

# Why Charter Schools?

Why are so many people across all economic and cultural spectrums attracted to public charter schools?

For **Parents**, it's about creating new opportunities for their children and actively participating in the governance of their children's schools. It's about ensuring choices and quality education for all families, regardless of income or place of residence.

For **Teachers**, it's about the freedom to be better. Entrepreneurial, innovative teachers are empowered by the freedom to try new learning methods and new ideas. It is being part of the exciting research and development sector of American public education.

For **Students**, it's about a second chance, a smaller school, more personal attention, a better fit, or a passion for a particular subject. It is about the joy of learning.

For the **Community**, it's about strengthening schools and neighborhoods, working together for quality schools and holding them accountable. It is about partnership with business, nonprofits, and community organizations to help children reach their full potential.

For **Policymakers**, it's about a dynamic new sector within American public education that stimulates innovation and change at all levels from the smallest charter school to the largest public school district.

For charter school **Authorizers** (organizations that approve charter applications like school boards, universities, or state boards of education), it's about serving students falling through the cracks or whose needs can be better met in a smaller school setting. And sometimes it means discovering new innovations that can be used in the district public schools.

To learn more, visit [www.mdcharternetwork.org](http://www.mdcharternetwork.org)

(Adapted from The Charter School Experience)