

WHY WE CHARTER



After nearly a quarter century, thousands of career-and college-ready graduates, and with high student and parent satisfaction, our state's charter public school sector is delivering the results Michigan needs.

And there's much more to come.

Charter public schools and authorizers value student growth and achievement most of all, just like Michigan families do.

We work hard to ensure the schools we authorize are preparing students with the 21st-century skills they need to succeed in a global economy.

- » Students in charter public schools are gaining faster and performing better than their traditional school district peers. This outcome is even more pronounced in Detroit.
- » Charter public schools focus on underserved students and are addressing the educational needs of the community.



Opportunity for all

- » More than 75 percent of students in Michigan charter public schools are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, compared to a statewide average of 51 percent.
- » Nearly 67 percent of students belong to racial or ethnic minorities, compared to a statewide average of 34 percent.
- » Charter public schools serve students with disabilities and English language learners. No student is turned away.

Greater fiscal efficiency

- » Charter public schools receive \$2,782 less funding per pupil than their traditional school counterparts—and they have to pay for their own facilities out of the operating dollars they do receive.
- » Despite this funding disparity, charter public schools are able to achieve sound academic, operational and fiscal results. This indicates greater financial efficiency.



10 PERCENT OF ALL MICHIGAN STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN A CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Approximately 147,000 students attend one of the 298 charters operating statewide. Of these schools, 82 percent (260 schools) are authorized by MCCSA members.



MICHIGAN CHARTER SCHOOLS OFTEN SURPASS EXPECTATIONS.

Charter public schools perform extraordinarily well. Michigan charters have been honored among the state's most elite achievers using an array of state and national data. Michigan charter public school students often outperform their socioeconomic and demographic peers.



Authorizer leadership fosters school and student success.

MCCSA members have developed robust systems for overseeing and supporting charter public schools, including computer-adaptive testing models, automated compliance tools, and training programs for board members and administrators.

Charter public school boards face more accountability than their traditional school counterparts because the authorizer is ever-present, asking questions and ultimately closing schools that are unwilling or unable to make necessary performance improvements.

Michigan's charter public schools undergo a rigorous application and review process designed to ensure a strong academic and legal framework.

Authorizers scrutinize all aspects of a school team's proposed management and operational structure, contractual provisions, and program offerings to ensure compliance and freedom from conflicts of interest.

OUR VISION FOR STUDENT-FOCUSED EDUCATION

TRUST PARENTS

No one understands the needs of a child better than his or her parents. They have the wisdom and the right to choose the best schools for their children.

ENABLE—DON'T PRESCRIBE

Charter public school board members understand the needs of their neighborhoods and are dedicated to improving educational outcomes for students.

SUPPORT TEACHING AND LEARNING

Provide professional learning opportunities to board members and educators while preserving their autonomy and independence to innovate on behalf of their students.

Charter public schools continue to have a very positive impact on public education throughout the state.

In addition to providing innovative, quality educational opportunities to the students they serve, charters are delivering solid results where it matters. Student outcomes are growing faster than in traditional K-12 schools, and many charters have been recognized as statewide leaders in educational excellence.

What's more, conventional K-12 schools respond to competition and charter programs continue to evolve and grow.



The end result? Michigan's charter strategy is bringing about positive change for all schoolchildren, now and in the future.



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.

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