



MAPSA

Michigan Association of Public School Academies

Facts About Michigan Public Charter Schools

Fact: Charter schools, public schools are held accountable for performance.

Charter schools are in fact public schools, but they are free to be more innovative for improving student achievement. Charter schools are unique public schools that foster a partnership between parents, teachers and students. They create an environment in which parents have the opportunity to be involved, teachers have the freedom to innovate and students have the structure they need to learn. Charter schools are not only accountable to parents, they are held accountable to students as well; those who lack in achievement will be closed.

Fact: Charter schools are succeeding.

Charter school students are more likely to score proficient on a test, more likely to receive a diploma, and more likely to attend college than their peers. In recent MEAP tests, charter schools out performed students in similar districts in 16 out of 18 tests. More over, charter schools beat similar districts MEAP scores in reading and math for all grades in Detroit and Flint by roughly 10% and 15% in Grand Rapids.

Fact: Charter schools educate special education pupils.

Not only do charter schools educate special education students, in many instances they also have more innovative approaches to achieving results and integrating these kids back into the traditional classroom. Based on the 2010 MEAP test, students with disabilities in charter schools out performed similar students in their host districts in both reading and math in all grades.

Fact: Charter schools do not “skim the cream” or “cherry pick” students from other schools.

Charter schools are open to all students. When the number of student applicants exceeds the number of available seats, a random selection lottery is held to determine which students will be enrolled. Charter schools actually enroll a higher proportion of poor, minority students than traditional public schools.

Fact: Charter schools have quality teachers.

Charter school teachers are certified by law and have “highly qualified” designations. They also submit to periodic audits by their authorizers and the state to ensure their compliance. And, of course, are held accountable for student performance.

Fact: Charter schools do not expel students after count day.

Enrollment numbers show that all districts, traditional and charters, experience some movement of students, back and forth, after count days. The movement of students is not one sided, charters receive as many students from traditional districts as traditional districts receive from charters. Second, state law provides for a mechanism for districts to “bill” other districts on a pro-rata basis, for students who enroll after count day.

Michigan’s Charter Schools

Achievement • Choice • Accountability