

Audubon Center of the North Woods (ACNW)
Charter School Division
Policy on Authorizer Role and School Autonomy
As of 5/25/2016

ACNW recognizes that its purpose in charter school authorizing is to improve all pupil learning and all student achievement. To do so, ACNW must engage in responsible oversight of charter schools by ensuring that authorized schools have the autonomy to which they are entitled while being held accountable to statutory and contractual expectations. In furtherance of this end, ACNW will:

- Approach authorizing deliberately and thoughtfully with the intent to improve the quality of public school options in Minnesota;
- Support and advance the Minnesota charter school law;
- Be a catalyst for charter school development to satisfy unmet educational needs;
- Ensure clarity, consistency, and transparency in developing and implementing its authorizing policies and procedures;
- Be a source of accurate, intelligible, performance-based data and other information about the schools it oversees;
- ***Not*** manage or operate any charter school;
- Be responsible ***not*** for the success or failure of individual schools, but for holding authorized schools accountable for their performance;
- Require actions of schools only in response to deficiencies directly related to contractual expectations or statutory requirements;
- Use objective, consistent, and verifiable measures of student achievement as the primary measure of school quality;
- Offer only voluntary technical assistance to authorized schools;
- Clarify ACNW's authorizer role and the authorizer-school relationship when ACNW receives requests that may infringe upon school autonomy;
- Support parents and students in making decisions and staying informed about quality education provided in charter schools in general and ACNW authorized charter schools specifically;
- Make the well-being of students the fundamental value in forming all decision-making and subsequent actions taken.

Specific expectations of authorized schools and processes ACNW will use to monitor schools are provided in ACNW's Commissioner-Approved Authorizing Plan (AAP) and the charter contract.