





## More Accountability, More Oversight

An important provision of NCLB is that charter schools must be overseen by another organization. State legislators often delegate the responsibility to authorize charter schools to organizations like universities, non-profits and State Departments of Education. These groups are then held accountable for results.

When charter schools fail, or are perceived to fail, legislators come under pressure to make changes. The overall trend is towards more accountability and oversight. The responsibility for this increased oversight flows to authorizers. They need tools to manage accountability efficiently without placing undue burden on the schools.

We offer highly customized tools for charter school authorizers, educational management organizations and State Departments of Education that leverage technology to provide accurate data about the schools for which they are responsible. State audits have confirmed our approach as a best practice. If you would like to see a free, online demonstration, call Meghann Murphy at (616) 988-3215.



## Victory Schools in Chicago Chooses AOIS

Victory Schools is an educational management organization that was founded in 1999. Victory Schools operates schools in New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Victory partners with schools districts at large and private authorized boards, providing school management and advisory services.

As part of Victory's partnership with Chicago International Charter Schools, they were exposed to AOIS. Victory recognized the power and value of AOIS as an accountability tool. Upon Victory's expansion in Chicago, they decided to more fully take advantage of what AOIS has to offer. AOIS will serve as an accountability tool to track schools' compliance with deadlines and also be used as a database to house documents that need to be readily accessed for accountability purposes.

### Why AOIS?

#### Compliance

AOIS tracks the compliance status of each school authorized, and reports this instantly in a graphical interface that is easy to use.

#### Electronic Filing

AOIS is also an electronic filing system, so every document associated with schools is immediately available and can be accessed from any location.

#### Workflow

AOIS also incorporates a workflow system that informs employees when it is time to perform a specific task, and flows documents from employee to employee electronically, ensuring the work is done consistently among all schools.

#### Performance

AOIS also includes a performance module that tracks and reports student and school achievement.



## High Quality Authorization in Minnesota

Another example of the increase in more accountability and oversight includes the changes being made to the charter school laws in Minnesota. Some of the changes include all authorizers being approved by the Minnesota Department of Education, undergoing regular reviews, participating in MDE approved training and being subject to corrective action.

One of the catalysts behind the changes is based on the principals of quality authorizing. Some of these standards include attending board meetings, reviewing monthly statements and board minutes, conducting several site visits, monitoring academic performance, reviewing annual reports and audits and being able to evaluate schools prior to contract renewals. All of these standards require the collection of documentation in a timely, accurate and complete manner. This is where AOIS can be used as a compliance and document management system guaranteeing that quality oversight is being provided equally among every school. In addition, a new affidavit is now required from MN authorizer's that needs to include their process for ongoing oversight — this is where AOIS would be included.

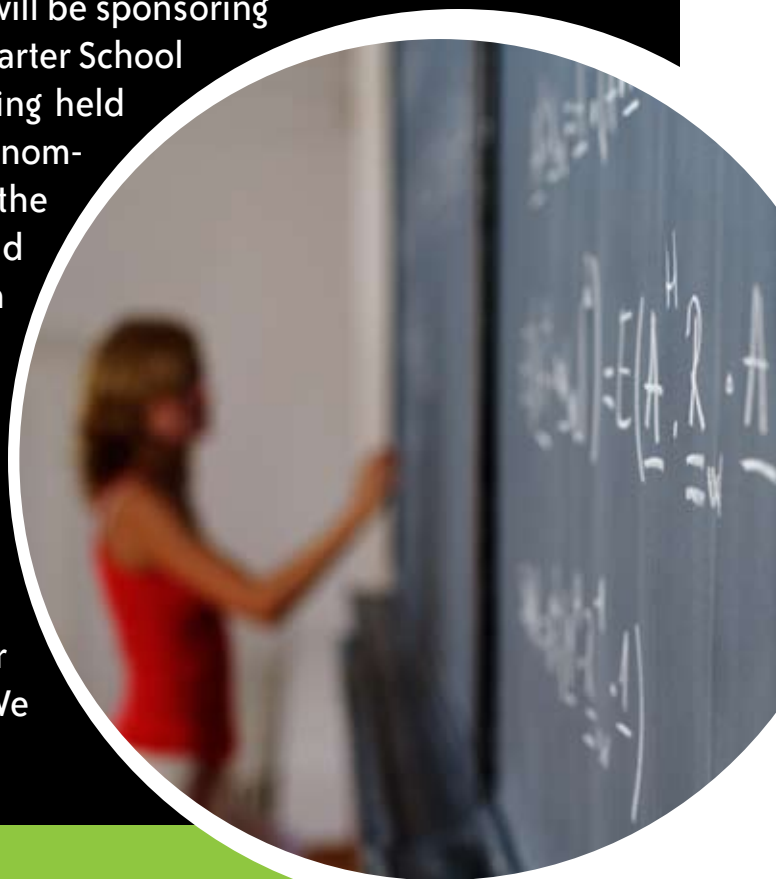
Unfortunately, funding for Minnesota authorizers is one of the lowest in the United States. With the increase in accountability standards, Minnesota Legislatures are also increasing the authorizer fee in order to build oversight capacity. Using AOIS as an oversight tool is an efficient and cost-effective way to implement a strong oversight system while maintaining charter schools goal of innovation.

Other Interesting Things Happening at CC

## NACSA Hall of Fame Sponsor

For the third year in a row, Corporate Computer will be sponsoring the flash drives for the National Association of Charter School Authorizer's (NACSA) leadership conference being held in Utah this year. The flash drives provide an economic way of reducing paper use while keeping all the documentation from the conference organized and easy to access. All attendees will receive a flash drive within their portfolio. Attendees will then have the option to load all the final conference session materials from the computers that will be located in the Member lounge.

Corporate Computer is excited to be a Hall of Fame sponsor for this important event. In addition, Corporate Computer will have some major new announcements at the NACSA conference. We hope to see you there!



## Monthly Client Testimonial

David Mancini *Coordinator of Community Schools*

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF CENTRAL OHIO

### Why did you buy AOIS?

We are basically a one person operation in terms of charter school oversight and we needed additional help in monitoring and tracking our schools. Hiring additional staff was not an option and AOIS became an affordable alternative. In addition, AOIS forced us to develop a master calendar and a description of each document.

### What do you like best about using the tool?

Not only tracking document submission, but adding new documents, deleting outdated documents, modifying existing documents, and no longer requiring a paper archiving system. Also, our schools like the systematic approach to submitting their requirements and the 7 day 'tickler' on when a document submission is approaching.

### What would you tell someone else about the tool?

It is a 'lifesaver' in tracking school's compliance!



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