, Woodland Hills, Erie City, and State College have 1 regional charter school

State Updates

Charter School Appeal Board

- CAB heard argument from appeal of two revised new charter applications on 1/14/25 (Norristown & West Chester)
- CAB will make decisions on both these cases at their next meeting on 2/18/25

Revisions to PA Charter School Law

- Gov Shapiro signed Act 55 on 7/11/24, which amends parts of the PA Charter School Law. A PDE summary of the updates can be found [here](#).

State Updates (continued)

Revisions to PA Charter School Law

- More significant updates to PA Charter School Law included:
 - *Conflicts of interest*: SOFI obligation, allowable compensation
 - *Board membership*: at least 5 members, including a current parent, and a required new audit committee;
 - *Financial transparency*: CS budget and audit on CS & **district websites**; CS and any associated foundation tax filings on CS & foundation websites; reporting PDE-363 rate calculations to Dept starting 11/1/24
 - *Cyber charter schools*: District allows access to facilities for standardized testing; weekly student wellness checks; new laws subject to; Effective 1/1/25, the SPED per pupil rate for cyber charter schools is revised with two calculation options and payment based on the lesser

NN4DA Updates

- Authorizer self-assessment project
- Artificial Intelligence initiative – role in authorizing
- New administration and implications for U.S. Department of Education

NN4DA PA Resource Hub

- An authorizing resource hub, through [Google Drive](#), has been created with folders by authorizing area.
- Tools were drawn from PA districts, NN4DA partner states, and other high quality authorizers around the country.
- The hub will continue to be updated as resources are developed and shared.
- Drafts of our state model tools will be available here as well.

Name ↑

	Annual Evaluation Reports
	Charter Agreements
	Convening Decks
	New Charter School Application
	Performance Frameworks
	Renewal Guides
	Site Visit Protocols

NN4DA PA Model Tools

- Based on the needs assessment survey results, discussions with PA authorizers, and agreement during our last meeting, priority tools for PA templates included:
 1. Site visit protocol
 2. Renewal guide

Additionally, to support implementation of these tools, supplemental tools created include:

3. Performance standards
4. Renewal application

Let's [take a look](#) at what has been developed thus far.

NN4DA PA Model Tools

To support utility of the tools and finalization, your questions and feedback is greatly appreciated. To do so:

1. Access the working drafts in the [Resource Hub Google Folder](#) (will also be shared via email)
2. Provide any feedback to Lauren via email by end of February

Even better – modify one to your needs, test it out, and let us know its usefulness and needed tweaks!

We will discuss updates and any final considerations during our March meeting.

Open Discussion

Round Robin

- How many new charter applications and/or renewals do you have this year?
- What is top of mind for you right now?
- How can this group assist?

Next Steps

1. Complete [PA Needs Assessment](#) if not done so already
2. Share any tools with Lauren that currently using that could benefit this group
3. Access draft [Model NN4DA PA Tools](#) and share any feedback with Lauren via email

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