**CSLC Statement on NAPCS Report: *Strengthening Federal Investments in Charter School Facilities***

The Charter School Lenders’ Coalition (CSLC) commends [The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools](https://www.publiccharters.org/) (NAPCS) on the recent publication of *Strengthening Federal Investment in Charter School Facilities*. This paper examines the challenges public charter school operators face in financing a public charter school facility, and the changes policymakers can make to strengthen existing programs, as well as create new programs, to meet these challenges. As such, it represents another important contribution to the charter school sector by the NAPCS, which has been a valuable partner in the CSLC’s efforts to highlight this critical area of need.

The suggestions put forth in this paper aim to broaden the reach of federal investments and help equalize access to facilities for charter schools. By doing this, new schools can launch, and existing, high-performing schools can expand, to meet current and future enrollment demand.

The paper resulted from research and interviews by the nationally known education consulting firm Bellwether Partners, combined with a one-day convening in Washington D.C. of more than 30 charter school facility policy experts, finance experts, practitioners, and nonprofit leaders, including representatives from NAPCS and the CSLC.

We look forward to continue working with the NAPCS to implement these strategies as Congress finalizes the 2018 and 2019 federal budget and other opportunities as they emerge on the federal policymaking landscape.

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The *Charter Schools Lenders’ Coalition (CSLC)* brings together mission-driven community development practitioners who are currently providing financial and development services to charter schools in low-income communities. CSLC members are representatives of organizations that share a common mission to improve the viability of low-income and economically distressed communities. The goal of the CSLC is to facilitate the charter school industry’s access to capital and technical assistance critical to the development of successful, well-managed schools housed in appropriate facilities. Collectively, CSLC members have provided over $2.5 billion in financing to over 1,600 schools nationwide—creating 202,000 new seats—while maintaining a loss rate of less than one percent.