

About Charter Schools

Charter School Overview

Charter Schools are public schools that are responsive to students' needs and are held accountable for improved student achievement.

Charter Schools...

- Are open to the public
- Are tuition free
- Participate in state tests
- Employ credentialed teachers¹
- Do not discriminate²

The Public Charter School Act of 2003 gives charter schools the freedom to make quick and effective changes to respond to students' needs

Charter School Momentum

There are currently 42 charter schools serving nearly 11,500 charter school students in Maryland.

Over the past six years, Maryland's charter schools have consistently grown by an average of eight schools per year.

At the end of the 2008-09 school year, nearly two thirds of Maryland's charter schools reported having waiting lists for enrollment, totaling 3,250 students

Charter schools are enrolling a diverse student population according to race, gender, and eligibility for free or reduced priced meals, special education and English language learner services.³

School safety, high quality teachers and instructional methods, academic reputation, and educational philosophy are the primary reasons parents are enrolling their children in charter schools.⁴

Charter School Achievements

Charter schools are seeing solid academic growth, with double-digit average increases in reading and mathematics scores on the Maryland State Assessments.

For all students in the 2009 measures of Adequate Yearly Progress(AYP): 81% of charter schools met AYP in reading; 72% of charter schools met AYP in Math; and 100% of charter schools met AYP in attendance.

Chesapeake Science Point in Anne Arundel County outperformed other Anne Arundel County middle schools by more than 10 points in both math and reading, as well as exceeding the Maryland state average on the 2009 MSA.

¹ Under Maryland law, charter schools are required to employ credentialed teachers in core and college preparatory classes.

² Under Maryland law, charter schools cannot discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, gender, national origin, religion or ancestry.

^{3, 4} Maryland State Charter School Program Evaluation, September 2006, University of Maryland. Updated September 2008.