

# Effective Board Governance of Public Charter Schools in Florida



Charter school board members are required by law to be trained in governance by trainers approved by the Florida Department of Education (DoE). Greater Capacity Consortium, a nonprofit resource for charter school boards in Florida and nationally, offers such approved training in multi-formats (as on-line modules accessible 24/7, synchronous webinars, and in-person workshops). Centrally located in Orlando, we criss-cross the state to provide training on all required topics and much more in both comprehensive four-hour and refresher two-hour formats.

## **Ethics:**

Professional conduct that is above reproach and charter-accountable

- Florida Educational Ethics Rules
- Why Charter? ("No Excuses" Framework)
- Oversight Triad & Levels of Accountability
- Policy Board Model & Characteristics
- Governance vs Management
- Positive Board-School Leader Relations
- Board Development/Recruitment
- Altitude: Attitude (proper decision-making)

## **Conflicts of Interest:**

Independent oversight free from personal gain and community-focused

- Independent (Non-Profit) Sector
- Fiduciary Duties (Care, Loyalty, Obedience)
- Non-Profit Do/Don't
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure & Recusal
- An "Independent" Decision Filter

## **And More:**

- Planning & Priority-Setting
- Your Non-Negotiables
- Sponsor Relations
- Outreach
- Best Practices

## **Government in the Sunshine:**

Transparent and effective meeting deliberations

- Required Elements of Sunshine
- When to Let Sunshine In & When Not
- Email Protocol
- Statutory Exceptions to Sunshine
- Public Records Act
- Tips for Well-Run Meetings
- Dialogue, Delegate, Deliberate

## **Financial Responsibility:**

Effective use of budgeting, finance, accounting and auditing to ensure fiscal sustainability

- Financial Oversight & Florida Redbook
- Accountancy Tools
- Revenues & Expenditures
- Focus on Staff & Facilities Planning
- Internal Controls & Fiscal Policies
- Independent Audits & Recordkeeping Tips
- Management Checklist & Dashboard of Indicators

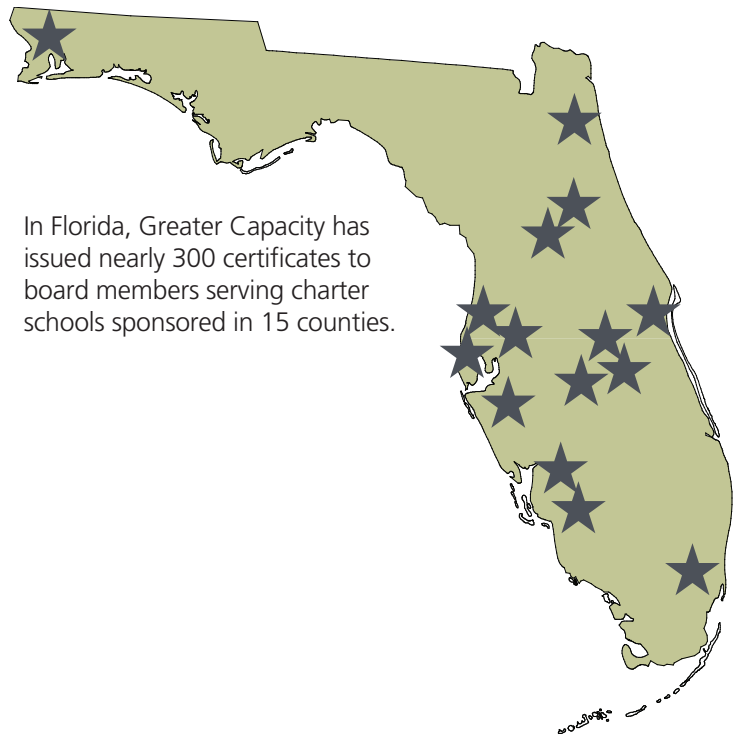
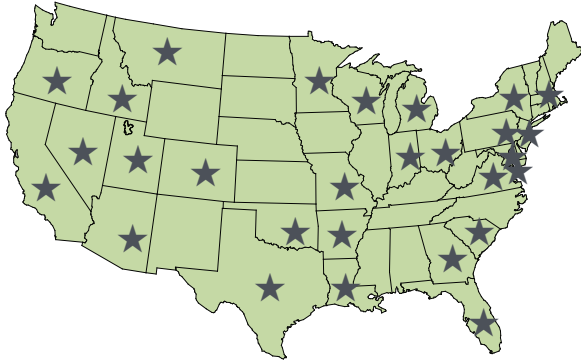
In each category of required training, we employ the broadest definition of the subject matter so that we provide charter school boards with all the tools they need to provide professional oversight that is transparent, above reproach, fiscally prudent and academically effective.

*"Very professional, thoughtful, probed people's views effectively and sensitively."*

*David Spangler, Board Chair, Carl Sagan Academy (Tampa, FL)*

## About Us

Greater Capacity Consortium is a national nonprofit resource dedicated to growing the capacity of public sector organizations to govern and lead effectively. We have partnered with dozens of resource centers, state agencies, districts, education management companies and individual schools across 28 states to provide board training, strategic planning, and program evaluation services.



In Florida, Greater Capacity has issued nearly 300 certificates to board members serving charter schools sponsored in 15 counties.



