Meet the Coalition's Executive Director

Dave Machado is the executive director of the North Carolina Coalition for Charter Schools. He has led the Coalition's work and advocacy efforts since February 2025. Dave succeeds Lindalyn Kakadelis, the Coalition's founding executive director, in this leadership role.

A veteran of North Carolina's charter movement, Dave has decades of experience in both charter school leadership and oversight. He served as chief administrator at Lincoln Charter School, now North Carolina's largest charter school, for 14 years. After that, he led the state's Office of Charter Schools (OCS) from 2016 to 2020, overseeing charter school operations and compliance—and providing support and training to charter schools across North Carolina. During his tenure at OCS, the state's charter movement grew significantly in size and impact, increasing from 166 charter schools to over 200 schools.

In 2020, Dave joined Charter Schools USA, working as North Carolina's state superintendent until he accepted the executive director role with the Coalition. Dave also served as a member of the state's Charter Schools Advisory Board—now Charter Schools Review Board—from 2022 until his resignation in January 2025. While at CSRB, Dave worked alongside other members to ensure the creation and sustainability of high-quality charter schools throughout North Carolina.

Dave's favorite charter school moment, in his own words:
"My favorite moment goes all the way back to my days at Lincoln Charter School. It took place during graduation week, with all of its pomp and circumstance. During that week, it was so heartening to see all of these students—some of whom had been with us since kindergarten—walk across that stage as great, contributing citizens. As school leaders, we had the assurance that we had prepared them well. When students would come back to visit in the fall, it was so affirming to hear comments like this: 'Mr. Machado, my chemistry class at N.C. State wasn't nearly as hard as my chemistry class at Lincoln Charter. Thanks for preparing us!'

"Those kinds of conversations just constantly fill my tank—seeing students come back and hearing how successful they have been. I have stayed in touch with student alumni from Lincoln Charter. Now, they have their own families. Some of our graduates are even back at Lincoln Charter as teachers.

"All of that represents my favorite—and proudest—charter school moment."

If you would like to invite Dave to speak at your event, please connect with him at 704.472.7338 or dmachado@nc.chartercoalition.org.