



# MCCSA

Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers

The Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers (the “Council”) serves as a collaborative, non-profit, non-partisan professional organization that allows for sharing of issues, ideas, resources and best practices among all authorizers working in the state. Since 1994, the Council has served as the voice of the state’s charter public school authorizers with the Legislature, the news media, and other stakeholders.

## TYPES OF AUTHORIZERS

- » State public universities (8)
- » Community colleges (3)
- » K-12 local education agencies (traditional school districts) (14)
- » Intermediate school districts (ISDs) (17)
- » Two or more of these public agencies exercising power, privilege, or authority jointly pursuant to an interlocal agreement (0)

Authorizers may only issue charter contracts to institutions operating within their geographic boundaries.

## WHO WE ARE

The Council is governed by a ten-member board of directors representing the following institutions:



## MICHIGAN AUTHORIZERS: BY THE NUMBERS

# 259

Charter public schools authorized by Council members—**87%** of all charter public schools in Michigan

# 76%

Percentage of charter public school students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, compared to a statewide average of **51%**

# 67%

Percentage of charter public school students who are minorities, compared to a statewide average of **35%**

# 149,549

Students attending charter public schools in Michigan—**10%** of Michigan’s total statewide public K–12 enrollment

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## MICHIGAN’S AUTHORIZING MODEL

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- » Strong statewide authorizers with an array of proven, innovative tools for success
  - » Well-vetted and appointed board members
  - » Freedom for boards to determine desired management structure
  - » Hands-on, personalized oversight vs. simple hardline rubrics
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## THE AUTHORIZER’S ROLE IN MICHIGAN

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### PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS

State law requires improved academic performance to be the most important factor when evaluating a charter contract for renewal. Authorizers continually review the financial, operational and academic performance of each charter public school they oversee, making sure progress is being made toward its contractual goals. It is the duty of the authorizer to act when schools do not meet performance and/or fiduciary standards—up to and including charter revocation.

### OVERSIGHT

A charter contract establishes the relationship between the authorizer and the non-profit board of the charter public school. The contract outlines specific academic, financial and operational performance requirements, in addition to standard state compliance requirements. Charter public school board members have the freedom and responsibility to choose the management structure best suited to meet the school’s needs.

### TRANSPARENCY

Michigan’s charter public schools are required to follow the same laws, rules and regulations as traditional public schools. Authorizers ensure schools are meeting these requirements, which include publicly providing their charter contracts, board members’ terms, board policies, meeting minutes and agendas, board-approved budgets, quarterly financial statements, personnel and salary information, management contracts, and more.

### QUALITY APPLICANTS

Authorizers approve charter applicants who demonstrate a promising vision, sound business plan and a quality educational program. Authorizers assess applications through a competitive charter application process and each charter is ultimately approved by the authorizer’s governing body.

### STUDENT ASSESSMENT DATA

The authorizer is responsible for monitoring each school’s student educational achievement goals and curriculum. Michigan authorizers are pioneers in computer adaptive testing that provides real-time student performance data to teachers, so they may make adjustments to address a specific student’s learning barriers.

