

Building Strong Authorizing Practices and Support for Florida District Authorizers

FLORIDA CHARTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021 • 3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M

Building Strong Authorizing Practices and Support for Florida District Authorizers

Presenters



Melissa Brady

Executive Director

Florida Association of Charter
School Authorizers (FACSA)

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Project Support Specialist

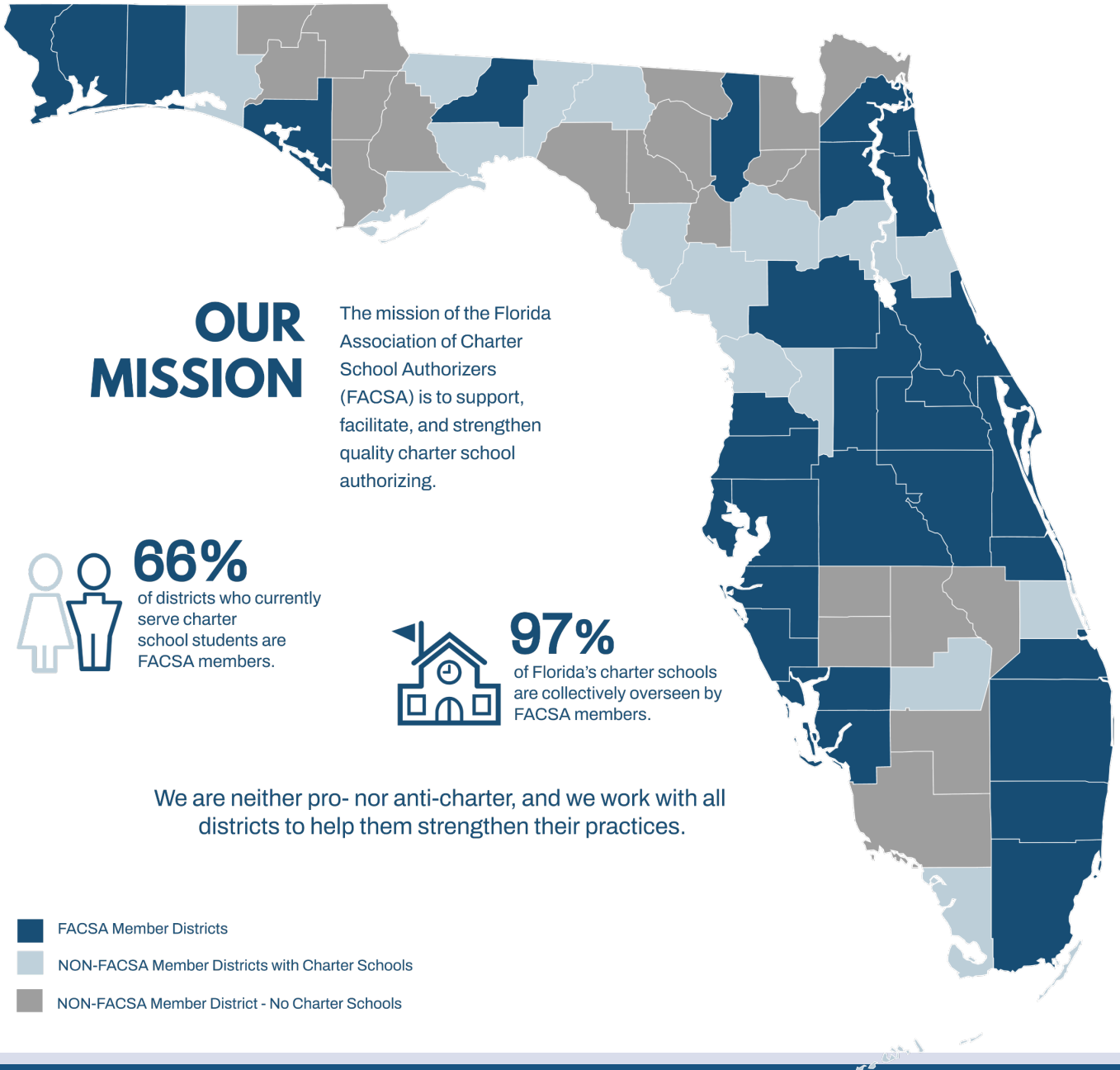
Florida Association of Charter
School Authorizers (FACSA)

