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Contact: David Hansen
(312)376-2335 direct; (614)783-0309 cell
davidh@QualityCharters.org

NACSA Lauds Alliance Focus on Authorizing Importance

*New State Charter Law Rankings from NAPCS Reflect Consensus Over Role of
Authorizing in Charter Quality*

In a victory for the principles of strong authorizing long championed by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), the nation's leading charter school advocacy group puts authorizing responsibilities at the heart of its new evaluation of state charter laws. The study, "How State Charter Laws Rank Against the New Model Public Charter School Law," is being presented today at the National Press Club by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (the Alliance).

"The Alliance deserves credit for embracing the fact that quality authorizing is a linchpin for high-quality charter schools," said NACSA President and CEO Greg Richmond. "This important report recognizes that when authorizing is done well, everyone benefits from quality charter schools providing a solid education for students. Thanks to the Alliance's new rankings, state policymakers now know where they stand in enacting the authorizing statutes needed to give every child the opportunity for a high-quality education."

Alex Medler, NACSA's Vice President of Policy and Research, added, "The study methodology emphasizes the essential functions of charter school authorizing: application, contract, oversight and charter renewal. These are the tools that allow authorizers to protect school autonomy while ensuring accountability. Our research shows that this results in more high-quality charter schools. Strong state charter laws are the building blocks to make this happen."

"How State Charter Laws Rank Against The New Model Public Charter School Law," assesses the strengths of each state's charter school law against the 20 essential components of a strong law contained in the model public charter

school law released by the Alliance in 2009. The complete analysis can be downloaded at the Alliance web site: www.publiccharters.org/charterlawrankings.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS: NACSA is the trusted resource and innovative leader working with educators and public officials to increase the number of high-quality charter schools in cities and states across the nation. NACSA provides training, consulting, and policy guidance to authorizers and education leaders interested in increasing the number of high-quality schools and improving student outcomes. To learn more about NACSA, go to www.QualityCharters.org.

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