

# Project Intersect – Authorizer Survey

## BACKGROUND

1. Which of the following best describes your organization/agency? (Circle ONE).

- a. Local education agency (LEA)
- b. State education agency/state board of ed. (SEA)
- c. College or university
- d. Special purpose chartering agency
- e. Not-for-profit organization/agency

2. In what calendar year did your organization/agency authorize its first charter school? (Please specify below).

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you personally been involved with authorizing charter schools within your organization/agency? (Circle ONE).

- a. Less than one year
- b. Between one and two years
- c. Two to five years
- d. Over five years

4. In total, how many charter schools has your organization/agency authorized? (Enter a number below or enter "Don't know").

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Of the charter schools your organization/agency has authorized, how many were conversion schools (i.e., traditional public or private schools that converted to charter school status) versus new start-ups? (Enter numbers below, or enter "Don't know").

- a. # of public school conversions \_\_\_\_\_
- b. # of private school conversions \_\_\_\_\_
- c. # of new start-ups \_\_\_\_\_

6. Of the charter schools your organization/agency has authorized, how many were cyber or virtual charter schools? (Specify the number below or select one of the other options).

- a. Not applicable
- b. Don't know
- c. Specify the number \_\_\_\_\_

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## SPECIAL EDUCATION

**7. What does your organization/agency require of charter school applicants during the charter authorization/application process? (Circle ALL THAT APPLY).**

- a. A general written assurance to not discriminate against any group
- b. Specific written assurance to not discriminate against students with disabilities
- c. Minimal information about plans for meeting special education responsibility
- d. Detailed information about planned special education services
- e. Don't know
- f. Other, (specify requirements)

**8. What entities are the PRIMARY PROVIDERS of special education technical assistance and training to the charter schools your organization/agency authorizes? (Circle no more than two).**

- a. Charter school membership association
- b. Charter school authorizer
- c. Charter school resource center
- d. Charter schools
- e. LEA (if not the authorizer)
- f. Intermediate education agency or unit (e.g., ISD, BOCES, SELPA)
- g. Local non-profit that provides special education services
- h. Special education cooperative developed for charter schools
- i. State-level special education administrator for charter schools
- j. Education management organizations
- k. Don't know
- l. Other, please specify

**9. Does your organization/agency offer or require technical assistance and training to charter schools during the AUTHORIZATION OR APPLICATION PROCESS? (Select ONE).**

- a. Yes
- b. No (SKIP TO QUESTION #12)
- c. Don't know

**Please continue with Question #10 on the next page.**

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**10. In which of the following areas does your organization/agency offer or require technical assistance and training during the AUTHORIZATION OR APPLICATION PROCESS?** *(Place an “X” in a box to select ONE response for each area).*

| Area   | Required During Authorization or Application Process | Offered But Not Required During The Authorization or Application Process | Don't Know |
|--|--|--|------------|
| Introducing general disability laws (IDEA, ADA, Section 504) |  |  |            |
| Establishing eligibility and the IEP process                 |  |  |            |
| Providing special education services                         |  |  |            |
| Special education monitoring and compliance                  |  |  |            |
| Funding special education                                    |  |  |            |
| Reporting data to the state                                  |  |  |            |

**11. How many total days of special education training does your organization/agency require of charter school personnel prior to opening their school?** *(Circle ONE).*

- a. Half day or less
- b. About a day
- c. Two days or more
- d. None
- e. Don't know

**12. Does your organization/agency offer or require technical assistance and training to charter schools DURING OPERATION?** *(Circle ONE).*

- a. Yes
- b. No (SKIP TO QUESTION #15)
- c. Don't know

**13. In which of the following areas does your organization/agency offer or require technical assistance and training during OPERATION?** *(Place an “X” in a box to select ONE response for each area).*

| Area   | Required During Operation | Offered But Not Required During Operation | Don't Know |
|--|---------------------------|---|------------|
| Introducing general disability laws (IDEA, ADA, Section 504) |                           |   |            |
| Establishing eligibility and the IEP process                 |                           |   |            |
| Providing special education services                         |                           |   |            |
| Special education monitoring and compliance                  |                           |   |            |
| Funding special education                                    |                           |   |            |
| Reporting data to the state                                  |                           |   |            |

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14. How many total days of special education training per year does your organization/agency require of charter school personnel once a charter school is operating? (*Circle ONE*).
- a. Half day or less
  - b. About a day
  - c. Two days or more
  - d. None
  - e. Don't know

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### CHARTER SCHOOLS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PRACTICES

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15. What is your organization's/agency's legal responsibility for providing special education and related services to students with disabilities attending charter schools that it authorizes? (*Circle ONE*).
- a. Total legal responsibility
  - b. Shared legal responsibility
  - c. No legal responsibility
  - d. Don't know
  - e. Other, please describe
16. Which statement best describes your organization's/agency's involvement with special education in the charter schools it authorizes? (*Circle ONE*).
- a. Not involved with special education
  - b. Involved with special ed. when we authorize/renew
  - c. Provides special ed. in schools we authorize
  - d. Supervises special ed. in schools we authorize
  - e. Works with special ed. as requested by schools
  - f. Don't know
  - g. Other, please describe

Please continue with Question #17 on the next page.

