



MCCSA

Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers

The Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers (the “Council”) serves as a collaborative, non-profit, non-partisan professional organization that allows for sharing of issues, ideas, resources and best practices among all public charter school authorizers working in the state. The Council serves as the voice of the state’s public charter school authorizers.

TYPES OF AUTHORIZERS

- » State public universities (8)
- » Community colleges (3)
- » Public school districts (16)
- » Public intermediate school districts (15)
- » Two or more of these public agencies working in partnership (0)

Authorizers may only issue charter contracts to institutions operating within their geographic boundaries.

WHO WE ARE

The Council is governed by a ten-member board of directors representing the following institutions:



MICHIGAN AUTHORIZERS: BY THE NUMBERS

262

Public charter schools authorized by Council members—**89%** of all charter public schools in Michigan

75%

Percentage of public charter school students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, compared to a statewide average of **51%**

67%

Percentage of public charter school students who are minorities, compared to a statewide average of **30%**

135,662

Students attending public charter schools authorized by Council members—**92%** of all students attending public charter schools

14,086

Public school teachers and staff innovating to educate public charter school students across the state

1,500+

Public school board members overseeing public charter schools and ensuring public accountability

MICHIGAN'S AUTHORIZING MODEL

- » Strong statewide authorizers with an array of proven, innovative tools for success
- » Well-vetted and appointed public charter school board members
- » Hands-on, personalized oversight with direct accountability

THE AUTHORIZER'S ROLE IN MICHIGAN

ACCOUNTABILITY

State law requires improved academic performance to be the most important factor when evaluating a public charter contract for renewal. Authorizers continually review the financial, operational and academic performance of each public charter school, making sure progress is made toward student performance goals. It is the duty of the authorizer to act when schools do not meet students' needs—up to and including charter revocation.

OVERSIGHT

A public charter contract establishes the relationship between the authorizer and the non-profit board of the public charter school. The contract outlines specific academic, financial and operational performance requirements, in addition to standard state compliance requirements. Public charter school board members have the freedom and responsibility to choose the management structure best suited to meet the school's needs.

TRANSPARENCY

Michigan's public charter schools are required to follow the same laws, rules and regulations as every other public school. Authorizers ensure schools are meeting these requirements, which include publicly providing their charter contracts, board members' terms, board policies, meeting minutes and agendas, board-approved budgets, quarterly financial statements, personnel and salary information, management contracts, and more.

DELIVERING FOR STUDENTS

Authorizers approve charter applicants who focus on the needs of public school students and demonstrate the ability to deliver for Michigan kids. Authorizers assess applications through a rigorous, student-focused charter application process and each charter is ultimately approved or denied by the authorizer's governing body.

RESULTS FOCUSED

The authorizer is responsible for monitoring each school's student educational achievement goals and curriculum. Michigan authorizers are pioneers in computer adaptive testing that provides real-time student performance data to teachers, so they may make adjustments to address a specific student's learning barriers.

Sources for information included in the document can be found at www.MichiganAuthorizers.com/Sources.