

National Network for District Authorizing (NN4DA) Professional Learning Community

Pennsylvania: Incubating State Partner

September 25, 2024

Agenda



Introductions (10 minutes)

Performance Frameworks (25 minutes)

NN4DA will provide an overview of performance frameworks – their components, use, and local considerations.

Open Discussion (20 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



Overview

- Name
- District, role, years at District

Reflection

- An authorizing lesson I learned from last school year/authorizing cycle is...

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:

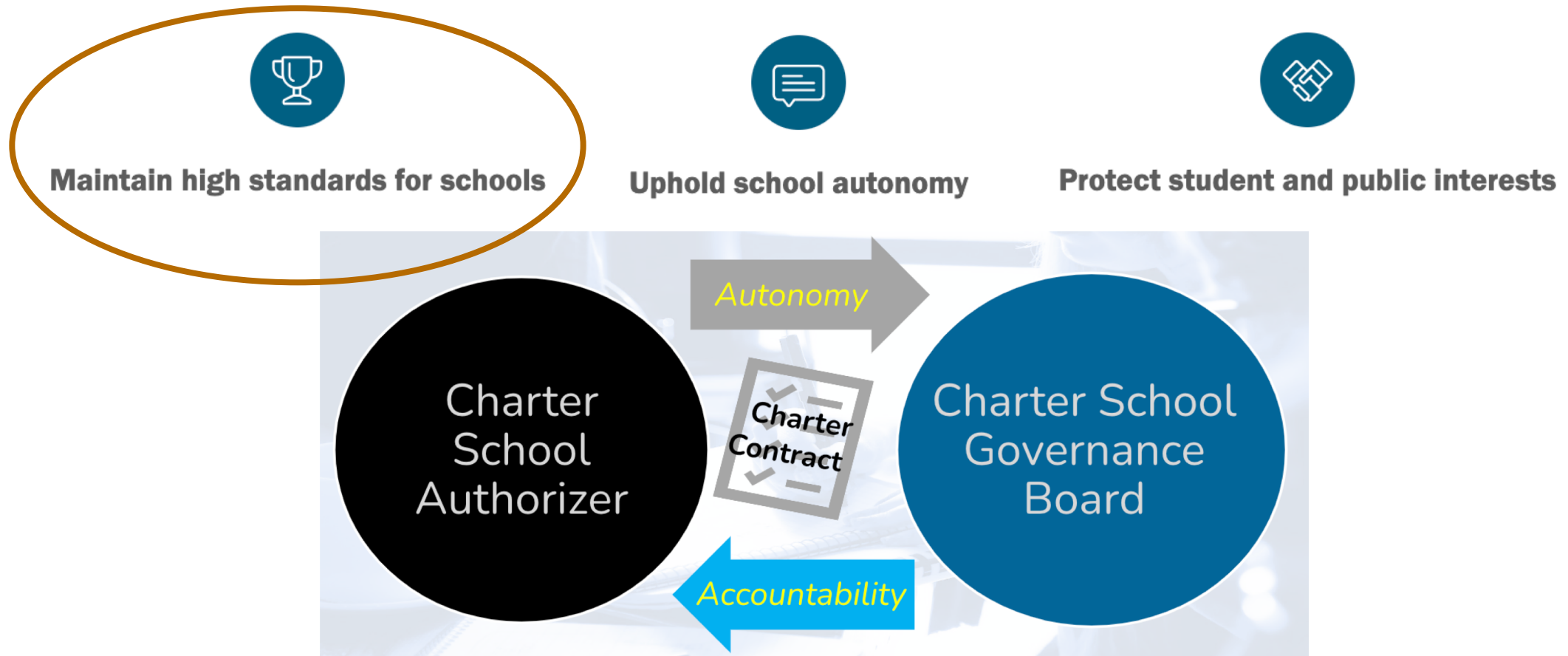
- 153 brick and mortar charter schools statewide across 47 school districts
- 10 regional charter schools statewide across 23 school districts
- 14 cyber charter schools authorized by PDE
- 43 school districts only authorize one charter school, 9 school districts authorize two charter schools, 9 school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

Principles of charter school authorizing

The following three core principles serve as overarching responsibilities to fulfill in all aspects of authorizing work (NACSA):



Performance Frameworks

Performance frameworks are the accountability mechanism at the center of the charter school and authorizer relationship. They allow authorizers to create and communicate a set of expectations and to inform activities throughout the charter lifecycle (applications, annual monitoring, reporting, intervention, renewal).

