

National Network for District Authorizing (NN4DA) Professional Learning Community

Pennsylvania: Incubating State Partner

March 26, 2025

Agenda



Introductions (5 minutes)

Updates (5 minutes)

NN4DA will share state and NN4DA updates.

New Charter Application Discussion (25 minutes)

NN4DA will facilitate a discussion amongst district leaders regarding new charter application best practices.

Other Discussion (15 minutes)

Remaining time will be used to share other pressing updates and questions amongst the group.

Closing (10 minutes)

NN4DA will facilitate a discussion on sustainability and share a brief survey 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 voted to deny the appeal of two revised new charter applications, by a vote of 3-2, on 2/18/25
- The applications were to locate in Norristown and West Chester and were both affiliated with established management organizations
- Liddle (higher ed rep), Alexander (teacher rep), and Kennedy (board rep) voted to deny; Aichele and Killion voted to approve; Faustman and acting Secretary were absent and did not vote
- Aichele and Faustman's terms end 6/14/25

Governor Budget Proposal

- Cyber charter school funding reform included in proposed budget – statewide flat non-special education rate of \$8000 and tiered special education rates

NN4DA Updates

- Authorizer self-assessment project
- Artificial Intelligence initiative – role in authorizing
- U.S. Department of Education update
- Supreme Court case on religious charter schools

New Charter Applications

- Recent new charter application decisions
- Capacity interviews
- Denial feedback process
- Year Zero milestones

NACSA capacity interview resources can be found here:

<https://qualitycharters.org/capacity-interview/>

Model charter application & ready-to-open materials can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pQky029Dd8Tyf46RpsKb7KTMWpmi9YQt?usp=share_link

Open Discussion

Round Robin

- What other authorizing-related activities are you in the midst of this year?
- What is top of mind for you right now?
- How can this group assist?

NN4DA PA Sustainability

How can we best continue these efforts?

Options

- Established entity assumes facilitation role
- Group self-sustains with volunteer work/advisory board
- A new 501c3 is established
- Funds raised to continue current efforts

Quick Survey

Quick Survey – Access [HERE](#)

- Additional TA interests
- Sustainability
- Other ideas for NN4DA PA

Next Steps

1. Complete NN4DA self-assessment
2. Utilize [Model NN4DA PA Tools](#) and share any feedback with Lauren via email

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