Kia Sweeney-Scott

President


Florida Association of Charter
School Authorizers (FACSA)


FACSA Who We Are






OUR MISSION

The mission of the Florida Association of Charter School Authorizers (FACSA) is to support, facilitate, and strengthen quality charter school authorizing.

 **66%** of districts who currently serve charter school students are FACSA members.

 **97%** of Florida's charter schools are collectively overseen by FACSA members.

We are neither pro- nor anti-charter, and we work with all districts to help them strengthen their practices.

-  FACSA Member Districts
-  NON-FACSA Member Districts with Charter Schools
-  NON-FACSA Member District - No Charter Schools

How We Support Florida Authorizers

Technical Assistance

FACSA has developed a number of technical assistance documents that are readily found in our Resource Library at flauthorizers.org.

- Capacity Interview Toolkit
- Annual Report Template
- Appeals Timeline, and more.

Professional Development

FACSA provides just-in-time professional development as well as partners with both local and national experts to help keep authorizers up-to-date on best practices.

- Webinars
- Authorizer Bootcamp
- Authorizer Summit

Mentoring Partnerships

We connect new authorizers to colleagues in the field who are seasoned professionals ready to assist them through the early years of their new role in authorizing.

- Mentoring Network
- External Reviewers for Charter Review
- Webinars

Networking Opportunities

We provide opportunities for Florida authorizers to meet with each other to discuss current issues and share best practices. We also provide opportunities for our members to join other state organizations like FACSA to share what's happening in our states and the best practices that enable us to tackle the most difficult issues.

- Monthly Meetings
- Conferences
- Authorizer Summit

Our Partnership with the Florida Department of Education

2020 CSP Grant

In 2020 FLDOE was awarded a CSP grant by the Department of Education.

High Quality Leaders

A primary objective of the grant proposal was to increase the number of high-quality charter school authorizers and build their capacity for leadership.

Authorizer Summit and Bootcamp

FACSA joined FLDOE in this effort and held the first ever Florida Authorizer Summit and Bootcamp in September 2021.





Overall Summit Statistics

Statistics

- 63 Florida Authorizer Attendees
- 31 Florida districts represented
- 3 Florida districts designated small and rural*
- Attendees oversee 97% of Florida's Charter Schools
- Attendees oversee 99% of Florida's Charter Students
- 19 Other Attendees (From National and Local Organizations)

FACSA Members Attendees

- 29 districts are members

* Small and rural as defined by <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7770/urlt/MasterEligibilityLEAsFY21.pdf>

Sessions at the Summit

provided aligned training and support that were grounded in Florida Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School Authorizing.

Session	Presenter
Summit Kick Off	FLDOE and FACSA
School Safety & Security Requirements Update	FLDOE
Ensuring Equity for Exceptional Students in Charter Schools	Center for Learning Equity
Identifying Indicators of Distress in Charter Schools: A Workshop for Authorizers	National Charter Resource Center and WestEd
Navigating Real Issues in Centering Communities	NACSA
Florida Charter School Contract Negotiations: District Considerations for Exceptional Student Education	Florida Special Ed Collaborative
District Authorized Charters: School Board Responsibilities	FSBA and FACSA
Assisting Authorizers in Charter Compliance: The Charter Support Unit	CSU
Improve Access for Students with Disabilities: Model TOOLKITS and Templates that Support Authorizers	CACSA, FACSA, and CCAP

Florida Authorizer Summit Post Survey

80%

of attendees said they would attend the Summit in person next year.



99%

scored the quality of sessions 8 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10.



