



Strong Charter School Authorizer Accountability Structure in Minnesota

In Minnesota, authorizers are tasked by law (124E.05) to:

- ensure that a school it authorizes has the autonomy granted by statute, fulfills the purposes of a charter school, and is accountable to the agreed upon terms of the charter school contract in order to safeguard quality educational opportunities for students and maintain public trust and confidence.
- review applications for new schools, determine whether a new school is ready to open, review applications for grade and site expansions, review applications for change in authorizers, and determine whether to approve or deny an application based on the authorizer's approved criteria;
- negotiate and execute the performance charter contracts with the schools it authorizes;
- conduct ongoing monitoring, oversight, and evaluation of the school's academic, operational, and financial performance during the term of the charter contract;
- evaluate the academic, operational, and financial performance of the school as defined in the charter contract prior to the end of the contract to determine the renewal, nonrenewal, or termination of the contract

The commissioner is tasked by law (124E.05) to:

- develop the criteria and process of the performance review system in consultation with authorizers, school administrators, charter school boards of directors, and other charter school stakeholders;
- publish the authorizer performance review criteria and process at least 12 months before any change or process takes effect, except for changes required to take effect earlier in accordance with state or federal law or to make technical changes;
- evaluate the authorizer's performance on adherence and implementation of the authorizer's policies, procedures, and processes that are subject to section 124E.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (b);
- review an authorizer's performance every five years, and may review an authorizer's performance more frequently at the commissioner's own initiative or at the request of a charter school chief administrator, charter school board of directors, or other interested party.
- transmit a report with findings to the authorizer and the schools authorized by the authorizer.
- solicit feedback from the authorizer, charter school administrators, and charter school boards of directors

Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA)

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If commissioner finds that an authorizer has not met the requirements of chapter 124E.05 the commissioner has the ability in law to:

- subject the authorizer to a corrective action plan, which may last no longer than 130 business days.
- prohibit an authorizer on a corrective plan from accepting a transfer application from a charter school and an application to establish a charter school.
- take corrective action against an authorizer, including terminating an authorizer's ability to charter a school, terminating a contract with a charter school, and other appropriate sanctions for:
 - (1) failing to demonstrate the criteria under subdivision 3 under which the commissioner approved the authorizer;
 - (2) violating a term of the chartering contract between the authorizer and the charter school board of directors;
 - (3) unsatisfactory performance as an approved authorizer;
 - (4) any good cause shown that gives the commissioner a legally sufficient reason to take corrective action against an authorizer; or
 - (5) failing to meet the terms of a corrective action plan by the specified deadline.