

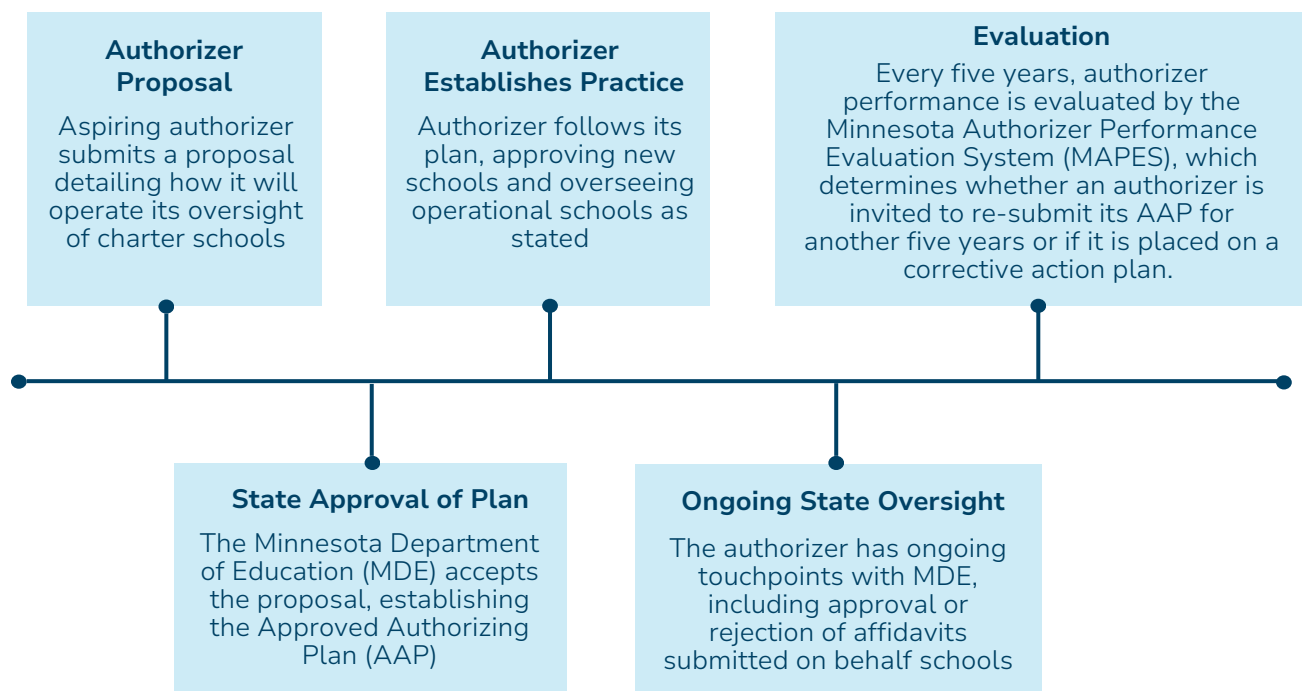
Charter School Authorizing in Minnesota

Why Authorizing Matters

Minnesota is the birthplace of the charter movement, passing the nation's first charter school law in 1991. Today, over 170 charter schools serve more than 70,000 students, providing families with diverse educational options. Every charter school has a contract with an authorizer that allows them to operate.

Authorizers uphold accountability and protect public interests by:

- ▲ Establishing performance contracts that set academic, operational, and financial expectations.
- ▲ Evaluating schools regularly to ensure compliance and progress.
- ▲ Closing schools that do not meet standards, thereby protecting students and taxpayers.



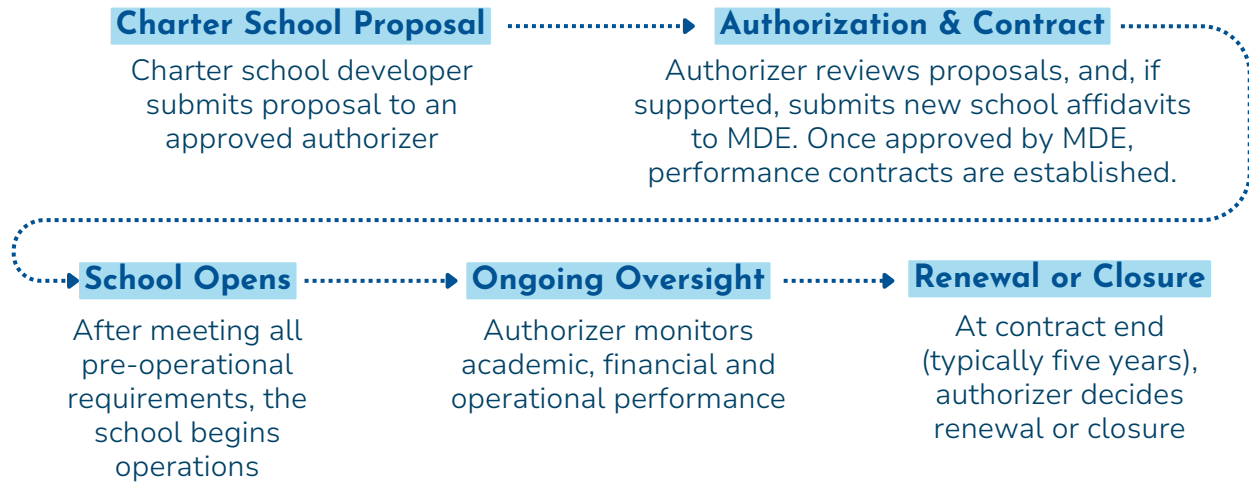
Authorizers' Role in Minnesota's Education System

Authorizers include public school districts, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations. As authorizers, we **do not** manage or operate charter schools. Instead, we:

- ▲ Ensure accountability by overseeing the financial, operational, and academic performance of charter schools
- ▲ Foster innovation to improve outcomes for Minnesota students
- ▲ Intervene when schools fail to meet expectations



Minnesota Charter School Authorization Process



Who We Are

The Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA) is a membership organization representing the majority of charter school authorizers in Minnesota. Our mission is to increase the quality of charter school authorizing by advancing practices and policies that ensure equitable and responsive educational programming and accountability systems.

MACSA's Commitment to Excellence

Our Principles & Standards

Maintain and Advance High Standards:

Ensuring oversight that leads to student success

Serve Student and Public Interest:

Advocating for quality, equitable education across Minnesota

Uphold Autonomy and Foster Innovation:

Balancing flexibility with accountability

Promote Excellence & Accountability:

Supporting best practices for oversight

MACSA's Areas of Impact

MACSA focuses on three key areas that drive its impact in charter school authorizing:

Transparency and Accountability

MACSA's authorizers ensure transparency and accountability, fostering trust in Minnesota's charter schools.

Strong oversight leads to stronger schools and better outcomes for students.

MACSA promotes measurable improvements and shares transparent data to reinforce credibility.

Equity and Student-Centered Impact

MACSA's authorizers advocate for opportunities for all students and seek to eliminate barriers to student success.

Equity in education is furthered by strong oversight and meaningful school support.

MACSA highlights success stories and innovations that close opportunity gaps.

Leadership and Advocacy for Innovation

MACSA's authorizers are leaders in fostering innovation and excellence in charter schools and their oversight.

Joint advocacy leads to better policies, better schools, and brighter futures.

MACSA collaborates with policymakers, educators, and communities to drive meaningful change.