



Michigan's charter public school sector is delivering the results students need.



Skilled, educated graduates.



High student and parent satisfaction.



Choices, results, and lasting change.

One of the most innovative, fundamental—but least recognized—components of charter public school performance is the Michigan authorizer. The notion that skilled education experts can lend their knowledge and experience to a portfolio of diverse schools is groundbreaking.

As authorizers, we do not operate the schools we charter. We are not the counterparts of districts or even ISDs where our charters are concerned. Rather, we bring the strength and leadership of our institutions to help charter public schools improve their practices and deliver results for students. We assess student outcomes and help share solutions for improvement.

For each of us, looking at our school portfolios from a high level helps us assess which educational practices are most effective at boosting student achievement. We know which professional activities add value. We can see budget practices, classroom activities, and administrative structures that make sense, and we can share information about how to replicate them.

Our schools meet kids where they are. Whether they are at risk, living in poverty, struggling with special needs, or a language barrier, we know what works best to meet their needs, and we make sure our schools can deliver. Our results often exceed that of the old district schools, and we're getting better every day.

Why?

Because we focus on results that matter.



MCCSA
Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers



In simple terms, a charter public school authorizer is any Michigan school district, ISD, community college, or university that chooses to issue a performance contract to a new charter school, and then hold that charter school accountable for its results.

The charter public school authorizer has a unique role to play in Michigan's educational landscape. The authorizer has an opportunity to choose the programs it believes will have a reasonable chance of succeeding in their educational aims, and then holding them accountable for doing so. The authorizer appoints school boards, gives them the space they need to carry out their end of the charter bargain, and intervenes when necessary to ensure the school is providing a quality educational option.

WHY CHARTER AUTHORIZING WORKS

- » Michigan's authorizers have developed a set of strong, effective standards and practices that support a thriving charter public school sector.
- » These standards and practices are the result of two decades' worth of lessons learned.
- » The additional layer of accountability provided by a professional authorizer is helpful to ensure boards are both empowered and challenged to provide the best possible results. In instances where board members do not adequately fulfill their responsibilities, authorizers act.
- » The work of authorizing adds an intriguing facet to public education in Michigan. The deepening expertise of educational institutions that know how to choose, replicate, and—if necessary—shutter schools offers tremendous assets to policymakers and practitioners alike.
- » Authorizing in Michigan continues to generate strong results for learners. The top three best high schools in the state in 2017 were charters according to U.S. News and World Report, and four charter public schools held the highest-performing school districts on the M-STEP in 2017.
- » Ten percent of all Michigan students attend a charter public school—and the numbers are even higher in cities like Detroit and Flint, where 53 percent of students are enrolled in charter public schools. These families' choices speak for themselves!



Members of the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers seek to advance public school choice and accountability by supporting high-quality oversight and serving as a unified voice for authorizers across Michigan.

CONTACT US:

201 Townsend, Suite 900
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 487-4848

www.michiganauthorizers.com

Sources for information included in the document can be found at www.MichiganAuthorizers.com/Sources.