

WHY WE CHARTER



After a quarter century, thousands of career- and college-ready graduates, and with high student and parent satisfaction, our state's public charter schools are delivering the results students need.

And there's much more to come.

Public charter 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 public charter schools are gaining faster and performing better than their traditional school district peers. This outcome is even more pronounced in Detroit.
- » Public charter schools are tuition free and open to every student. They are addressing the educational needs of communities across the state of Michigan.



Opportunity for all

- » More than 75 percent of students in Michigan public charter schools are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch, compared to a statewide average of 51 percent.
- » Nearly 67 percent of public charter students belong to racial or ethnic minorities, compared to a statewide average of just 34 percent.
- » Public charter schools serve students with disabilities and English language learners. No student is turned away. Not one.

Getting bureaucracy out of the way to put students first.

- » Public charter 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.
- » By cutting through the bureaucracy, public charter schools are able to achieve better student outcomes.



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

Approximately 147,000 students attend one of the 298 public charter schools operating statewide. Of these schools, 89 percent (262 schools) are authorized by MCCSA members.



MICHIGAN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS OFTEN SURPASS EXPECTATIONS.

Public charter schools deliver for kids. Michigan public charter schools have been honored among the state's most elite achievers using an array of state and national data. Michigan public charter 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 public charter schools, including computer-adaptive testing models, automated compliance tools, and training programs for board members and administrators.

Public charter school boards face more accountability than their traditional school counterparts because the authorizer is ever-present, asking questions and holding schools accountable for student performance.

Michigan's public charter 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

Public charter 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.

Public charter schools deliver for Michigan students.

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

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



The end result? Michigan's public charter school strategy creates 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.