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**17. Based on your interaction with charter schools, to what extent are the following areas a challenge for charter schools? (Place an "X" in a box to select ONE response for each area).**

| Area  | Challenge<br>Primarily<br>During<br>Startup (1 <sup>st</sup><br>3-Years) | Continuing<br>Challenge | Not A<br>Challenge | Don't Know |
|---|--|-------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Knowing special education laws and regulations                          |  |                         |                    |            |
| Understanding special education finance                                 |  |                         |                    |            |
| Having adequate funds to provide services to special education students |  |                         |                    |            |
| Finding qualified special education teachers                            |  |                         |                    |            |
| Providing professional development for special education teachers       |  |                         |                    |            |
| Finding qualified related service personnel                             |  |                         |                    |            |
| Working with LEA or other special education provider                    |  |                         |                    |            |
| Following due process procedures  |  |                         |                    |            |
| Obtaining IEP files from sending school                                 |  |                         |                    |            |
| Implementing the IEP  |  |                         |                    |            |
| Working with parents of children with disabilities                      |  |                         |                    |            |
| Implementing the IDEA discipline procedures                             |  |                         |                    |            |
| Understanding monitoring and compliance requirements                    |  |                         |                    |            |
| Providing an accessible facility  |  |                         |                    |            |
| Providing transportation for students with disabilities                 |  |                         |                    |            |
| Modifying the school's core curriculum for students with disabilities   |  |                         |                    |            |
| Providing services for students in low incidence disability areas       |  |                         |                    |            |
| Incorporating students with disabilities in NCLB requirements           |  |                         |                    |            |

**18. Based on your experience as a charter school authorizer, what is your greatest challenge related to special education in charter schools? (Enter your response in the box below. Use the Comments at the end if you need more room).**

**19. Besides charter school associations and resource centers, what organizations/strategies are charter schools that your organization/agency authorizes utilizing to assist with the ongoing provision of special education services in their schools? (Circle ALL THAT APPLY).**

- a. Authorizer
- b. LEA (if not the authorizer)
- c. Intermediate education agency or unit (e.g., ISD, BOCES, SELPA)
- d. Local non-profit that provides special education services
- e. Special education cooperative for charter schools
- f. Risk pooling (insurance model)
- g. State-level special education administrator for charter schools located in the SEA
- h. Individual consultants
- i. Education management organizations
- j. Don't know

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## CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

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20. In what state are you located? *(Please provide the state abbreviation)*. \_\_\_\_\_
21. For academic year 2002-2003 approximately how many students were enrolled in the charter schools authorized by your organization/agency? *(Specify the number below or select one of the other options)*.
- a. Don't know
  - b. Data not available
  - c. Specify number \_\_\_\_\_
22. For academic year 2002-2003 (12/1/02 headcount) approximately how many students with IEPs were enrolled in the charter schools authorized by your organization/agency? *(Specify the number below or select one of the other options)*.
- a. Don't know
  - b. Data not available
  - c. Specify number \_\_\_\_\_
23. For the 2002-2003 school year, approximately how many students with 504 plans were enrolled in the charter schools authorized by your organization/agency? *(Specify the number below or select one of the other options)*.
- a. Don't know
  - b. Data not available
  - c. Specify number \_\_\_\_\_
24. How many of the charter schools authorized by your organization or agency are designed primarily or entirely to serve students with disabilities? *(Specify the number below or select one of the other options)*.
- a. Don't know
  - b. Data not available
  - c. Specify number \_\_\_\_\_

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## STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION MONITORING

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25. Does your organization/agency coordinate its oversight activities related to special education in charter schools with special education monitoring required under IDEA? *(Circle ONE)*.
- a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Don't know

**Please continue with Question #26 on the next page.**

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**26. In the past three years, has your organization/agency been required to take action against any of the charter schools it authorized due to complaints related to special education? (If Yes, please specify how many below).**

- a. No (SKIP TO QUESTION 28)
- b. Don't know (SKIP TO QUESTION 28)
- c. Yes, please specify how many \_\_\_\_\_

**27. If your answer to the previous question was Yes, in what areas were the complaints? (Circle ALL THAT APPLY).**

- a. Denial of access to the charter school program
- b. Provision of special education instruction
- c. Qualifications of special education teachers
- d. Due process
- e. Provision of related services
- f. Discipline, suspicion or expulsion
- g. Accessibility of charter school facilities
- h. Don't know
- i. Denial of access to the charter school program

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### SPECIAL EDUCATION AND CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL

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**28. Is the charter school's special education record a required component of your organization/agency's charter school renewal process? (Select ONE).**

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know

**29. Has a charter school's special education record been a factor in revocation for ANY of the charter school's your organization/agency has revoked? (If Yes, please specify the number below).**

- a. No
- b. Don't know
- c. Yes, please specify the number \_\_\_\_\_

**30. Any Comments?**