The Authorizer Performance Evaluation System represents a key aspect of the comprehensive relationship MDE has with Minnesota’s charter school authorizers. This relationship, presented below as a cycle of oversight and engagement, is broader than performance evaluation and includes multiple points of interaction between MDE and authorizers. The relationship begins when an organization is approved by MDE to authorize charter schools and is officially revisited at least every five years when the authorizer’s performance is evaluated.

Once MDE issues the first group of authorizer performance reports in late spring 2015, the state will begin to build a data set to identify promising and effective authorizing practices. Identified practices will then be disseminated to other authorizers to promote authorizer excellence across the state. Data gathered through performance evaluations will also position MDE to better understand general areas for continuous improvement and develop specific plans for training, development and technical assistance to support and further high-quality authorizing practices.