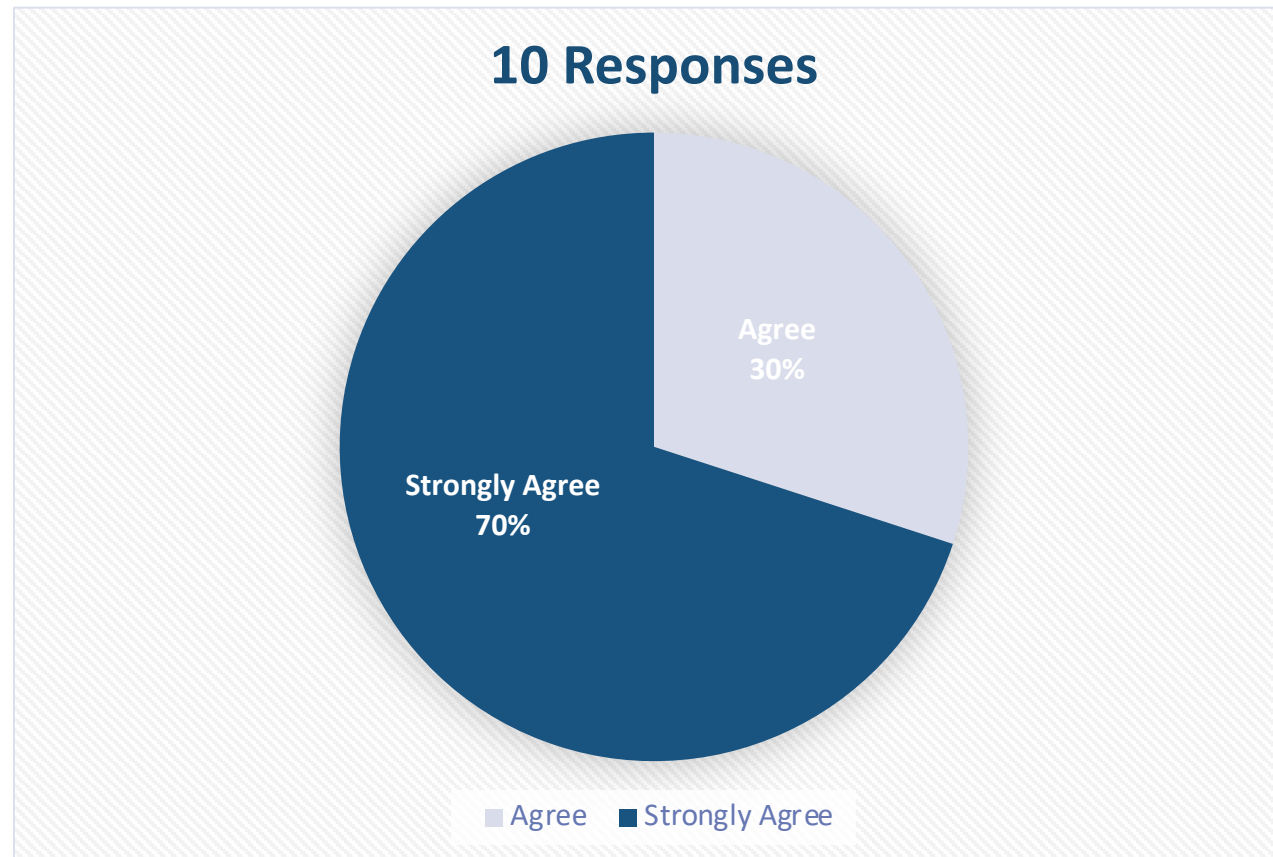
Which session did you find the most informative and applicable to your work?	% of respondents
School Safety & Security Requirements Update	20%
Florida Charter School Contract Negotiations: District Considerations for Exceptional Student Education	13.3%
Identifying Indicators of Distress in Charter Schools: A Workshop for Authorizers	13.3%
Assisting Authorizers in Charter Compliance: The Charter Support Unit	13.3%
District Authorized Charters: School Board Responsibilities	6.7%
Improve Access for Students with Disabilities: Model TOOLKITS and Templates that Support Authorizers	6.7%

