

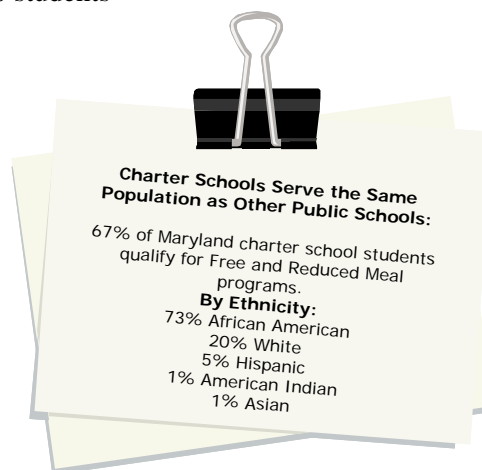
What Are ...Maryland Public Charter Schools?

Charter Schools Are ... Tuition Free, Nonsectarian, Nonprofit Schools

The Maryland General Assembly passed the Charter School Act of 2003 “...to establish an alternative means within the existing public school system in order to provide innovative learning opportunities and creative educational approaches to improve the education of students.” Authorizers, local Boards of Education, grant charters to independent operators to run public schools after they have completed a rigorous application process that the board manages and controls. Charter school operators are highly accountable for academic outcomes and fiscal practices in exchange for increased autonomy to operate according to their authorized school design. Using curricula aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum, they are accountable to: the authorizer that grants the charter, the public that funds them, and the parents who choose to send their children.

Charter Schools Are ... Open to All, with No Admission Testing or Screening

- 2007/08 - 30 Charter Schools Operating - serving nearly 7,000 students
 - Anne Arundel County – 1 school
 - Baltimore City – 22 schools
 - Frederick County – 1 school
 - Harford County – 1 school
 - Prince George’s County – 4 schools
 - St. Mary’s County – 1 school
- Approved Charter Schools
 - Baltimore City – 1 opening 2008
 - Baltimore County – 1 opening 2008
- Districts with Pending Applications
 - Baltimore City – 10 applications
 - Calvert – 1 appealed
 - Cecil County – 1 application
 - Frederick – 1 application
 - Prince George’s – 6 applications
 - Somerset County – 1 – appealed
- Additional Counties with Developing Charter Schools
 - Anne Arundel, Garrett, Harford, and Montgomery Counties



Charter Schools Are ... Public Schools of Choice

- All charter school teachers are public school employees with the full rights granted under the collective bargaining agreement.
- Charter schools must administer all statewide assessments required for other public schools.
- Charter schools must hire highly qualified staff.
- Charter schools must receive funding commensurate to other public schools.

Charter Schools Are ... Succeeding in Maryland

- In the 2007 Maryland High School Assessment, Chesapeake Science Point Public Charter School’s and KIPP Ujima Village Academy’s seventh and eighth graders scored a full 100% proficiency rate in High School Algebra I. The overall state proficiency rate is 63.5%
- For “All Students” in the 2007 AYP: 85.7% of charter schools met proficiency in Reading; 71.4% of charter schools met proficiency in Math; and 85.7 % of charter schools met proficiency in Attendance.
- According to MSDE, a 2006 evaluation by the University of Maryland found that 92.3 percent of charter school parents surveyed were satisfied with the schools.

Strengthening Maryland Public Education Through Charter Schools!