Part I: Charter School Information

1. Including this current school year, identify the total number of years your school has been operating.
   - 1 - 2 years
   - 3 - 4 years
   - 5 - 6 years
   - 7 or more years

2. Choose the one which best describes your role within your charter school.
   - Director or staff position, or otherwise engaged in day-to-day school operating tasks.
   - Governing or policy board member.
   - Other, Please Specify

3. Select the one that best describes how financially and legally autonomous your school is.
   - Still legally part of a school district, with the school only having control over some key financial and personnel decisions.
   - Still legally part of a school district, but the school really controls all key financial and personnel decisions.
   - Our school is legally and financially autonomous.
   - Other, Please Specify

4. Identify the authorizing agency you are currently chartered by:
   - Major Authorizer Name #1
   - Major Authorizer Name #2
   - Major Authorizer Name #3
Major Authorizer Name #4
Other, Please Specify

5 Please note whether your school has already undergone a formal review for charter "renewal" purposes.

- Yes, already completed.
- Yes, we are currently involved in such a process.
- No.
- Other, Please Specify

Part II: Your Charter School Application & Approval Process (Note: If your school has changed authorizers, please respond to all questions in reference to your current authorizer).

6 When you applied for your initial charter, please indicate to what extent the following were in place.

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<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) A comprehensive application packet was easily available (e.g., mail, on-line).</td>
<td>Not True At All</td>
<td>True to Some Extent</td>
<td>True to a Large Extent</td>
<td>Completely True</td>
<td>Don't Know or Don't Remember</td>
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<td>b) It appeared that efforts were undertaken to get application information to a broad range of applicants.</td>
<td>Not True At All</td>
<td>True to Some Extent</td>
<td>True to a Large Extent</td>
<td>Completely True</td>
<td>Don't Know or Don't Remember</td>
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<td>c) Detailed application timelines existed.</td>
<td>Not True At All</td>
<td>True to Some Extent</td>
<td>True to a Large Extent</td>
<td>Completely True</td>
<td>Don't Know or Don't Remember</td>
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<td>d) We were provided with a clear set of approval criteria, including a written rubric or scoring scale.</td>
<td>Not True At All</td>
<td>True to Some Extent</td>
<td>True to a Large Extent</td>
<td>Completely True</td>
<td>Don't Know or Don't Remember</td>
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<td>e) Informational meetings were held for interested applicants.</td>
<td>Not True At All</td>
<td>True to Some Extent</td>
<td>True to a Large Extent</td>
<td>Completely True</td>
<td>Don't Know or Don't Remember</td>
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<td>f) Specific technical assistance was provided by the authorizer and/or referrals were made to technical assistance providers.</td>
<td>Not True At All</td>
<td>True to Some Extent</td>
<td>True to a Large Extent</td>
<td>Completely True</td>
<td>Don't Know or Don't Remember</td>
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<td>g) We were provided with an opportunity to provide additional information and/or any address questions as part of the application review process.</td>
<td>Not True At All</td>
<td>True to Some Extent</td>
<td>True to a Large Extent</td>
<td>Completely True</td>
<td>Don't Know or Don't Remember</td>
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h) The overall application review process appeared to be non-political, and focused on the quality of our application.

7 Please feel free to share any comments on how well your initial "application and charter school approval process" went.

Part III: Your Charter Performance Agreement & On-Going Oversight

8 Please indicate the extent to which each is found within your current "performance contract or charter," and whether adequate detail exists so that you know what your school is being held accountable for.

Not Included in Charter Included, but Lacks Significant Detail Included, but Lacks Some Detail Included & Contains Sufficient Detail

a) School-specific mission, and related goals that must be met.

b) Student recruitment and enrollment policies (adequate to ensure equal access).

c) Provisions for adequately serving special needs students.

d) Resources and level of autonomy the school is to receive.

e) Student achievement requirements, including necessary data to be collected and reported.

f) Clear consequences for not meeting prescribed outcomes.

9 Identify the extent to which your authorizer performs the following "oversight" functions.

Not True at All True, to Some Extent True, to a Large Extent Completely True Don't Know

a) Periodic "announced" visits to my school are conducted.

b) Periodic "unannounced" visits to my school are conducted.
c) My school is required to complete annual financial audits and regular progress reports.

   1  2  3  4  5

d) Any submitted reports appear to be reviewed, and my school is notified if potential problems are found.

   1  2  3  4  5

e) My authorizer independently analyzes student performance data from my school.

   1  2  3  4  5

f) My authorizer has provided a clearly delineated set of actions that may be taken, if indeed any problems are found with my school.

   1  2  3  4  5

g) My authorizer works to shield my school from red tape and excessive procedural compliance.

   1  2  3  4  5

h) My authorizer has a good "oversight" system that collects information on the performance of my school in a consistent and transparent manner.

   1  2  3  4  5

i) Overall, my authorizer has created systems that hold my school accountable, without micromanaging or burdening us with excessive requirements.

   1  2  3  4  5

10 Please feel free to share any comments on how well your authorizer is doing in "overseeing" your charter performance agreement or contract. Feel free to address how things in this area may have changed over time.


11 Please identify what components are part of the formal review and/or contract renewal process which your school has already undergone, or will undergo in the future (i.e., when decisions are made regarding continuation or extension of your charter.)

   1  2  3  4  5

a) A clear set of written criteria for formal review and renewal exists, against which my school will be measured.

   1  2  3  4  5
b) Renewal decisions regarding my school are based in large part on progress made toward specific student achievement goals.

1 2 3 4 5

c) A process exists whereby my school could appeal or seek a hearing regarding authorizer decisions.

1 2 3 4 5

d) Overall, my school clearly understands what is to be expected as part of the formal review and renewal process.

1 2 3 4 5

12 Please feel free to share any comments on successes or concerns with your authorizer's "formal review and renewal" requirements.

13 Finally, please grade your authorizer in reference to the "overall" job it is doing as an authorizer. Think about whether quality application and oversight processes exist, and whether decisions are based upon merit (rather than politics).

A B C D F

1 2 3 4 5

Part V. Overall State-level Charter School Policy Environment

14 Please rate the extent to which you perceive the following to be true for "charter schools as a whole," within your state.

1 Not True At All 2 True, to Some Extent 3 True, to a Large Extent 4 Completely True 5 Don't Know

a) Charter schools have the ability to operate as legally and financially autonomous institutions.

1 2 3 4 5

b) Charter school applicants have access to one or more authorizers who will make decisions on the merits of the proposal, not based upon politics.

1 2 3 4 5

c) There are ample opportunities for those with quality proposals to obtain a charter.

1 2 3 4 5

d) There is a well-developed charter school network or association.

1 2 3 4 5
e) There is adequate access to technical assistance or resource center support.

f) There are a sufficient number of "contract services" available to meet charter schools' various needs (e.g., accounting; special education).

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15 Please continue rating the extent to which the following seem true for "charter schools as a whole" within your state.

| a) There is a charter "friendly" state department of education. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| b) There is sufficient political support for charter schools. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| c) There is acceptance of charter schools by local school districts. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| d) There is sufficient understanding among parents and the general public as to what charter schools really are. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| e) The state has in place a comprehensive school-based report card/accountability system for all of its public schools (including charters). | 1 2 3 4 5 |

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16 Since this survey was developed for use across multiple states, many aspects of "authorizing" as it relates to your school were probably not covered. Please feel free to offer any additional comments that you'd like to share what the job your authorizer is doing, or other aspects of the overall charter school movement in your state. Thanks!

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Click the "Submit" arrow to send your answers and proceed to the next page in the survey.