

## Charter School Policies - State Profile

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Maintenance of this database is a collective effort between ECS and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Please contact Molly Ryan, 303.299.3614 or [mryan@ecs.org](mailto:mryan@ecs.org) with questions or comments about the database.

### Michigan

#### Charter School Basics

Does the state have a charter school law?	Yes
Does the state allow existing public schools to convert to charter schools?	No
Does the state allow for the creation of start-up charter schools?	Yes
Is a charter school part of a local education agency (LEA) or its own LEA?	A charter school is its own LEA.
Does the state specify the charter schools or the students that may be given preference?	Yes. Preference may be given to students enrolled in a charter school in prior years and to siblings of students enrolled in the charter school. The 15 charter high schools in the Detroit school district may give enrollment priority to a sibling of a pupil enrolled in the charter high school, a child of a person who is employed by or at the charter high school or who is on the board of directors of the charter high school.
Does the state have any caps on the number of charter schools?	Yes. 150 authorized by state universities, with no single university authorizing more than 50% of the 150. In addition, 15 charter high schools in the Detroit School District may be authorized by state universities.
Who can approve charter schools?	Local school boards, intermediate school boards, community colleges or state public universities, all subject to state board of education review for compliance with law
Does the state specify who may apply to open a	Yes. One or more persons or an entity (i.e.,

charter school?	partnership, nonprofit or business corporation, labor organization or any other association, corporation, trust, or other legal entity) may apply for a charter. An entity that applies to open one of the 15 charter high schools in the Detroit school district authorized by a state university must have net assets of at least \$50 million.
Is there an appeals process in place for charter applicants?	Yes. If a petition to a local school board is rejected, the applicant may have it placed on local ballot.
Does the state provide technical assistance to charter schools?	No
<b>Charter School Finance</b>	
Through whom does a charter school receive its funding?	The charter authorizing body
How is the funding for a charter school determined?	All charters are funded through the State School Aid Act. Each school receives funding through the per-pupil base foundation. This amount may not exceed the per-pupil base foundation received by the local district where the school is located.
Does the state provide start-up and/or planning grants to charter schools?	No
Does the state provide facilities funds or other facilities assistance to charter schools?	No. However, the Michigan Public Educational Facilities Authority provides opportunities for low cost financing and technical assistance through bonding and loan programs.
Does the state specify who must provide transportation to charter school students?	No
<b>Charter School Autonomy</b>	
Are the state's standards and assessments applied to charter schools?	Yes
What rules are waived for charter schools?	Charter schools may seek waivers on a case-by-case basis from the state superintendent of public instruction.
<b>Charter School Teachers</b>	
Do teachers in a charter school have to be certified?	Yes. Except as otherwise provided by law; special exemptions are made for a charter school operated by a state college or university that may wish to use collegiate staff to teach charter school students.

What sets teacher salaries?	The charter school
Does the state require school districts to grant teachers a leave of absence to teach in a charter school?	No
Do teachers in each of a state's charter schools have equal access to the public school teachers' retirement system?	No
Are charter schools bound by school district collective bargaining agreements?	Teachers in charter schools authorized by local school boards are covered by school district collective bargaining agreements. Other charter school teachers are not, and may negotiate as a separate unit with a charter school governing body or work independently.
<b>Charter School Accountability</b>	
Does the state require charter schools to submit annual reports?	Yes. Charter schools must prepare an annual financial report.
Does the state list grounds for terminating a school's charter?	Yes. (1) Failure to abide by and meet the education goals set forth in the contract; (2) Failure to comply with applicable law; (3) Failure to meet generally accepted public sector accounting principles; or (4) Existence of one or more grounds for revocation as specified in the contract.
Does the state provide an appeals process in the charter school renewal process?	No
Does the state require the state education agency or another entity to report on the effectiveness of charter schools?	Yes. The state board of education must prepare an annual report for the state legislature that includes, among other items, aggregate test scores of charter school students.

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