



Georgia Charter Systems

A Brief Overview of Charter Systems
Charter Schools Division

"We will lead the nation in improving student achievement."

What are charter schools?

They are public schools of choice

They are publically funded, but organized and governed by a private group of individuals, a private organization, or state and local public entities

They are free from many of the regulations that govern traditional public schools

They involve partnerships with local communities and businesses

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What is a charter?

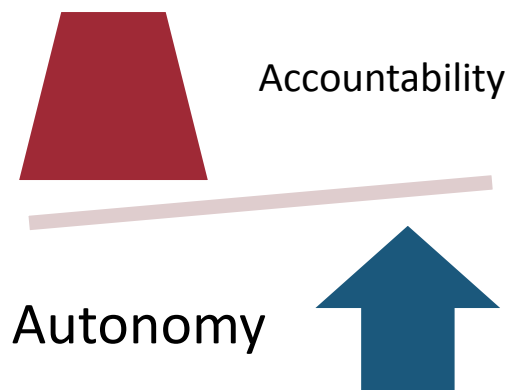
A performance-based contract between a charter school board and its authorizer(s)

It sets forth the agreement under which the charter school is governed

Charter schools are held accountable by the state and local boards of education for upholding the stipulations in their charter

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The Basic Bargain



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Types of charter schools

Conversion
Charter School

Start-up
Charter School

LEA Sponsored
Start-up
Charter School

State-
Chartered
Special School

Commission
Charter School

Charter
System

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Conversion Charter School

Definition

- Traditional public school that becomes a charter school
- Gains additional flexibility in exchange for higher levels of accountability

Facts & Features

- 32 conversion charter schools in Georgia
- Strategy for turning around low performing schools

Relative Advantages:

- Student population, building, and operational systems and structures are already in place

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Start-up Charter School

Definition

- Started by private individuals, private organizations, or state and local public entities

Facts & Features

- Did not exist prior to the petition
- Most common type of charter school in Georgia (34 schools)

Relative Advantages

- Opportunity to build school culture from the ground up

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Career Academy

Definition

- Type of LEA-sponsored Charter School
- Partnership between local district, technical college and local businesses

Facts & Features

- Focus on preparing students for workforce
- Multiple districts may partner to develop one career academy

Relative Advantages

- Increase district graduation rates
- Partnerships with local businesses and communities can increase resources available for students

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How can a Career Academy benefit your community?

Students are prepared for college and career

Small learning community environments provide supportive atmospheres

Curriculum is sequenced and integrates academics and career-based learning

Dual credit courses give students the opportunity to earn high school and college credits

Each academy links high school to business, civic community, and higher education

Each academy measures and shows impact on student performance and achievement

Career themes reflect local economy

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How can your district benefit from having a charter school?

Provide parents with choices

Increased academic accountability

Turn around failing schools

Increased flexibility can lead to innovative teaching and educational opportunities

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Charter System

Definition

- A local school system that operates under the terms of a charter

Facts & Features

- Charter is a contract between the LEA and the SBOE
- System gains flexibility to innovate in exchange for increased academic accountability
- Emphasis on school-based leadership and decision making

Relative Advantages

- Increased school-level autonomy and accountability
- Additional per-pupil funding in QBE

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How can a Charter System benefit your community?

Increase in school-level governance

Possible financial savings through flexibility

Increase academic standards for all schools

Assist districts with turning around failing schools

Increase parental involvement in local schools

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