



MAPSA

Michigan's Charter School Association

Charter School FAQs

What is a charter school? They are publicly funded independent schools established by teachers, parents, or community groups under the terms of a charter with an authorizer. Public charter schools are born out of community needs and focused on community prosperity. There are currently 300 charter schools, enrolling 10% of all students in Michigan.

What is a charter school authorizer? The authorizer assures the charter school is following all laws and regulations, as well as meeting their academic performance and financial goals. Authorizers provide oversight and can intervene with a contract at any time.

How are charter schools performing? Michigan charter school students:

- Are more likely to be proficient and to graduate from high school
- Receive an additional 2 months of learning in Math & ELA
- Have achieved an 86% graduation rate

How are charter schools funded? Charter schools receive money from the state, in the same way, that traditional public districts do. On average public charter schools receive about \$700 less per student than traditional public schools.

Do charter schools receive millage money? They cannot ask voters for separate tax-supported revenue to pay for facilities, technology or anything else Charter schools must fund in their facilities.

Do you have to apply to attend a charter school? Charter schools are open to all students and you must fill out an enrollment application, however, they do not have special entrance requirements and do not charge tuition.

Do charter schools offer special education? Yes. Charter schools must provide special education services to any student who requires them. About 10% of charter school students receive special education services.

Do charter schools employ certified teachers? Yes. All charter schools must use state-certified teachers.

Are charter schools for-profit? No. Charter schools are organized by law under the Michigan Non-Profit Corporation Act. They are all non-profit public schools, however, they can like traditional public schools, contract with for-profit companies to provide goods and services to the school.

Are there teacher unions in charter schools? Charter schools start as non-union environments and the staff has the right to choose to remain union-free, in accordance with law. The vast majority of Michigan charter school teachers have chosen to remain in a union-free environment.



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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Share your charter school story on social media or submit your story online at bit.ly/chartergoodnews and MAPSA will share with media and lawmakers to continue to build the charter school brand! Make sure to tag @MICharters on your Facebook post and use the hashtag #celebratecharters!