Important caveats:

- One size does not fit all.
- Every community is unique.
- Clear expectations and sound professional judgement are key.



Academic
Performance

Organizational
Performance

Financial
Performance

Performance Frameworks

Academic Framework

Student Growth

Multiple Measures
Mission-Specific
Goals

Student
Achievement
(Proficiency)

Post-Secondary
Readiness

State Accountability
Systems

Organizational Framework

Governance

Staffing

Student Rights
(enrollment,
climate/discipline)

Education Program

Reporting
Requirements

Students with
Disabilities

English Learners

School Environment
(health & safety,
facility)

School Community
(fam/com engage,
partnerships)

Financial Framework

Near-Term Financial
Health

Long-Term Financial
Sustainability

Financial
Management &
Oversight

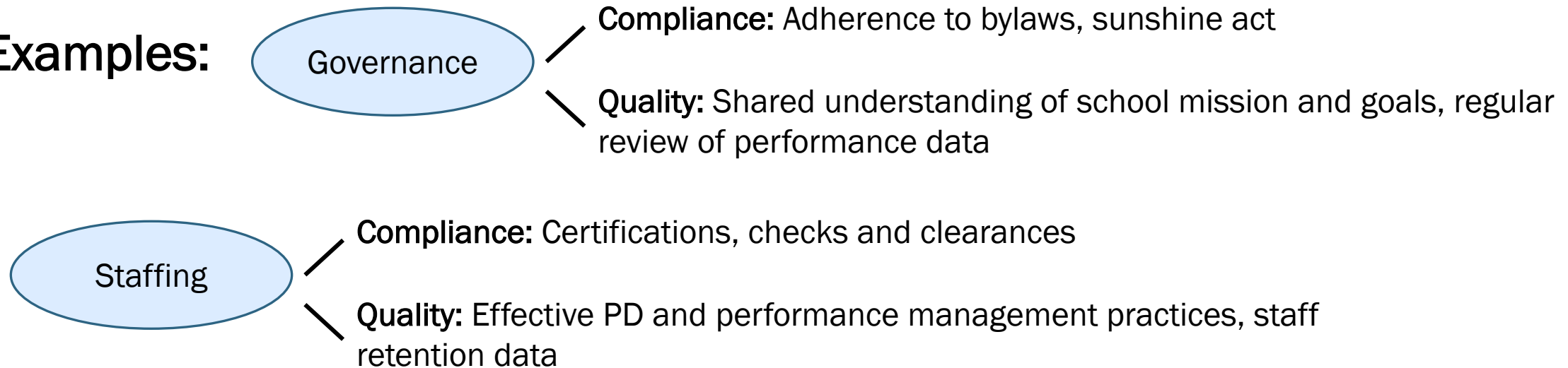
Suggested Resource: NACSA's [Guide to Performance Frameworks](#)

Performance Frameworks - Compliance vs Quality

Compliance vs Quality

- **Compliance:** strictly whether meeting expectations in law or contract
- **Quality:** goes beyond legal compliance to more nuanced performance areas

