



CSP Reimbursements for Authorizers

Minnesota authorizers are eligible to apply for \$2500 per year in funding support through the Charter School Program (CSP) grant for their staff to attend professional development or training. Authorizers must submit a pre-approval form to MDE identifying the training opportunity with a brief narrative describing the training of interest and the proposed budget. Once MDE has provided approval, authorizer staff can participate in the training and submit a reimbursement request to MDE that includes an explanation of how the training has benefited their staff and helped build capacity for effectively supporting charter schools.

Key Facts about the Program

- Percentage of Authorizers have used CSP funds for training: 85% (11/13)
- Total number of trainings reimbursements approved: 55
- Total funding of authorizer reimbursements approved: \$54,648

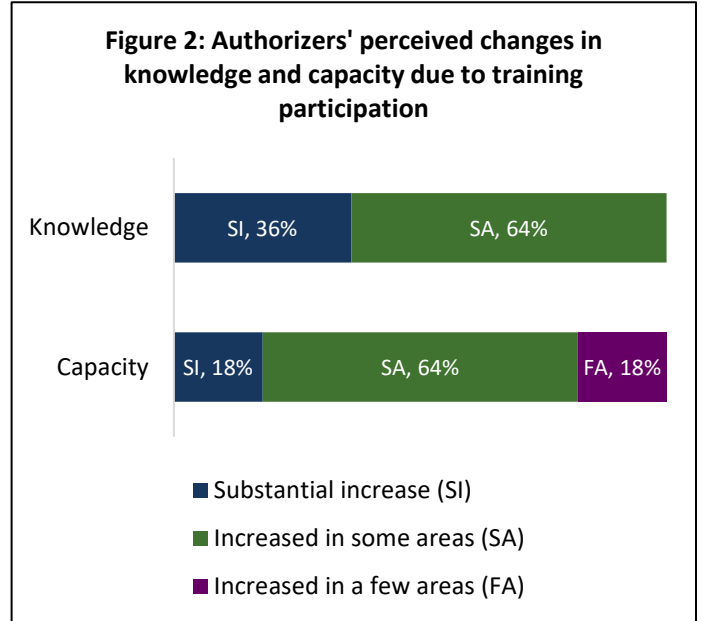
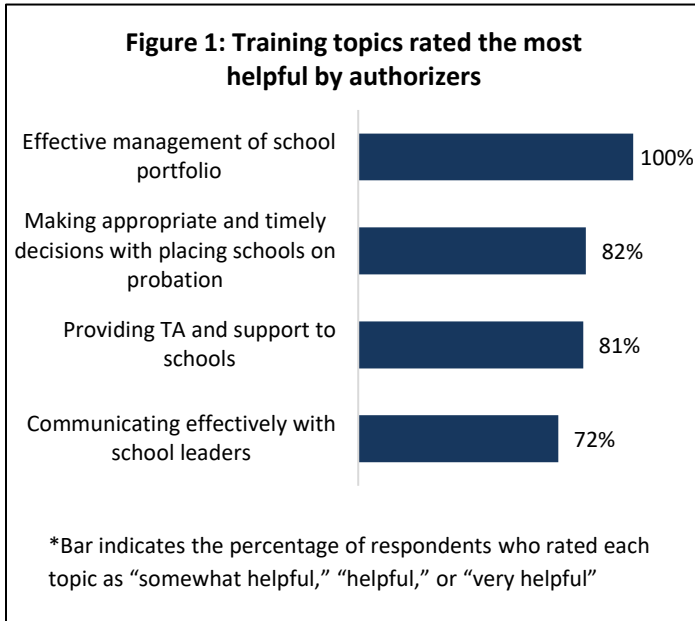
Reported Benefits

- Overall, authorizers found the CSP reimbursement request process **straightforward**, with reimbursements received in timely fashion.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Authorizers appreciated the ability to interact with others in the authorizer community through training participation, both nationally and within Minnesota.
- **Onboarding New Staff:** Authorizers referenced the NACSA Boot Camp as particularly beneficial for new authorizing staff.
- **Opportunities to Participate in Targeted Training:** Authorizers attended training that was important for their organizational needs (e.g., financial services training, Tableau).

Perceived Changes in Knowledge and Capacity

- All authorizers who participated in reimbursed trainings indicated that it was at least somewhat helpful with building capacity to effectively manage their school portfolios (Figure 1). Other training topics that authorizers found particularly helpful included making decisions with placing schools on probation (82% of authorizers found at least somewhat helpful), providing TA and support to schools (81%), and communicating effectively with school leaders (72%).

- All authorizers who participated in reimbursed trainings indicated either that they substantially increased their knowledge (36%) or that their knowledge increased in some areas (64%) (Figure 2). About two-thirds (64%) indicated the trainings increased their capacity for working with their schools in some areas, and 18% indicated a substantial increase in capacity.



Continuous Improvement Areas

Overall, authorizers appreciate the opportunity to utilize funding for their training needs. A couple of authorizers suggested that MDE could provide suggestions for CSP funded trainings, as well as reminders about the availability of the funding.