

GETTING TO KNOW MCHIGAN'S CHARTER SCHOOLS



#GETTHEFACTS ON MI CHARTERS

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are free, independently-operated public schools that have the flexibility and autonomy to meet their students' needs.

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER?

Authorizers are the institutions that decide who can start a new charter school, set expectations and oversee school performance, and decide which schools should continue to serve students or not

ARE CHARTERS HELD TO THE SAME ACADEMIC STANDARDS?

As public schools, charters are held to the exact same state-mandated academic standards and participate in the same state testing.

WHAT IS A MANAGEMENT COMPANY?

A full-service charter school management company will do everything from establishing the curriculum, to hiring teachers and principals, to financing a school building, marketing and custodial services. However, not all charter schools hire a mgmt. co.

HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS FUNDED?

Charter schools, like district public schools, are funded according to enrollment, and receive funding from the district and the state according to the number of students attending.

ARE CHARTERS NON PROFIT?

Every single charter school in the state of Michigan is a tuition-free, public entity with nonprofit status - whether they work with a mgmt. co. or not.

More facts: bit.ly/micharterfacts



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CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING 101

Michigan charter schools overcome daily challenges to provide innovative K-12 to our students.

20% LESS

MI charter students receive an average 20% less (or \$2,782) in per-pupil funding than students in traditional district schools. That funding could be used on things like technology, curriculum, extra programs, etc.

32% MORE COST EFFECTIVE

Charter schools are lean in their spending, maximizing budget costs 32% more than district schools according to a 2018 study.

FACILITIES

Charters do not have access to the same funding traditional district schools use to cover the cost of a school building, and have to find creative solutions to finance their school.

TRANSPORTATION

Despite the funding disparity, many charters find creative strategies to provide necessary support (like school buses and other transportation services) to their students.

CULTURAL SUPPORT

Many charters serve refugee, immigrant, and culturally diverse families. Without increased funding, they provide things like adult language classes, community resources & more.

More facts: bit.ly/micharterfacts

MI CHARTERS AT A GLANCE



- 292 charters across Michigan nearly 150,000 students (about 10% of all MI students)
- Half of students in Detroit & Flint attend charter schools
- 67% of charter students are minority students, compared with 34% in traditional public schools
- 75% of charter school students live below the poverty line - the majority of charter schools are located in high-poverty, high-needs areas

PUBLIC IN EVERY WAY

ACCOUNTABILITY

Charter schools are subject to all the same state and federal rules & regulations as traditional public schools.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Every charter school teacher and administrator must be state-certified. Many charter schools even champion pathways of additional professional growth for educators.

TESTING

Charter school students take all the same standardized test as traditional public students.

GOVERNANCE

Every charter school is authorized by a public body, usually a state university - and they are governed by public school boards, which are subject to the Open Meetings Act.







SERVING EVERY STUDENT











- Charter schools are open to every student in MI, no matter where they live.
 Charter student bodies often reflect families living in many different communities.
- Charter schools must accept every student who applies, regardless of their needsoften, charters serve as community/neighborhood resource centers for students and families, supporting basic needs like foods, adult English services, etc.
- According to the most recent data from the Michigan Department of Education, charter schools educate special-education students at roughly the same rate as traditional public schools. About 10% of all students in charter schools are classified as special-education students, compared to about 13% in traditional public schools.



MAPSA'S 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DRIVE EDUCATION ACCESS THROUGH EQUITABLE FUNDING

Narrow the equity gap to fund each child in the State equitably:

- Focusing future funding and policy decisions on the individual student by prioritizing the foundation grant and eliminating discretionary categoricals.
- When necessary, differentiating funding in a justifiable fashion based on individual student needs such as poverty, special needs, or accelerated learning without regard to existing or legacy cost structures of schools or districts, grade levels, o medium of education delivery.

ESTABLISH ONE SYSTEM OF STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY

Create a single, unified, statewide accountability system that includes growth and proficiency. This system should:

- Be useful, relevant, transparent, and easy for schools to understand the factors involved, and the goals they are striving to achieve.
- Include easy to understand information that parents can use to make education decisions.
- Hold schools accountable for their results by replacing and/or closing poor-performing schools, so that taxpayers do not continue to fund schools that don't help children succeed.

FOSTER A CULTURE OF INNOVATION IN K-12 EDUCATION

Allow charter and all public schools the access to regulatory flexibility needed to achieve results for students. This includes:

- Removing unnecessary mandates & barriers that hinder schools from operating a program that meets the goals established in their charter contracts to do what is best for students (i.e. seat time, common calendar, post Labor Day start, etc.)
- Allowing for the use of recognized experts as part-time, non-certified, non-termed instructors in content areas where they demonstrate a high level of competency.

EMPOWER CHARTERS WITH FACILITIES ACCESS

Provide charter schools access to existing, unused public school buildings through:

- Requiring access to existing public school buildings by any entity approved to be a public school.
- Opposing the arbitrary demolition of existing public school buildings when another educational entity indicates their intent to use that facility.



STAY IN TOUCH!

Alicia Urbain,

Vice President of Government & Legal Affairs (MAPSA)

aurbain@charterschools.org (517) 575-7080

- @MiCharters
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- @charterschools
- www.charterschools.org