Mark Cannon has a 30-year history of devotion to the youth development field with two dozen years of senior managerial experience in non-profit and governmental settings. Mark has served in the charter school sector for 13 years, including as executive director of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA). He was also a prime subcontractor for NACSA on a Florida state grant to provide charter sponsor training and support the development of statewide forms and processes. Mark's work history is complemented by extensive volunteer service with the YMCA of the USA, the Youth Leadership Association and the Truman Scholars Association. Mark has an M.A. in Public Management from the University of Maryland and enjoys a longtime professional affiliation with the American Society of Association Executives and BoardSource.

### ***What Charter School Colleagues Are Saying About Our Training:***

*"Well-organized and nicely paced; delivered in a friendly, down-to-earth fashion. Very knowledgeable and took the time to understand and address our unique challenges."*

***Alice Burch, Board Secretary, Doctors Charter School (Miami Shores, FL)***

*"Mark's style is no-nonsense and thorough – what every charter school board member needs to know."*

***Nancy Scowcroft, Supervisor, Charter Schools Department, District School Board of Pasco County, (Land O' Lakes, FL)***

*"Impactful! Our Board is experienced and our school is high performing, yet there was so much we took away from the training to improve how we, board and school leader, can work more effectively."*

***Patricia O' Sullivan, Principal, Sculptor Charter School (Titusville, FL)***

For more information or to schedule your board training:

[www.greatercapacity.org](http://www.greatercapacity.org)

407-473-0744

[mark@greatercapacity.org](mailto:mark@greatercapacity.org)



## We offer a training regimen and rate structure to fit every circumstance.

Our preference is to conduct an in-person workshop with all board members to maximize the discussion and exchange of views. Recognizing that it is difficult to always bring board members together in one place with their busy schedules and the distances that can separate them, Greater Capacity has taken care to develop the means for delivering the same high quality training on-line.

There are two **on-line learning** options:

### 1) self-paced modules accessible 24/7

This consists of a series of media modules that are professionally scripted and graphically appealing combined with a friendly 20-question quiz.

### 2) live webinars delivered with board members present in real-time

These webinars can be set on a schedule that works for your board members – early or late, weekday or weekend – and they can log in from the comfort of their home, office, school or wherever they access the Internet. No special software or hardware is required just access to the Internet and a phone line.<sup>†</sup>

These on-line learning methods offer board members much greater convenience, yet keeps the training interactive, of required length, and affordable.

While the on-line options exist for your convenience, there is ultimately no substitution for our in-person workshop. We offer you a customizable experience in one setting where we take maximum advantage of the face-to-face opportunity to facilitate good group work and discussion. While we infuse interactivity into all settings, undeniably the opportunities to collaborate are richer with everyone in the same room.



Training Option	Comprehensive 4-hour	Refresher 2-hour
Self-Paced On-Line <i>asynchronous</i>	\$99 <i>per board member</i>	\$69 <i>per board member</i>
Live Webinars On-Line <i>synchronous</i>	\$595 <i>per charter school</i>	\$395 <i>per charter school</i>
In-Person Workshop <i>synchronous</i>	\$1,195* <i>per charter school</i>	\$895* <i>per charter school</i>

**Special relief for busy board members.** If one or more board members are unable attend the scheduled (synchronous) training in options #2 and #3, they can fulfill the training under option #1 at no extra charge.

\*Reasonable travel costs are included. If making special client accommodations (e.g., early or late workshop times) added costs for a hotel stay may need reimbursed separately.

(Rate quotes valid thru 12/31/2015)

**Want to pair up with other charter school boards and share costs?  
Ask us about affordable group pricing.**

For more information or to schedule your board training:  
[www.greatercapacity.org](http://www.greatercapacity.org)  
407-473-0744  
[mark@greatercapacity.org](mailto:mark@greatercapacity.org)



## Our Approach: Collaborative, Adaptive and Results-Oriented

Whatever the venue, we model a facilitative and adaptive style to fully engage participants in the experience and tailor the learning to the specific needs of the group. Our methods involve:

- effective use of multi-media (e.g., presentation slides, graphics, video clips, handouts, guided discussions) to reinforce the learning in several modes;
- conducting research in advance about the charter school and sponsor, including a review of the charter, bylaws, board minutes, newsletters, online news searches and other sources;



- pre-interviews with the board chair and school leader, minimally, and more board members, if the client wishes;

- understanding our audience to the fullest extent so our time together can be more engaging from start to finish on the day of the training; and
- assessing the work that we do together and following up with your board to reinforce best practices.

Emphasis is on exposing participants to best practices that are amplified by a few situational scenarios, group discussion, plenty of Q&A time, and helpful referrals to where content can be more deeply explored. Our aim is to raise board member awareness and knowledge as impactfully as possible to improve policy and practice and propel your board to a higher level of functioning and success.



*"The on-line learning was well-organized and user-friendly. It was nice that board members could go at their own pace; then we debriefed together. The training was convenient and on target!"*

**Curtis Fuller, Principal, Pinellas Preparatory Academy (Largo, FL)**

*"This on-line learning gets high marks for effectively engaging busy volunteers on the go. Very professional modules!"*

**Judith Stein, Ed.D., Executive Director, National Institute for Educational Options (NIEO), Nova Southeastern University, Fischler School of Education and Human Services (North Miami Beach, FL)**

For more information or to schedule your board training:

[www.greatercapacity.org](http://www.greatercapacity.org)

407-473-0744

[mark@greatercapacity.org](mailto:mark@greatercapacity.org)