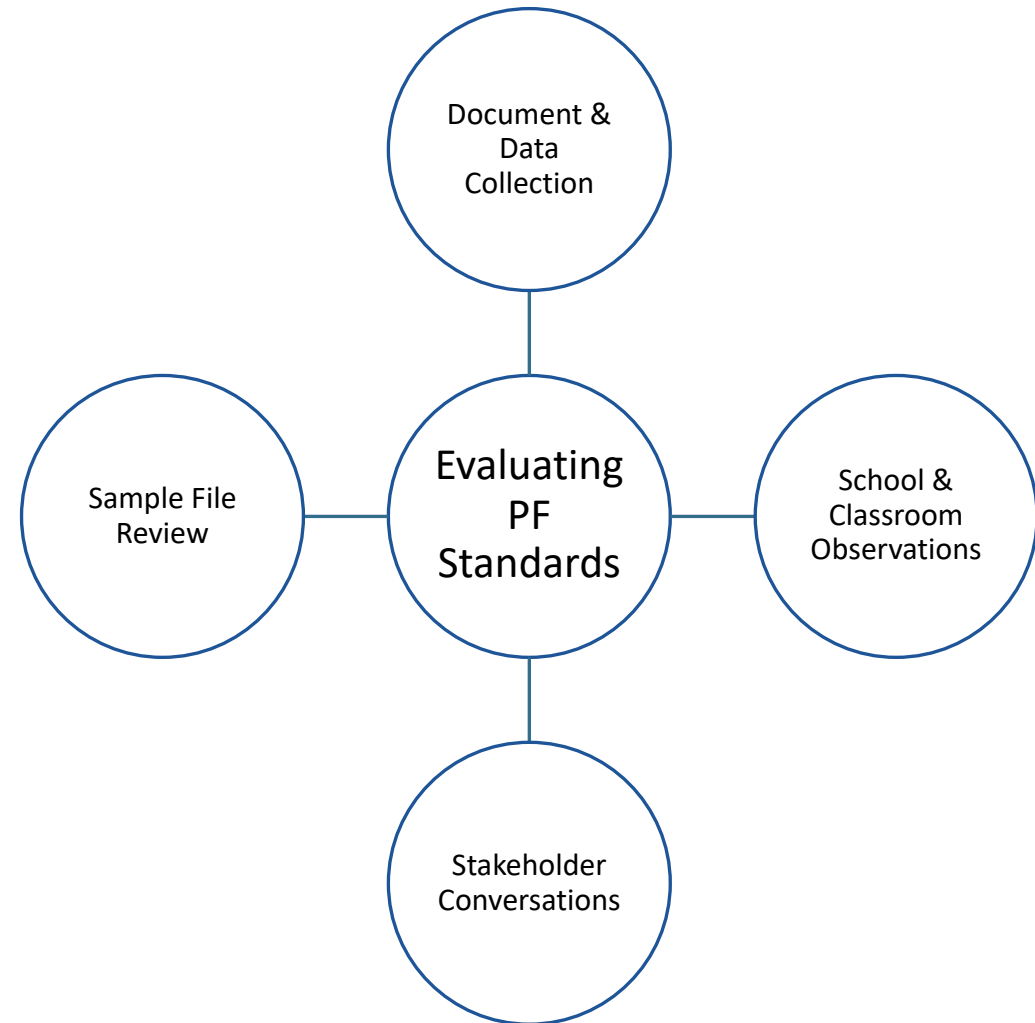
Examples:



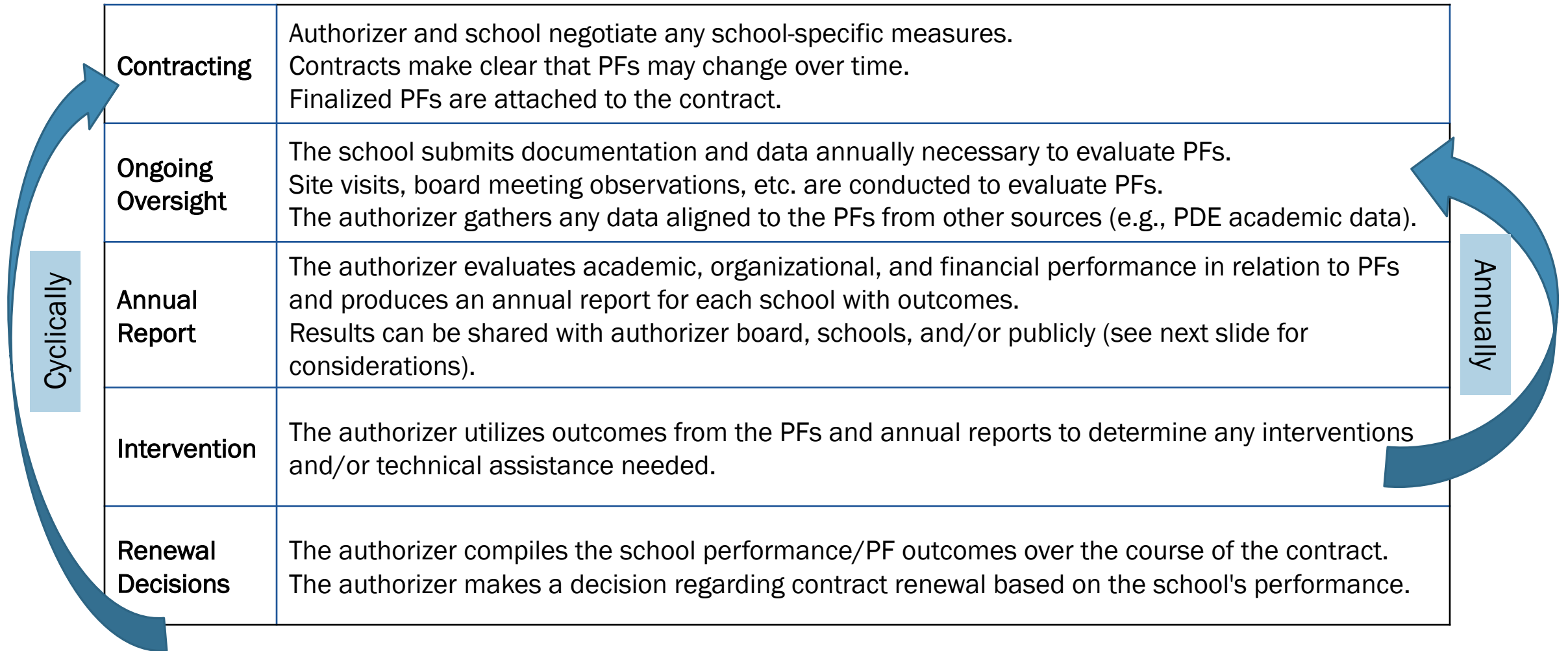
Performance Frameworks – Evaluation Methods