Bootcamp

Attendance Data	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
# Attendees	27	21	23	16
# New Authorizers (less than 2 years in role)	17	11	12	7
# Small and Rural*	2	0	1	0
% FACSAs Members	99%	100%	100%	100%
% Florida Districts w/ Charters Represented	35%	29%	33%	25%
% of Charter Schools (Oversight)	45%	41%	43%	33%
% of Charter Students (Oversight)	47%	41%	43%	32%

* Small and rural as defined by <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7770/urlt/MasterEligibilityLEAsFY21.pdf>

The event was of high quality.



What our Bootcamp Grads are saying...

"Authorizer Bootcamp was an amazing experience that provided me with the knowledge and resources I need to be confident in my role as an authorizer for my district."

"Authorizer Boot camp was very informative. I have been a Program Specialist for almost 3 years and there is so much that I continue to learn. There was a vast amount of valuable information from experts in the field that I am able to apply to my current position. I was able to reflect on how to improve current processes and discovered a few new tools to add to my toolbox. I look forward to participating in this next year. Thank you so much FACSA for making this a success."

"Authorizer Bootcamp was an amazing professional development. The opportunities to discuss real-world scenarios and solutions new authorizers could face was very helpful. In addition, the input from experience authorizers was invaluable. I would recommend this training to anyone who is new to authorizing charter schools."

Challenges/Successes

Challenges

- Pandemic
- Timing – 6 months to plan
- Using a Virtual Conference Platform – Learning Curve
- Keeping participants engaged

Successes

- Virtual attendance was fantastic
- Virtual Conference Platform was convenient and relatively easy to use. Whova tech support was great.
- Partnering with the Charter Support Unit to help moderate the sessions
- Participants engaged with one another in the Whova app.

