Anecdotes Aren't Enough.

An evidence-based approach to accountability for alternative charter schools

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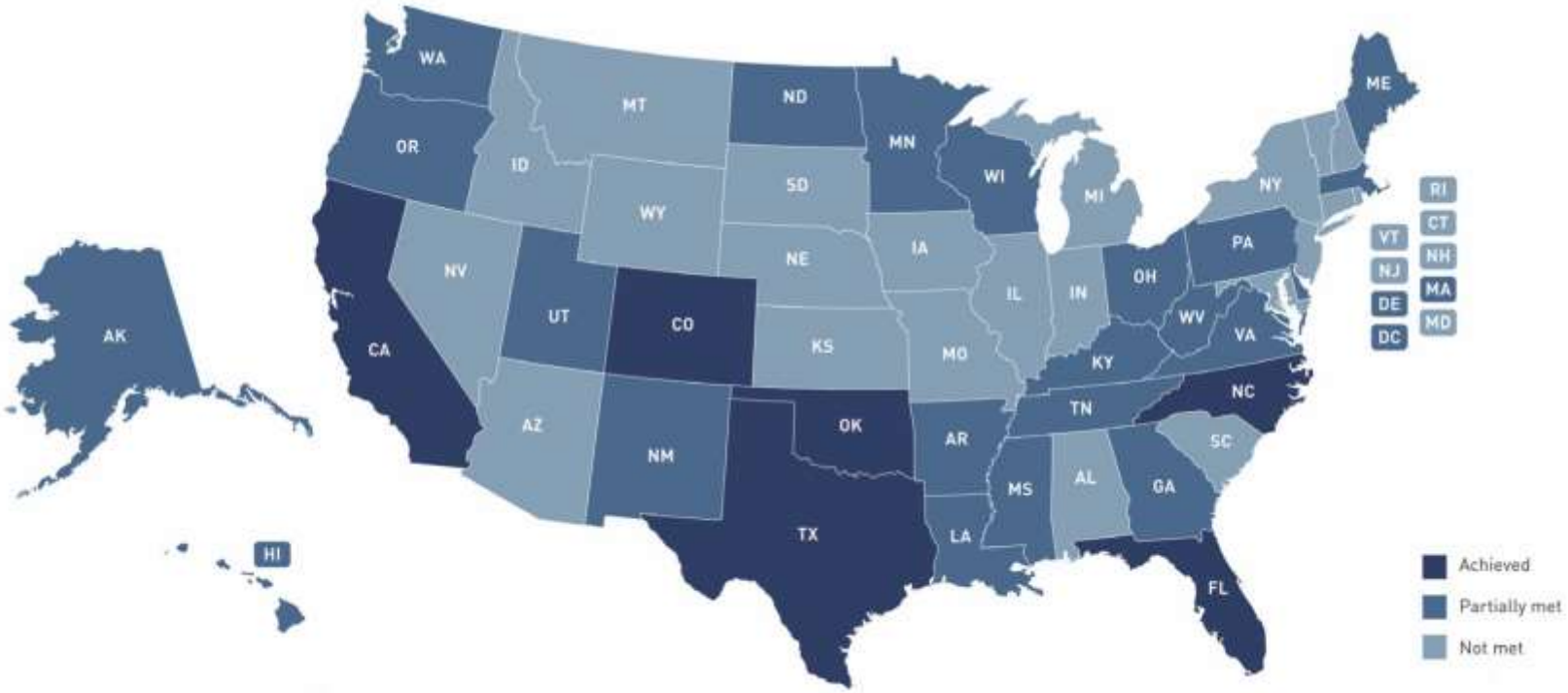
Our First Finding

The problem of accountability for alternative charter schools is not a “charter school” problem.

States with Strong Accountability Systems for Alternative Education

(Jobs for the Future)



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What do we mean by “Alternative”?

- Poverty?
- History of low academic performance?
- Special education?
- Limited English Proficient?

A possible list…

- Dropouts
- Persistently truant
- Adjudicated youth
- Pregnant or parenting teens
- 2+ years behind in HS credits
- Chronic behavioral problems (expelled/multi suspended)
- Substance abusers (and/or their children)
- Students with extraordinary skills deficiencies
- History of abuse/neglect/homelessness
- Refugees
- Recently-arrived immigrants (esp. if deficient in home language)
- Highly mobile
- Emotional or psychological disorders

How many to qualify?

- Colorado: 95%
- California: 75%
- Texas: 75%
- DC: 60% (tent.)
- Arizona: Mission only - no threshold
- Florida: District designates

What measures make sense?

Standard measures

- Achievement tests
  - Compared to other AECs?
- Growth
  - Normed for AEC populations?
- Graduation rates
  - 5-6-7 year cohorts?
- Index measures
  - With different weights?

Ohio's new DOPR indicators

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015 and Beyond
Reported Indicators	**Rated Indicators**	**Rated Indicators**
•- 4, 5, and 6 Year Graduation Rate	•- 4, 5, 6, and 7 Year Graduation Rate	•- 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 Year Graduation Rate
•- High School Assessment Passage	•- High School Assessment Passage	•- High School Assessment Passage
•- Annual Measurable Objectives	•- AMOs	•- AMOs
	Reported Indicators	•- Growth
	•- Growth (reported if available)	•- Overall Designation
	•- Student Outcomes	**Reported Indicators**
		•- Student Outcomes

How Ohio Indicators are Weighted

- Graduation Rate
  - **30 Percent**
- High School Assessment Passage Rate
  - **20 Percent**
- Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO)
  - **20 Percent**
- Growth In Reading and Math
  - **30 Percent**

Non-standard measures

- Student-level
  - Suspension rates
  - Punctuality (CA)
  - Improvement in attendance from last site
- Re-engagement
- Workforce readiness
- Postsecondary outcomes
- Life Skills
- “Progress toward treatment” (MI)
- Hope survey

Authorizer challenges

- Are different tools and processes needed?
  - *Application*
  - *Assessments*
  - *Monitoring*
- Does the contract prevail?
- How to maintain rigor while acknowledging the reality of "alternative" school populations

But What About the Feds?

- No Child Left Behind – Really!
- But under ESEA waivers..
  - *Index measures*
  - *Differential subgroup goals*
  - *Extended timelines*
  - *Permission for dual system(s)*
- **Waiver #2 requests due in January 2014**

Thanks!

Report available at www.qualitycharters.org

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