

# WASHINGTON STATE CHARTER SCHOOLS QUALITY PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW



WASHINGTON STATE  
CHARTER SCHOOL  
COMMISSION

May 8, 2014



# Agenda

2

- Purpose and Objectives
- About WSCSC and NACSA
- Performance Framework Overview
- Performance Framework Components
- Performance Framework Development
- Q & A

**Purpose:** To provide an overview of the purpose and authority for the Performance Frameworks

3

## **Objectives for today:**

1. To establish a deeper understanding of the purpose and importance of the Performance Framework
2. To provide an greater understanding of the three main frameworks
3. To clarify the process and development of the Performance Frameworks in partnership with charter schools, NACSA, OSPI, SBE, SAO, and other stakeholders.

# About the Washington State Charter School Commission



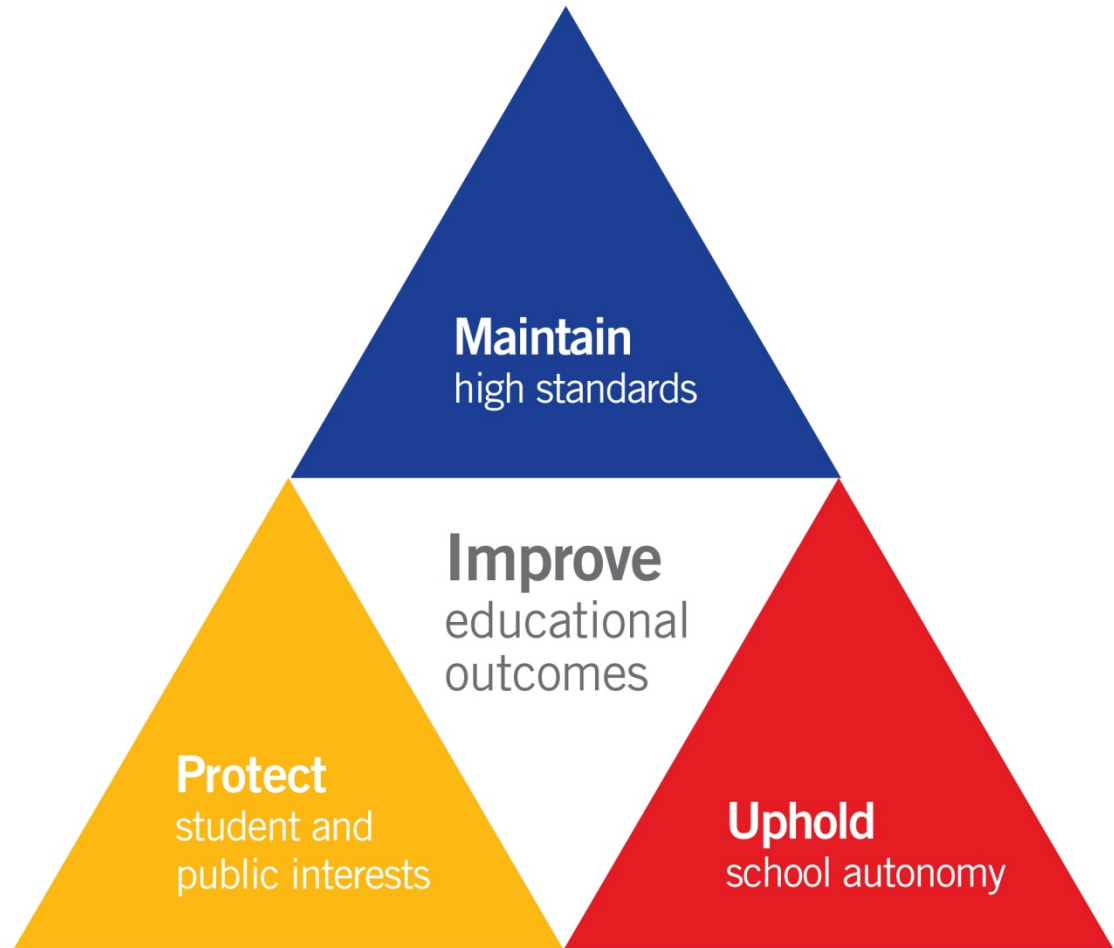
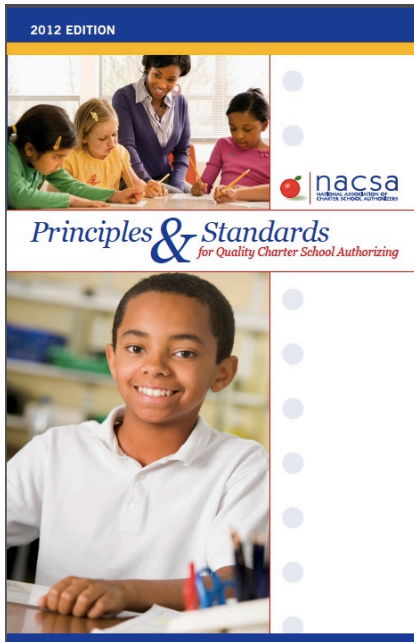
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Washington State's Charter School Commission is committed to creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process and charged with holding charters accountable to high standards of quality.

