# Better Together: School and Authorizer Collaboration





## Presenters







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## Survey

Share your perspective by scanning the QR code.







## **Key Takeaways**

- Strengthen the three levers of trust.
- Identify your mission-critical programs.
- Identify indicators of success.
- Identify data to share your story.





## Who We Are

#### **Partner with:**

- 69 schools.
- 29,000+ students.

## **Experienced authorizer:**

- First university in the nation to authorize a charter public school.
- 30 years experience.



CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

## Who We Are

### A charter public school:

- Managed and supported by Stride/K12, an accredited leader in online education.
- Accredited by Cognia.
- Filling the 'alternative education' niche within the K12 education ecosystem.
- Supports up to 1,000 students across the state of Michigan.





## **Our Governance Structure**

**Authorizing Body** 

Central Michigan University

The Charter Contract

**Academy Board of Directors** 

Insight School of Michigan Board

Academy Management Stride/K12





## **Lessons Learned**

#### Relationships matter.

- Internally Ensuring that leadership shares a vision.
- Externally Building support and understanding with stakeholders.

#### Transparency matters.

- Willingness to share and discuss the good, bad, and ugly.
- Moving beyond 'admiring the problem'.
- Measure what really matters.





#### **Authenticity**

I experience the real you.

**TRUST** 

#### Logic

I know you can do it; your reasoning and judgement are sound.

#### **Empathy**

I believe you care about me and my success.

Source: "Begin with Trust," by Frances Frei and Anne Morriss, May-June 2020. Harvard Business Journal





## **Authenticity**

### How well do you:

- Share your mission, values, beliefs, hopes.
- Invite your authorizer to visit.
- Share new initiatives and goals.
- Share your successes.
- Share your challenges.





## **Empathy**

#### Seek first to understand.

### How well do you:

- Understand your authorizer's mission, vision and values.
- Seek to connect that mission with your school's.
- Know the persons in the office.
- Understand their limits and constraints.





## Logic

#### How well do you:

- Meet compliance requirements.
- Meet financial obligations.
- Respond to concerns of the authorizer.
- Collect, analyze and report data.





## Pause to Reflect



 What side of the trust triangle is "wobbly" for you?

 What steps might you take to strengthen that side?





## **ISMI – Mission and Vision**

#### **Mission**

Empowering opportunity youth to take an active role in their education and build a personalized path toward post-secondary success.

#### **Vision**

Insight School of Michigan creates graduates prepared for their future.





## **Our Unique Story**

#### What makes us unique:

- 100% online.
- Synchronous instruction.
- 16-22 years.
- 8 am 8 pm live support.
- Serve the entire state.
- 60%+ students have multiple risk factors.

## Indicators of success not in the accountability framework:

- Effort and due diligence.
- Benchmark assessments.
- Engagement with schooling.
- Credits earned per year.
- Incoming risk factors.





## Pause to Reflect



 Identify essential elements of your program key to meeting mission outcomes.

 What are some indicators of success not captured in your accountability framework?





## What We Measure and Why

#### **Insight School of Michigan**

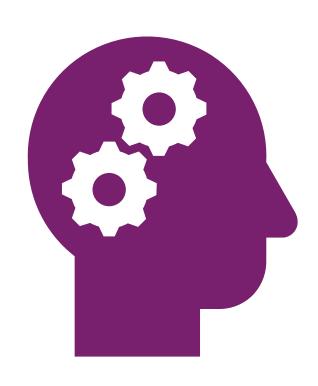
- Gathers data on multiple missioncritical elements that have varying degrees of importance to different stakeholders.
- Continues to work with stakeholders to identify Achievable and Relevant measures of success that align with the core mission.

- ✓ Student outreach
- ✓ Due diligence efforts
- ✓ Risk factors
- Credits recovered
- ✓ Attendance





## Pause to Reflect



- What data do you collect as evidence of your program's success?
- What additional data could you collect?
- How do you connect this data to your mission?





## **Sharing Our Story – Building Meaningful Measures**

## **Sharing Our Story**

- Regular meetings with stakeholders.
- Move from anecdotal data to measurable outcomes.
- Increased mutual understanding.

#### **New Measures**

- Growth on standardized assessments.
- 5 6 year graduation rate.
- Attendance.
- Credits earned.





## Pause to Reflect



 How might you share your data story with stakeholders?

 What new measures might you build with your stakeholders?





## **Contact Information and Resources**



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#### **Session Resources**

To access this session's resources, please visit:

www.thecenterforcharters.org/rapsaconference

#### **Available resources include:**

- Presentation Slides
- Attendee Worksheet
- ISMI Academic Performance Report

## Additional Resources – A-GAME Community

This process was influenced by our participation in the A-GAME: Measure What Matters Initiative.

Additional resources about that initiative, including becoming a community member at no cost, can be found at www.charternetwork.org/AGAME.