



Michigan's public charter schools are delivering the results students need.



Skilled, educated graduates.



High student and parent satisfaction.



Innovative instruction led by public school teachers.

One of the most innovative, fundamental—but least recognized—components of public charter school performance is the Michigan authorizer. Skilled education experts lend their knowledge and experience to diverse schools across Michigan every day.

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

Focusing on students and partnering with their teachers helps us assess which educational practices are most effective. We know which professional activities add value. We can see budget practices, classroom activities, and administrative structures that make sense, and we 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 work with teachers and parents to meet their needs, and we make sure our schools deliver. We are building a brighter future for Michigan.

How?

We focus on the needs of students.



**MCCSA**  
Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers



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

The public charter 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 meet students' needs, and then holds each school accountable for doing so. The authorizer appoints school boards, gives them the space they need to innovate and grow, and intervenes when necessary to ensure the school is providing a quality public educational option for each of its students.

## WHY CHARTER AUTHORIZING WORKS

- » Michigan's authorizers have developed a set of strong, effective standards and practices that support a thriving public charter school sector.
- » These standards and practices are the result of 25 years' worth of lessons learned.
- » The additional layer of accountability provided by a professional authorizer is critical to ensure boards are challenged to provide the students with the best possible results.
- » The deepening expertise of educational institutions that know how to choose, replicate, and hold public charter schools accountable offers policymakers and practitioners tremendous insight and expertise.
- » Authorizing in Michigan continues to generate strong results for students. The top three best high schools in the state in 2017 were public charter schools, according to U.S. News and World Report, and four public charter schools held the highest-performing school districts on the M-STEP in 2017.
- » Ten percent of all Michigan students attend a public charter school—and the numbers are even higher in cities like Detroit and Flint, where 53 percent of students are enrolled in public charter 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](http://www.michiganauthorizers.com)

Sources for information included in the document can be found at [www.MichiganAuthorizers.com/Sources](http://www.MichiganAuthorizers.com/Sources).