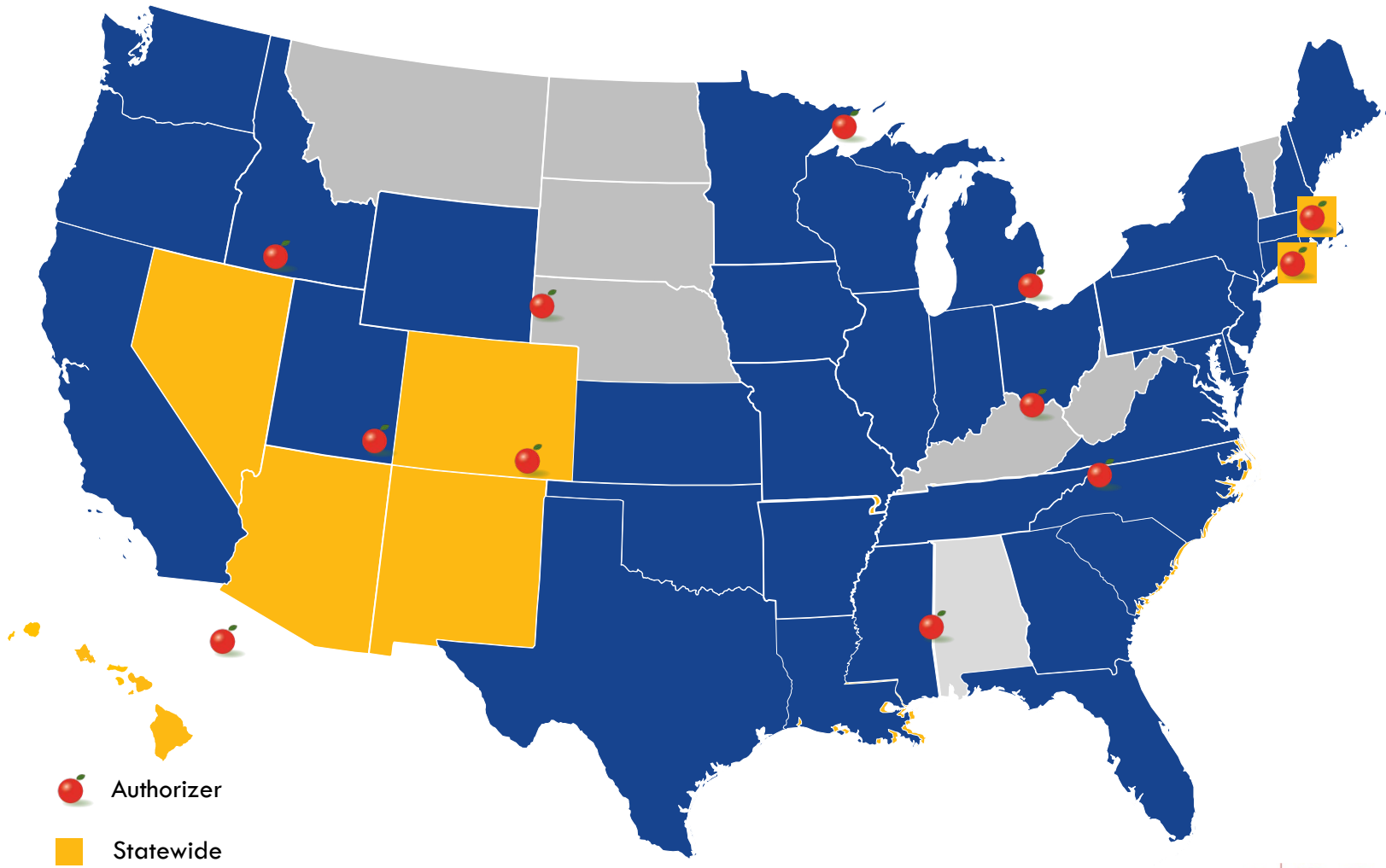
The Commission is an independent state agency that exists to authorize and oversee high quality public charter schools throughout Washington with an emphasis on schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, providing leadership and oversight that is consistent with national principles and standards of charter school authorizers and the provisions of Washington's charter school law. For more information, visit:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/education/commission/>

