

California Charter Schools Association
ED Abstract Narrative

Organization: California Charter Schools Association (CCSA)
Address: 250 E 1st St., Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Contact: Elizabeth Robitaille
Phone: (213) 244-1446 ext. 209
Email: ERobitaille@calcharters.org

Project Title: Developing an Accountability Model Aligned With Common Core

1st Year Total Funding: \$636,954.00

Total Recommended Award Amount: \$1,970,898.00

With the adoption of Common Core and the Smarter Balanced assessments in California, CCSA must develop a new accountability framework for charter schools. The prior framework was instrumental in increasing the quality of charter schools in California over the last five years. This project will design a robust accountability framework with input from authorizers, charter schools, experts, state charter school associations and the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. CCSA will disseminate accountability information to authorizers, schools and others for use in decision-making about charter closures, renewals and replications of high-performing schools. Also, the redesigned model will provide authorizers with more comprehensive information about the performance of English learners and students with disabilities. CCSA will provide technical assistance to charter school associations in other states in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to facilitate use of the model.

Goals: Develop new charter school accountability model using Smarter Balanced assessment data. California authorizers participate in developing the model and make authorizing decisions in line with the data. Increase the quality of California charter schools. Disseminate the accountability model to other states.

Expected Outcomes: California authorizers use data from the accountability model to approve charter petitions that produce high-quality schools, close underperforming charter schools, and monitor the performance of their charter schools. As a result, the percentage of California charter schools in the top quartile of performance will increase, raising student achievement and strengthening the California charter school movement.

Contributions: The shift to the Common Core is a moment of immense opportunity for the national charter movement to assess charter schools using more sophisticated measures of student learning. Because Common Core is being implemented by states across the nation, CCSA's new accountability framework could be easily adopted in nearly any state for a nationwide impact.

Meets CSP Purpose: The accountability model will evaluate the effect of charter schools on student academic achievement. Use of the model to advocate for closures of underperforming

schools and for approval of high-quality charter petitions will expand the number of high-quality charter schools. Assessment of charter schools using Smarter Balanced is an issue of national significance, and CCSA will provide technical assistance to other state charter school associations to assist them in adapting the model for their use.