

Understanding Charter School Oversight

Overview

This resource seeks to clarify the roles and responsibilities of key charter school stakeholders. The oversight structure of charter public schools loosely parallels that of traditional public schools: high-level oversight by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE); ongoing oversight, monitoring and technical assistance provided by charter school authorizers; key policy-setting, performance goal setting/monitoring and decision making by charter school boards; and day-to-day operations managed by charter school leaders or through contracted educational service providers.

Michigan Department of Education

A charter school is subject to the leadership and general supervision of the state board of education.

Authorizer

The authorizing body is responsible for overseeing compliance by the board of directors with the contract and all applicable law.

The Charter Contract

The charter is the contract outlining the rights and responsibilities of the authorizer and the charter school and is an essential agreement for achieving the intended expectations of the relationship.

Charter School Board

The boards are responsible for setting policy, directing operational and academic performance, and ensuring fiscal stability. Each service provider/management company operates under the direction of the charter school board.

School Management

Service providers/management companies are accountable to the charter school boards that hire them. Service providers/ management companies lead the day-to-day tasks to ensure the school is making progress towards its agreed upon performance goals.

Teachers and Staff

Teachers and staff are responsible for doing the day-to-day tasks to ensure the students are making progress towards agreed upon performance goals. They can be hired by the school leadership or by the educational service provider.