# About NACSA



# NACSA Performance Framework Experience



-  Authorizer
-  Statewide

# Here's what we know...

7

## RCW 28A.710.100 Charter school authorizers powers and duties

(1) Authorizers are responsible for:

(e) **Monitoring**, in accordance with charter contract terms, **the performance and legal compliance of charter schools** including, without limitation, education and academic performance goals and student achievement; and

# Here's what we know...

8

- (1) The Washington charter school commission is established as an independent state agency whose **mission is to authorize high quality public charter schools**, throughout the state, particularly schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, **and to ensure the highest standards of accountability and oversight for these schools.**

RCW 28A.710.070 (1)



# Here's what we know...(cont.)

## RCW 28A.710.170 Charter Contracts-Performance Framework

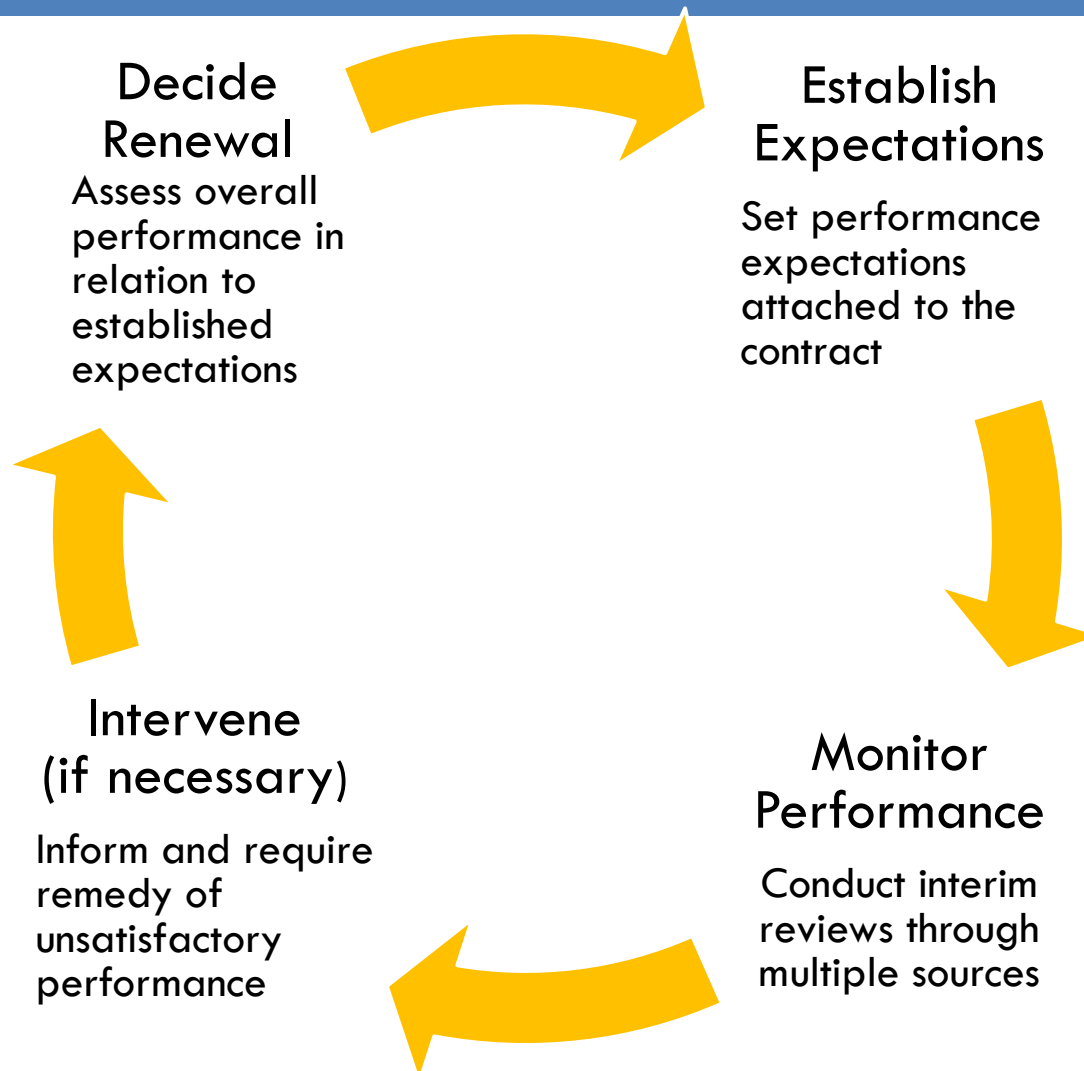
- (1) The performance provisions within a charter contract must be based on a **performance framework** that clearly sets forth the academic and operational performance indicators, measures, and metrics that will guide an authorizer's evaluations of each charter school.
- (2) At a minimum, the performance framework must include indicators, measures, and metrics for:
- (a) Student academic proficiency;
  - (b) Student academic growth;
  - (c) Achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between major student subgroups;
  - (d) Attendance;
  - (e) Recurrent enrollment from year to year;
  - (f) Graduation rates and postsecondary readiness, for high schools;
  - (g) Financial performance and sustainability; and
  - (h) Board performance and stewardship, including compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and terms of the charter contract.