Evaluation Methods

- Most common methods include document and data collection from school & third party sources, sample file review, observations, and stakeholder conversations
- Multiple methods are often necessary to properly evaluate standards and triangulate outcomes
- Frequency of evaluation and type of method can be annual or less often based on capacity, reporting timeframe, etc.



Performance Frameworks Use



Performance Frameworks - Considerations

Capacity

- Which offices and experts can assist in what framework areas?
- How are you setting expectations for involvement – when and how often?

Written Reporting

- What is included and when in a written report?
- Is it aligned to a framework, a site visit?
- Is there one annual authorizer report or multiple based on timing and data availability?

Transparency

- Performance outcomes are shared with who, in what format?
- Audiences: district board, district leadership, charter school board and leadership, the public

Charter Incorporation

- How are performance expectations articulated in the charter agreement?
- Does language align with evaluation and reporting areas?

SDP Performance Framework



EFFECTIVE JULY 2024

CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The School District of Philadelphia Charter Schools Office's ("CSO") Charter School Performance Framework ("Framework") includes three domains: (1) Academic Success, (2) Organizational Compliance and Viability, and (3) Financial Health and Sustainability. Each Domain contains categories and a corresponding number of standards within each category.

The domains, categories, and standards of the Charter School Performance Framework are evaluated on an annual basis, with each school's unique findings reported publicly through the Annual Charter Evaluation (ACE) report. During a charter school's renewal review year, they receive an ACE-R, which includes additional standards that are evaluated a single time during a charter term.

This document provides an overview of each standard, including a brief description, legal reference, and the evidence source that is used in the CSO's evaluation.

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Philadelphia Resources

- [Performance Framework](#)
- [Category Rating Business Rules](#)
- [Standard-Level Business Rules](#)
- [Annual Charter Evaluations](#)
- [Renewal Reports](#)

PA Needs Assessment – Outcomes to Date

PA Needs Assessment

- *Resources used in authorizing work:* largely solicitor and internally developed processes and tools
- *Tools currently using/desired:* Most happy with charter application, greatest needs include site visit protocol and renewal guide
- *Topics/issues most helpful to address:* Site visits, authorizer produced annual reports, case law updates
- *Most serious issues facing districts related to charter schools:* funding/financial strain, transparency, accountability

Open Discussion

What is top of mind for you right now?

How can this group assist?

PA NN4DA Resource Hub

NN4DA PA Resource Hub

- Google folder will be created with sample tools from PA, other NN4DA partner states, and nationally recognized authorizers
- Prioritized model tools will eventually be housed here as well
- Will be updated on an ongoing basis and shared before next meeting

NN4DA Annual Meeting

NN4DA Annual Meeting

- NN4DA is holding its annual meeting in Houston, TX on October 20 and 21 prior to the NACSA conference
- NN4DA state partners and select authorizers from each affiliate state will be present
- The NACSA conference is the largest authorizing specific conference in the country – more [HERE](#)
- If interested in learning more, please reach out – we'd love to have you!

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. Share interest in attending NACSACon & NN4DA pre-meeting

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