

GOODMAN RESEARCH GROUP, INC.
Program Evaluation • Consultation • Market Research

**Final Report:
Evaluation of NACSA's
BECSA II Initiative
Executive Summary**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2007, the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) contracted with Goodman Research Group, Inc. (GRG) to conduct a summative evaluation of their Building Excellence in Charter School Authorizing: Ensuring Accountability at Scale (BECSA II) initiative. Funded through the United States Department of Education, BECSA II featured a number of publications and training events for Authorizers to use as they carry out their responsibilities, with the primary goal of increasing the number of quality charter schools.

To gather evidence of BECSA II's influence on Authorizers, GRG conducted a Web-based survey of the Authorizers from NACSA's listserv. The survey gathered information on both the general and specific ways that BECSA II resources had been used, feedback about each resource, and questions designed to help determine the percentage of their schools that are high performing. A total of 1,711 Authorizers were contacted to complete the survey, and 161 (9%) completed it.

KEY FINDINGS

The following results are based on the sample of Authorizers who completed the survey. Because of the low response rate, GRG cautions against generalizing the results to the entire BECSA II target audience.

- NACSA has produced and widely distributed a number of resources as part of the BECSA II initiative.
- Authorizers have used BECSA II materials; the Principles and Standards and Issue Briefs, in particular, were used by over half of those surveyed.
- The BECSA II publications were considered *generally useful* to Authorizers' work, and the conferences and training events were considered *very useful*.
- The majority of Authorizers had taken at least one action step to change their authoring practices as a result of using BECSA II resources.
- While there was not a statistically significant relationship between use of the BECSA II resources and authorizing a portfolio of high performing schools, there was a trend toward Authorizers seeking out and using the BECSA II resources when they are facing challenges with their portfolio.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GRG recommends that NACSA consider implementing some of the suggestions that Authorizers made for creating new materials and/or improving existing BECSA II resources. NACSA may also want to gather additional information from its Authorizers before taking any next steps to either confirm particular findings from the current evaluation or to gather needs assessment information to guide the revision or production of materials.