

#GETTHEFACTS ON MI CHARTERS

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are free, independently-operated public schools that have the flexibility and autonomy to meet their students' needs.

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZER?

Authorizers are the institutions that decide who can start a new charter school, set expectations and oversee school performance, and decide which schools should continue to serve students or not.

WHAT IS A MANAGEMENT COMPANY?

A full-service charter school management company will do everything from establishing the curriculum, to hiring teachers and principals, to financing a school building, marketing and custodial services. However, not all charter schools hire a mgmt. co.

ARE CHARTERS HELD TO THE SAME ACADEMIC STANDARDS?

As public schools, charters are held to the exact same state-mandated academic standards and participate in the same state testing.

HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS FUNDED?

Charter schools, like district public schools, are funded according to enrollment, and receive funding from the district and the state according to the number of students attending.

ARE CHARTERS NON PROFIT?

Every single charter school in the state of Michigan is a tuition-free, public entity with nonprofit status - whether they work with a mgmt. co. or not.

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CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING 101

Michigan charter schools overcome daily challenges to provide innovative K-12 to our students.

20% LESS

MI charter students receive an average 20% less (or \$2,782) in per-pupil funding than students in traditional district schools. That funding could be used on things like technology, curriculum, extra programs, etc.

FACILITIES

Charters do not have access to the same funding traditional district schools use to cover the cost of a school building, and have to find creative solutions to finance their school.

TRANSPORTATION

Despite the funding disparity, many charters find creative strategies to provide necessary support (like school buses and other transportation services) to their students.

32% MORE COST EFFECTIVE

Charter schools are lean in their spending, maximizing budget costs 32% more than district schools according to a 2018 study.

CULTURAL SUPPORT

Many charters serve refugee, immigrant, and culturally diverse families. Without increased funding, they provide things like adult language classes, community resources & more.