Next Steps

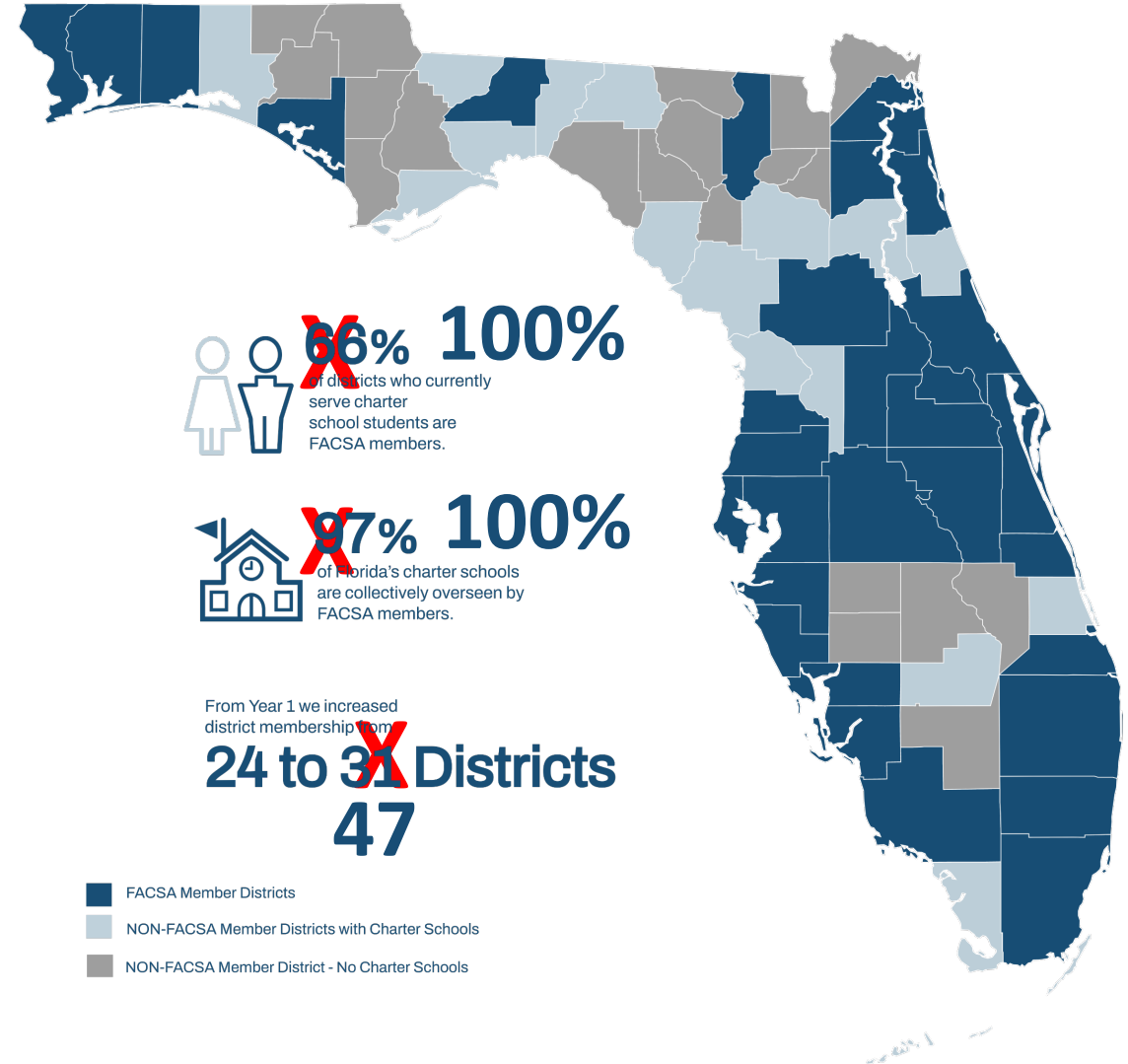
- Consider and implement 2021 project feedback from FLDOE in future workplan.
- Determine PD and summit session topics for next year based on survey responses.
- Revise bootcamp materials and session delivery to reflect survey input.
- Continue to recruit districts with focus on small and rural districts to engage with annual PD and Summit.
- Create a plan to continue engagement with Charter Support Unit, Florida Special Ed Collaborate, and Florida School Board Association.
- Plan to engage charter organizations like the Alliance and Consortium to participate in next year's PD and Summit.

Potential PD 2021-2022

Topic	Description	Principles and Standards
Application Process	Session specific to capacity interviews--For new authorizers. FACSA MEETING/BOOTCAMP ATTENDEES- WEBINAR	Standard 2 - Application Process and Decision Making
FL Standard Contract	Deeper look at the standard contract provided by the state -For new authorizers. FACSA MEETING/BOOTCAMP ATTENDEES- WEBINAR	Standard 3 - Performance Contracting
Renewal and Revocation	Session specific to the new renewal package and renewals in the wake of COVID SUMMIT	Standard 5 - Termination and Renewal Decision Making
Annual Reports	Additional guidance provided on FACSA Annual Report template and other best practices. FCSC	Standard 4 - Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation
Intervention Protocol	Workshop to create Florida specific protocols for compliance /academic/financial issues FACSA	Standard 4 - Ongoing Oversight and Evaluation
Special Education/ ESE and ELL	PD to support authorizers in compliance and support both of these areas, specifically in the wake of COVID; enrollment practices, website reviews FCSC	Principle III - Protect Student and Public Interests

Our Goals for 2022...

1. Convene the second annual Authorizer Summit in person.
2. Provide current and updated technical support and professional development for Florida authorizing district staff.
3. Roll out Authorizer Bootcamp 2022
4. Engage with the **16 districts** who currently have charter schools but have not yet joined us.
5. Continue to partner with local and national organizations that support quality authorizing.





Questions