# Here's what we know...(cont.)

“Performance Framework” means the standards that will be used by the Commission to evaluate the performance of each school. The performance framework will be a source of information used by the commission to make decisions involving corrective action, renewal, modification, revocation, and/or termination of a charter school. (Chapter 180-30-020(1) WAC)

# Performance Management Cycle

12



# Performance Framework Components

13

Academic

Is the  
academic  
program a  
success?

Financial

Is the school  
financially  
viable?

Organizational

Is the  
organization  
effective, well  
run and in  
compliance?

# Academic Framework

14

## Purpose

Determine whether schools are academically successful

## Primary Data Source(s):

State accountability system, school specific data and publically available information

## Use

Identify schools that are candidates for 1) replication or expansion, 2) intervention, 3) renewal or nonrenewal, or 4) closure

# Academic Framework

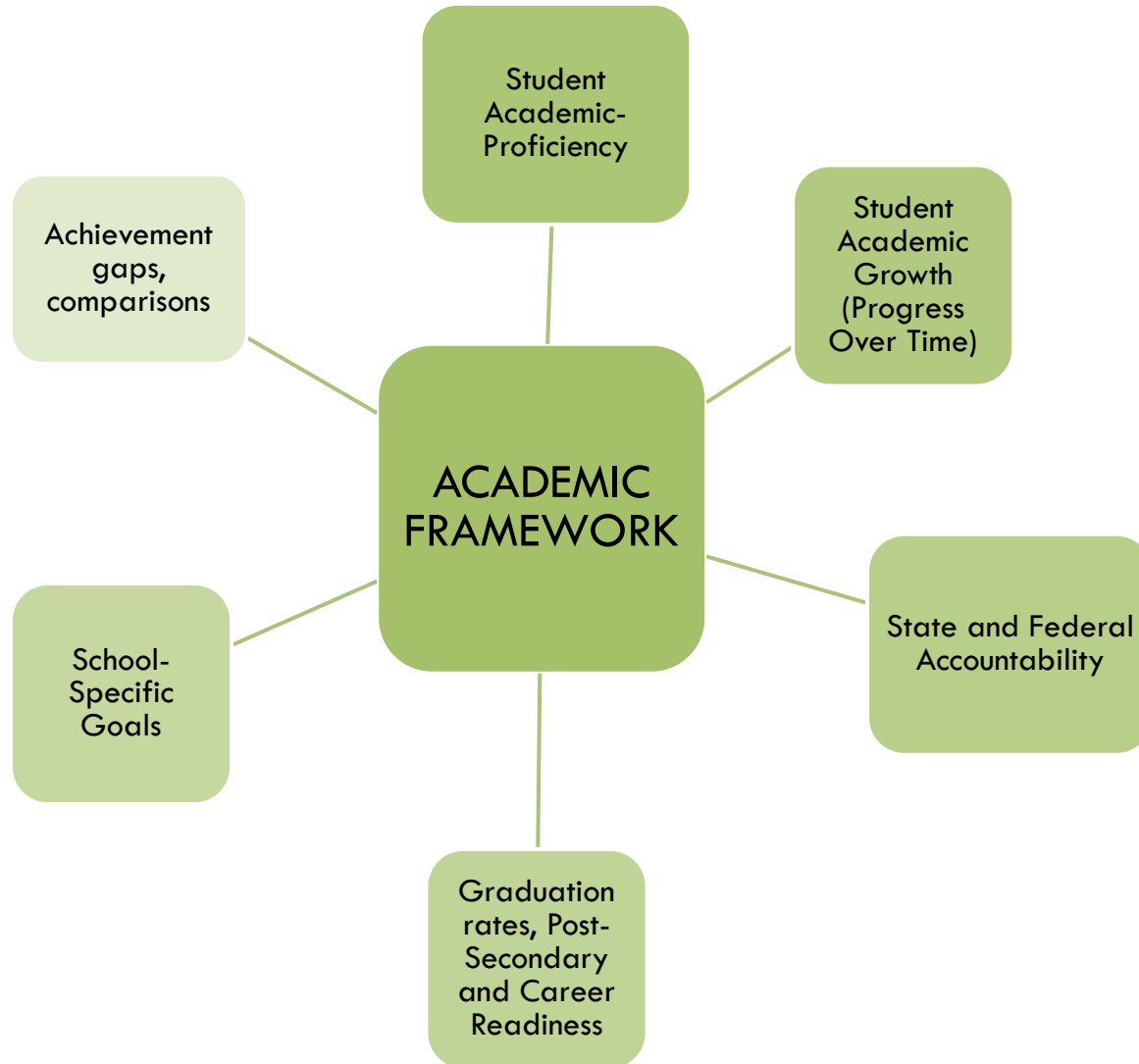
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## The Indicators:

- ❑ Student Achievement Proficiency
- ❑ Student academic growth (using school's median growth)
- ❑ Achievement gaps
- ❑ Comparative performance
- ❑ State and federal performance improvement goals
- ❑ Mission specific goals

# Core Academic Framework Indicators

16



# Financial Framework

17

## Purpose

Assess financial health and viability

## Primary Data Source(s)

Independent SAO financial audits; school board-approved budget, assets and liabilities, etc.

## Use

To determine school financial health and compliance to generally accepted accounting principles; to identify potential problem areas to seek additional information (e.g. current/ unaudited financial data) and determine intervention, if any is necessary.



# Financial Framework

18

## The Indicators:

- Near term
- Sustainability
- Audit and accountability

# Core Financial Framework Measures

19

Measure	Metric
<b>Near Term Measures</b>	
1.a	Current ratio
1.b	Unrestricted days cash on hand
1.c	Enrollment variance
1.d	Default
<b>Sustainability Measures</b>	
2.a	Total margin
2.b	Debt to asset ratio
2.c	Cash flow
2.d	Debt Service Coverage Ratio

# Organizational Framework

20

Purpose: Determine organizational effectiveness and compliance with legal obligations

The indicators:

- ❑ The charter contract
- ❑ State and federal legal requirements (including Charter School Law compliance)
- ❑ Education program
- ❑ Safety and welfare compliance
- ❑ Board performance and stewardship
- ❑ Student involvement and retention
- ❑ Mission specific accountability
- ❑ Other

# Organizational Framework

21

## Purpose

To ensure that the school is effective, well run and in compliance with legal obligations

## Primary Data Source(s)

Self-reported data, 3<sup>rd</sup> party monitoring reports, authorizer monitoring (e.g. school visits), desk audits

## Use

Identify schools that are out of compliance and require intervention (e.g. notification, follow up investigation, corrective action, etc.)

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# Performance framework development and implementation

# The task at hand...

23

- Determine WA specific measures for each framework (many are already in statute)
- Set targets for these measures
- Determine data sources

## So the question is...

24

- What does involvement look like to you?
- What can the Commission do to facilitate your continued engagement?
- How do you see positive and constructive conversations taking place?

# From Development to Decision-Making

## Build Credibility

- Engage stakeholders
- Trial runs

## Formally Establish Performance Framework

- Gain approval from Commission
- Incorporate in charter contract template
- Develop a Performance Framework policy

## Prepare to Make Accountability-Based Decisions

- Adapt monitoring, intervention, revocation, renewal, and other policies and processes to incorporate the Performance Framework



# Timeline

26

Intro meeting with Washington charter schools	April 21
CS Commission and NACSA orientation to PF at WCSA Conference	May 8
Continued communication with charter schools, as well, communicate with other partners and stakeholders	May -Ongoing
First draft Financial and Organizational Frameworks	June
First draft Academic Framework	July
Academic Framework trial runs	July- August
Review trial run results/additional vetting with charter schools and other partners/stakeholders	September
Pre-final Performance Framework	October-November

# Q & A

27

- Comments
- Suggestions
- Questions
- Concerns

# Thanks so much for your time and input!

28

Send other ideas, comments and suggestions to  
the Washington State Charter School Commission:

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