



Michigan's Charter School Association

MICHIGAN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS EMBRACE ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

There is one public school system in Michigan comprised of a variety of types of public schools including traditional public schools and public charter schools. The goal of the public school system should be to ensure that every family can decide which school will work best for their child so that every child in Michigan can attend a public school that works best to meet their individual needs.

And as Michiganders, we can all agree that we should hold our public schools to high standards for student achievement performance, financial management, transparency, and governance. Public charter schools in Michigan are designed to put the needs of students first and expect tough accountability to make sure they meet that standard. Public charter schools follow the same or stricter accountability requirements as traditional district schools as outlined in public school law.

Public School Accountability & Transparency Comparison in Michigan	Public Charter Schools	Traditional Public Schools
Student Outcomes		
Performance contracts (ranging from 1-10 years)	✓	✗
Accept every student who applies regardless of zip code or disability	✓	✗
Tuition free	✓	Required in District only
Educate children with disabilities	✓	✓
Student due process	✓	✓
Standardized testing	✓	✓
Michigan Merit Curriculum	✓	✓
Graduation requirements and standards	✓	✓
Transportation	Permissible	Permissible
Automatic closure if school has operated in lowest achieving 5% of all public schools for 3 consecutive years as defined by State of Michigan's Index System	✓	✗
Governance & Oversight		
Authorizer oversight	✓	✗
Anti-authorizer shopping	✓	✗
Prohibition against conflicts of interest between the board and school	✓	None, but must recuse themselves from a vote when conflicted
Family oversight (vote with their feet)	✓	Possibly
Pay authorizing university, community college, ISD, or local district 3% of school's state aid for oversight and accountability	✓	✗
Governed by an independent public body comprised of members who receive no compensation for their service and may not have conflicts of interest	✓	Partially
Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Treasury oversight	✓	✓
Open Meetings Act (OMA)	✓	✓
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)	✓	✓
Transparency icon on school website	✓	✓

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Board Meetings: requirement to collect, maintain, and make available to the public the following		
The contract issued by the authorizing body	✓	FOIA
A list of board members, including name & address	✓	FOIA
Board policies	✓	FOIA
Board minutes & agendas	✓	FOIA
The budget & specified bills paid	✓	FOIA
Quarterly financial reports	✓	FOIA
List of teachers and admin working at the school that includes their salaries as submitted to REP, certifications, permits, and unprofessional conduct	✓	FOIA
Curriculum documents & materials submitted to the authorizer	✓	FOIA
Proof of insurance	✓	FOIA
Facility deeds or leases, including equipment leases	✓	FOIA
Management or service contracts	✓	FOIA
Health & safety reports/certificates	✓	FOIA
Audit findings	✓	FOIA
Operations		
Levy local millages	✗	✓
Share in Regional Enhancement Millages	mostly	✓
Prohibition from hiring anyone with a family relationships with a member of the school board	✓	✗
Permit authorizing body to review and disapprove contracts between school and educational service providers such as substitute teachers, curriculum	✓	✗
Financial audits	✓	✓
Criminal background checks	✓	✓
Teacher certification	✓	✓
Teacher evaluations	✓	✓
Ability to operate under collective bargaining agreements	permissible	permissible
Contract for instructional services	permissible	partially permissible
Contract for non-instructional services	permissible	permissible