

About Charter Schools

MARYLAND CHARTER SCHOOL FACTS

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 teachers ¹
- Do not discriminate ²

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 34 charter schools serving 9,500 charter school students in Maryland.

Over the past 5 years, Maryland charter schools have consistently grown by an average of 7 schools a year.

At the end of 2007-2008 school year, nearly three quarters of Maryland's charter schools reported having waiting lists for enrollment, totaling 2,350 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 services³

School safety, high quality teachers and instructional methods, academic reputation, and educational philosophy are the primary reasons parents are enrolling their children in charter schools⁴

Charter School Achievements

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

Chesapeake Science Point outperformed other Maryland public schools by up to 26% in every applicable grade/ subject area. Their student won 4th place in the 2008 National Science Fair competition.

Baltimore Freedom Academy was named among the nation's Best High Schools 2008 by U.S. News and World Reports.

To learn more, visit www.mdcharternetwork.org

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
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